University Recreation & Wellness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, March 23, 2018
Time: 9:00am
Location: University Recreation and Wellness Center (Multipurpose Room 6)

Attendees:
Sam Palmer - Chair, All Campus Representative
Sarah Heemstra - Vice Chair, All Campus Representative
Amelia Kreiter - Council of Graduate Students
Bennett Olupo - Minnesota Student Association
Fred Clayton - Civil Service St. Paul
Dr. Connie Magnuson - School of Kinesiology
Sonya Ewert - Professional Student Government
Max Chu - Minnesota Student Association
Kayla Juarez (proxy for Makayla Koehn) - Panhellenic Council
Billy Langer - Interfraternity Council
Azhar Akesh - International Student and Scholar Services
Samson Ghirmai - National Pan-Hellenic Council
Ryan Warren - P & A Staff Representative
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness
Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee, Recreation and Wellness

Staff Advisors:
Ryan Townzen - Recreation and Wellness
Mikayla Miller - Recreation and Wellness

Guests:
Beth Ashfal - Recreation and Wellness
Caley Coney - Recreation and Wellness
Jessica Couillard - Recreation and Wellness
Brandi Hoffman - School of Kinesiology
Bryan Karban - Recreation and Wellness
Sarah McPhail - Recreation and Wellness
Jaime Medina - Recreation and Wellness
Cody Mikl - Recreation and Wellness
Ray Muno - Civil Service
Brooke Paider - Recreation and Wellness
Latasha Stowe - Recreation and Wellness

Regrets
Abby Doeksen - Undergraduate Housing Representative
I. Call to Order
Chair Palmer called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
The February 2018 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. After a short review by the Board, Mr. Chu motioned to approve the Minutes, with a second from Mr. Warren. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the Minutes passed.

III. Introductions
Chair Palmer welcomed the group, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

IV. REDI Presentation
Chair Palmer introduced Bryan Karban, a co-chair of RecWell’s REDI (Recreation Equity Diversity and Inclusion) committee.

Mr. Karban thanked the Board for inviting him and introduced REDI. He noted that REDI serves to encourage and support the inclusion of differences for RecWell, and has been fully-operational since December 2016. Mr. Karban shared that for the last year, REDI has been working on issues of equity, diversity and inclusion within RecWell to better serve all facility users. Mr. Karban added that REDI is well-integrated within RecWell, and supports RecWell’s current mission, vision, and goals.

Mr. Karban shared the group’s first year accomplishments, current initiatives, and future goals. First, he shared that REDI has two main goals for 2018: Implement equity and diversity training, which in 2018 will focus on full-time staff (with the intent of offering similar programming to all RecWell student employees), and to create a welcoming and inclusive culture at RecWell. Second, he shared REDI’s accomplishments over the last year: Hosting a body-positivity training for RecWell full-time staff, hosting multiple town-hall meetings for RecWell staff, and the creation of a webpage for REDI on the RecWell website. Third, Mr. Karban shared an update on REDI’s current work. He noted that REDI created and distributed surveys and hosted multiple focus groups to determine the group’s perceptions and culture within the department, and using the data collected, will host a de-brief to determine the baseline at RecWell to help guide REDI forward. He also noted that REDI is working on submitting a grant application. The grant will offer financial assistance for student groups that want to use RecWell space for reasons that align with RecWell’s mission, vision, and goals.

Mr. Karban noted that REDI’s work is vital to the success of the Department and University, and wanted to recognize the sometimes challenging nature of the work they are doing. To end, he noted his thanks to RecWell and the Board.

Chair Palmer opened the floor for questions and discussions for Mr. Karban. Mr. Olupo asked if REDI would be open to student staff, and Mr. Karban responded that yes, it is an option currently being discussed.

V. Constitutional Amendment Vote
Chair Palmer introduced this topic and noted that per the Board’s constitution, should any amendment be proposed, the new language would need to be distributed at least five days in advance in order to conduct a vote for approval. Because the new language was not distributed
within the required timeframe, Chair Palmer noted a vote could not be taken and the topic was discussed with the Board.

Chair Palmer introduced the proposed amendment to the Board. He noted that during the Board’s last Executive planning meeting he proposed an amendment that would ensure a minimum amount of RecWell student staff representation on the Board roster. With this proposal, he noted that roster diversity (having RecWell and non-RecWell students) is important to maintain an appropriate balance. He noted that he felt having RecWell students on the Board has offered a valuable perspective and supports this amendment. Dr. Brown shared his support for this amendment, noting that he wants to remain inclusive of all representative groups (not exclusively RecWell students).

Chair Palmer opened the floor for discussion. During the discussion, the following questions were asked:

- Would there be a cap on the number of RecWell student employees that could serve?
- Would language be added to ensure we have diverse representation from all Program areas with the RecWell student employees?
- How many RecWell student staff had been represented on the Board in the past?

Chair Palmer and Dr. Brown responded with a yes, a cap has been considered, diversity in membership from Program areas within RecWell would remain a priority when recruiting Board members, and the Board has typically recruited and maintained 3 - 4 positions represented by student staff.

Mr. Chu noted his support of the amendment proposal.

Hoffman instead of recruiting via word of mouth, the Department could consider broadcasting the opportunity to wider University network in order to recruit students with a variety of experiences and opinions, and open opportunities to students that may be valuable to their collegiate experience.

Ms. Heemstra supported Ms. Hoffman’s comments.

Ms. Ewert shared her concern with the cap of RecWell student employees, but noted her appreciation of the valuable perspective RecWell student employees have to offer as Board members.

Discussion concluded, and Chair Palmer and Dr. Brown suggested the creation of a resolution to be prepared for and voted on at the April 2018 meeting.

VI. Hours Expansion Resolution

Chair Palmer introduced this topic, and invited Mr. Chu to speak briefly on the recent MSA survey question regarding hours expansion at RecWell. Mr. Chu shared the question asked on the survey: Would people like RecWell to be open earlier on Sunday? He noted that there were overwhelming responses in support of RecWell being open earlier on Sundays.

Dr. Brown asked Mr. Chu if a question about expanding Saturday evening hours was included, and Mr. Chu responded no, that was not included on the recent MSA survey sent to students.
Chair Palmer invited the Board to review and discuss the current resolution on the hours expansion. Discussion on the current resolution included requests to change May term closing times to be consistent with summer hours, requests for participation/patron usage data to support the changes, and requested clarification on the term ‘revenue neutral’ used in the resolution draft. After discussion, the Board agreed to recommend a consistent closing time of 9:00pm during May term, noted that RecWell participation/patron usage data does exist (but was not readily available at current discussion), and the ‘revenue neutral’ was clarified (Board agreed to change the language in the resolution to recommend that any changes implemented ‘do not require any additional fee increases’).

Chair Palmer asked Dr. Brown and Ms. Ashfal for clarification of next-steps, should the resolution pass. Ms. Ashfal and Dr. Brown responded that the resolution would be considered by RecWell’s current professional staff when discussing any changes to current programming.

Mr. Olupo noted concern of expanding the operational hours of RecWell as a current student employee. Chair Palmer responded to his concern, noting that the resolution does include specific language encouraging RecWell professional staff to consider the impact on student employees when scheduling, should any changes to current programming be implemented.

Dr. Brown shared his appreciation for the Board’s (and guests’) participation with this resolution.

VII. Men’s Hockey Resolution
Chair Palmer invited Ms. Couillard to speak about the proposed Men’s Hockey resolution. Jessica noted the small changes made to the document to be more in line with current Sport Clubs Program procedures, highlighting that an offer of membership would be extended (the Program would not be ‘reinstating the club’).

Ms. Couillard reassured the Board that the Sport Clubs Program does have proper policies and procedures in place to support all clubs, but is looking to the Board for financial support of this request. She noted the existence of the Sport Clubs Advisory Council, which is a student group that supports the Program.

Dr. Brown asked if the Board felt compelled to recommend or advise RecWell a dollar amount to support and assist this request, or if they would rather leave that responsibility to RecWell’s administration.

Mr. Warren commented that a specific request for additional financial assistance may be beyond the scope of the Board, and without detailed knowledge of the budget, should be the responsibility of the RecWell administration.

Ms. Warren asked for clarification on the impact to the current Women’s Hockey Club. Ms. Couillard responded that there would be no reallocation of funds, but the Program is requesting additional funds to support the membership of a new club. Ms. Couillard noted that the specific impact to the current Women’s Hockey Club is detailed in the previous Minutes, and the request of additional funding does include an additional allocation to the Women’s Club to offset some of the direct.
Ms. Ewert recommend and supported language in the resolution that noted any increase was not coming directly from student service fees. Dr. Brown responded in support of her recommendation, but noted his concern for the next fiscal year when RecWell does plan to request an increase. Ms. Lovro noted that this specific request would incur a nominal increase, and reallocation within RecWell’s current budget was possible to support the request for additional funding to support the addition of the Men’s Hockey Club.

Dr. Brown requested to be on record in the Minutes with saying RecWell will be requesting a fee increase next fiscal year. He noted that this year’s budget is neutral and RecWell can reallocate funds for the two pending requests (hours expansion and financial assistance for Men’s Hockey Club). He also noted his concern of the conditional nature of those funds. Moving forward, he requested the latitude to be able to be able to support more program requests.

Mr. Olupo asked Ms. Couillard why the Men’s Hockey Club was removed from the Program previously. Ms. Couillard responded that the club violated Sport Clubs Program policies, and as a result, were dropped from the program.

Chair Palmer asked if the Men’s Hockey Club may have alumni involved in current programming (that may have been active with the club when the Club during their removal) that may impact their return. Ms. Couillard responded that because every club interacts differently with their alumni, she could not confidently speak to his question. Ms. Conney noted that alumni support can be beneficial to any club, and the Men’s Hockey Club return to the Sport Clubs Program may give the club’s alumni a chance to get positively re-engaged.

Ms. Hoffman reminded the Board that the Men’s Hockey Club application for membership is still being reviewed by, and will be decided on by, the Sport Clubs Program, and their request for additional funding to support their request for membership should be considered by the Board.

Dr. Brown noted that the Board should continue to be mindful of the impact the request for membership will have on the Women’s Hockey Club, and that he does not want them adversely affected. He reminded the Board that he invited Ms. Couillard to share this process (Sport Clubs Program process) with them so we can consider adding more clubs. Dr. Brown noted that he would like to see the addition of more clubs, but understand the limitations do currently exist (staffing, facilities, financial resources).

Chair Palmer asked for any more discussion on the language in the resolution on behalf of the Men’s Hockey Club’s request for membership. Dr. Brown reminded Chair Palmer to include a statement in the resolution that notes the neutral impact on this year’s budget in regards to fees with this request.

Ms. Ewert shared her support of the expansion of the Sport Clubs Program, and that the Board should be aware that expansion does come with budget implications.

Chair Palmer noted that the Board will vote on the Men’s Hockey Club resolution at the April 2018 meeting.
VIII. Updates

A. SSF
Chair Palmer introduced this topic and noted that a meeting was held on Monday, March 19, 2018. Ms. Lovro shared that the next Open Forum date was established (Monday, April 9), and approval with our requests should be back soon.

Dr. Brown noted that the Vice Provost has received all of the administrative unit requests, and the language shared with members of the Board were positive, and affirmed that RecWell was conducting itself well. With that, Dr. Brown shared that he has confidence that our requests will be honored.

B. Fieldhouse
Ms. Ashfal shared a short update on the Fieldhouse project. She noted that design meetings are still being conducted, scheduling is being considered (taking into account cost and user impacts), the start date of the project has changed (to March 2019). Ms. Ashfal also noted that the project is scheduled to go before the Regents in May for approval.

Mr. Chu asked if the HEAPR funds are guaranteed for the Fieldhouse project. Ms. Ashfal noted that the current request is pending, and as of now, no funds have been received. Dr. Brown noted even with the large number of HEAPR fund requests, he is confident the Fieldhouse request is top-priority. Mr. Chu asked what would happen if our entire request was not awarded. Dr. Brown and Ms. Ashfal responded that we would adjust the project.

Mr. Warren asked if after the project’s completion, does RecWell anticipate requests for additional events/reservations. Ms. Ashfal responded that yes, we do anticipate increased demand for the Fieldhouse once the project is complete.

Mr. Muno asked if there are any on-going efforts to encourage the allocation of the HEAPR funds to RecWell. Mr. Chu responded and encouraged participation in Support the U Day on April 10th. Ms. Hoffman responded that after a meeting with a University Relations representative sharing our story on social media platforms can be an effective way to gain support of our request.

C. St. Paul Gym
This item will be tabled until the April 2018 meeting.

IX. Announcements

A. Student Celebration - Chair Palmer reminded the Board of the RecWell Student Celebration event on April 7th.

B. Next Meeting - Chair Palmer reminded the Board that the next meeting will be held on April 27th at the Campus Club (Conference Room C), and will be extended by 30 minutes.

X. Adjournment
Mr. Palmer called for a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Clayton, with a second from Mr. Olupo. All were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was passed (10:01am).