

2008-2009 Annual Report of the Athletics Affairs Committee meeting:

April 7, 2009

by

Robert Sandy, Committee Chair

At every meeting and by e-mail in between meetings the Athletics Affairs Committee approves the annual game schedules for each sport. The issue we consider is whether the schedule meets the Committee's guidelines for missed classes.

The major issues discussed by the Committee are detailed by meeting.

**October 16 meeting**

We reviewed the status of the IUPUI Athletics Program NCAA recertification. The peer review team (the visitors sent by the certification committee) raised concerns over student athletics welfare issues: facilities such as locker rooms, training room, strength and conditioning support. A fourth concern of the peer review team was the "life skills" program for the athletes.

Some of these criticisms can only be addressed by spending more money, e.g. one strength/conditioning trainer is not enough for 14 teams. IUPUI's Athletics Development fee, currently at \$38.57 per semester for a fulltime undergraduate student, is low relative to our peers. Also, IUPUI's athletics budget is at the bottom of the Summit League. At many universities the athletics development fee and the recreational and intramural fee are wrapped into one charge. At IUPUI Intramural and Recreational Sports receives \$0.90 per full time student out of the \$94.15 per semester Student Activity Fee. However, any student wishing to use the recreational facilities or participate in intramural sports has to pay the optional \$29.00 per semester membership fee.

The issue of student fees is under review by the campus administration. It is considering a stepped fee tied to credit hours that will combine all of the current mandatory fees. The rate on full time students would go down slightly but students taking off-campus courses, such as at shopping malls and via distance, would become subject to the new combined fee. The Athletics Committee advises the Chancellor on athletics and the intramural and recreational sports fees. The committee asked that it be given an opportunity to comment on any planned increases in these fees.

Other issues raised by the NCAA peer review team can be addressed by reallocating existing space. Athletics now has a larger training room in the Natatorium and has relocated its coach's offices to an off campus site. There was a lack of afternoon practice time in the gym relative to the NCAA's allowed times for men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball and required shoot-around times for visiting teams. This lack was addressed by pushing back the start time of Intramural and Recreational Sports to 8:00 PM from Mondays through Thursdays. When IUPUI tells visiting teams that they have to wait until 9 PM to get into our gym, we get the same treatment even when we visit a campus

that has a dedicated athletics gym that is available earlier. Quoting Mike Moore, "IUPUI athletics is a size 10 foot in a size 3 shoe".

In 2012 IUPUI will be the co-host of the NCAA Final Four. In the past Butler University was the sole local host. Hosting will be good publicity for IUPUI.

### **November 20 meeting:**

We examined the withdrawal rates of student athletes. We found that they had been declining recently. Withdrawals are partly a financial issue because currently Athletics pays the full tuition costs for 28 athletes who are fully supported. Also, dropping courses can affect athletic eligibility. Dropping a course now requires the coach to sign off. There is pressure on coaches from the NCAA to maintain athlete's progress toward graduation (otherwise they lose scholarships). Thus, there is already a mechanism in place for coaches to encourage athletes to finish classes even if the athlete runs into problems. The committee decided against imposing additional control mechanisms, e.g. the signature of the Athletics Director or a fixed cap on the number of classes dropped.

IUPUI plays some of its men and women's basketball games at Conseco Field House. The campus was charged a very low rate for using this facility. The plusses of having games at Conseco Field House are that the capacity is higher than t the Jungle and actual attendance is greater. The negatives are that it is off campus and, even with the upper bowl blocked off by curtains and with record attendance, most of the lower bowl seats are empty. The third negative is that the campus would have the least desirable dates. These are largely financial rather than academic issues so the Athletics Committee has treated them as an information item.

### **February 12, 2009**

We reviewed the treatment of athletics and intramural and recreational sports in the IUPUI Master Plan. According to this plan most of the athletics facilities on campus may be relocated or eliminated. These include the tennis facilities, the Michael A. Carroll Track and Field stadium, and the softball fields along the White River. The Master Plan does include a Wellness Center that would house exercise equipment, a gym, and a student health clinic, sited immediately south of the campus center. The master plan is meant to guide the next 25 years.

The Athletics Affairs Committee is greatly concerned about the current and near term status of on-campus recreational facilities. It views our current students as being poorly served. The plans for recruiting additional out-of-state students and building more dormitories would increase the pressure on existing facilities. Because of this concern, the Athletics Affairs Committee initiated a survey of intramural and recreational sports facilities and budgets at IUPUI's peer institutions. This survey and report will be completed by the end of this semester. For some facilities, such as swimming, IUPUI is above average. For others, such as basketball and student weight rooms, our per-student facilities are far below those of every peer.