
Recreational Sports Board Annual Report, 2014-2015

I. Statement of Committee

Pursuant to Faculty Policies and Procedures 6.48B, the functions of the Recreational Sports Board are as follows:

1. Advises the administration concerning the development, programming, staffing, maintenance, and financing of recreational sports facilities for faculty, staff, and students.
2. Initiates actions in matters of budget and personnel for the Chancellor.
3. When issues related to academic matters develop, decisions shall be restricted to a subcommittee consisting of the faculty members of the committee. Disputes about identifying issues as academic shall be resolved by the University Committee.

II. Current or Past Year's Activities

- 6 Recreational Sports Board Meetings
- Highlights for 2014–2015:
 - The 2014-2015 strategic initiatives for the Division were: 1) Engagement, Inclusion and Diversity, 2) Student Leadership Development (WiGrow), 3) Process Improvement (Preventative Maintenance Plan) 4) 10 Year Vision 5) University Wellness Initiative.
 - Rec Sports Master Plan: The plan, approved by a Student Referendum in the Spring 2014 was discussed at length and addressed at every meeting. Approvals were gained from the Campus Planning Committee, Board of Regents and State Building Commission to begin Phase 1 of the Master Plan, which includes the Near West Playfields (directly west of the Natatorium on Observatory Drive) and the Southeast Recreation Facility.
 - Revised Rec Sports Board Configuration: 3 Faculty, 2 Academic Staff, 2 Classified Staff, 7 Students, 1 Non-Voting Member (Athletics) and the Director of Recreational Sports (Non-voting).
 - The Rec Sports Board discussed preferred changes to the configuration related to discussions that actually began back in Fall 2012. The Board discovered that changes were actually instituted when the previous Director was here, but not communicated to the then current Board or the new Director. The Board president worked closely with the University Committee to address what was felt to be a shortage of student representation on the Board. Student segregated fees make up the majority of the Rec Sports' budget (75% and growing), yet there was a minority representation of students on the Board. Changes were made by the University Committee for the 2015–2016 academic year for board configuration.
 - Program Spotlights were given in all areas of the Division, including new programmatic areas of Marketing and Communications, and Special Events.
 - Indoor Recreational use is on pace to once again surpassed 1.7 million users in 2014–2015. Over 75% of that use is by currently enrolled UW Students.

- The SHELL saw a lower participation rate from July-October due to a water main break that forced the entire facility to close for a period of time for replacement of the track and basketball court surfaces.

III. Current Issues or Concerns

- Budget concerns continued to challenge the Division, much like the rest of campus. There are growing concerns about current and future maintenance and repair of facilities, both now and in the future. As state dollars continued to decline, so does the ability of Rec Sports to properly plan for and fund needed maintenance.
- Student wages are a priority for the student government, with a desire to continue to find an appropriate starting wage. Rec Sports worked closely with the Board, the Student Recreation Leadership Council, and the Student Service Finance Committee to fund a wage gap in comparison to other student life divisions on campus. Future wage increases would further pressure a declining budget.
- Rec Sports is working with campus partners to produce a “surge plan” for recreational space usage while the SERF and NAT are under construction.

IV. Future Issues

- Space will continue to be an issue for recreational users as Rec Sports moves into the execution phase of the approved master plan. The surge plan noted above is intended to provide alternative spaces for users while major facilities are not available. The impacts to recreational users will be monitored during construction with possible future adjustments to the surge plan to mitigate the impacts of construction on our users.

V. Summary/Recommendations

- The Recreational Sports Board will continue to work closely with Division of Recreational Sports staff and campus administration to consider long-range recreational services to benefit the campus community.

VI. Committee Membership

Faculty [term ends]

Douglas Reindl (co-chair), ENG/Engineering Professional Development [2018]
Earlise Ward, NUR/Nursing [2016]

Academic Staff [term ends]

Chris Bruhn, L&S/Administration [2017]
Peter Crump, Computing & Biometry [2017]
Jesse Markow (co-chair), School of Education [2017]

Classified Staff [term ends]

Dennis Reece, L&S/Chemistry [2017]
Josiah Redford, GLS/College Library [2017]

Students

Alexander Carlos
Elizabeth Cain
Elly Pirman

Ex officio, Non-voting

Jeff Schmidt, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics [2018]