University Recreation & Wellness Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, December 7, 2018
Time: 9:00am
Location: University Recreation and Wellness Center, Multipurpose Room 7

Attendees:
Sarah Heemstra - Chair, All Campus Representative
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness
Amelia Kreiter - Vice Chair, Council of Graduate Students
Giovann Alarcon Espinoza - At-Large Representative
Kevin Dinh - Multicultural Greek Council
Billy Langer - Interfraternity Council
Azhar Akesh - International Student and Scholar Services
Raymond Muno - Civil Service Minneapolis
Holly St. Clair - Minnesota Student Association
Ryan Warren - P & A Staff Representative
Fred Clayton - Civil Service St. Paul
Brandi Hoffman - Faculty P & A, School of Kinesiology

Staff Advisors:
(Not present)

Guests
Drew Devore - Recreation and Wellness
Ashlee Miller - Recreation and Wellness
Julie Faulkner - Recreation and Wellness
Mark Joekel - Recreation and Wellness
Beth Ashfal - Recreation and Wellness

Regrets
Mikayla Miller - Staff Advisor, Recreation and Wellness
Jaime Medina - Staff Advisor, Recreation and Wellness
Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee
Samson Girmani - National Pan-Hellenic Council
Makayla Koehn - Panhellenic Council
Taechrissae Feser - Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence
Molly Hynes - Minnesota Student Association
Sonya Ewert - Professional Student Government
I. Call to Order
Chair Heemstra called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
The November 2018 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. After a short review by the Board, Ms. St. Clair motioned to approve the Minutes, with a second from Mr. Alarcon Espinoza. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the Minutes passed.

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

IV. Program Highlight: Kinesiology PE Classes
Chair Heemstra introduced Brandi Hoffman to share updates of the Kinesiology PE (physical education classes).

Kinesiology offers 1000-level PE courses, about 600 sections, with about 6000 students enrolled. Students learn how to do the physical activity, the etiquette involved, and gain the confidence to participate in the activity for the rest of their life.

Students are expected to attend 2 hours of class per week and spend one hour per week outside of class. Classes are taught by Olympic coaches, professional athletes, and people who are truly passionate about the physical activity that they are teaching. The University of Minnesota offers some of the best facilities for these courses, compared to other schools. Kinesiology has a unique partnership with RecWell and Intercollegiate athletics which allows students access to these premiere facilities. The Sport Facility Priority Document - developed 20 years ago - identifies intercollegiate facilities, RecWell facilities, and student need for classes and aimed to make sure that all the spaces were being used to their full extent. As a result, Kinesiology has priority time on the climbing wall, the pools, the Cooke Hall gyms, the Fieldhouse, the lower fitness center, St. Paul gym, North gym, and courts, as well as renting the dome on an hourly basis. PE classes can be a stepping stone for other RecWell activities - get students in the door who were maybe previously overwhelmed by it. 65 sections offered in RecWell facilities this semester. There are three majors and 1 minor that require PE classes, the rest of the students are taking PE classes as electives.

Ms. Hoffman asked the board to encourage students to take classes outside of their comfort zone. Ms. Ashfal asked if enrollment is going up. Ms. Hoffman responded that demand is going up and facility space is needed, but instructors are needed even more so.

Dr. George Brown emphasized that the University of Minnesota is unique in the cooperation between PE classes, RecWell, and the Athletic Department.

V. Staffing Updates
Dr. George Brown introduced new Recreation and Wellness staff members to the large group, noting their previous workplaces (Drew Devore - previously at George Mason University, Ashlee Miller - previously worked with SUA, Julie Faulkner - (most recently) previously at Louisiana State University and before that at the University of Minnesota).
He also shared some brief updates on the department’s currently vacant full-time positions in the following program areas - Facilities (Events Coordinator), Fitness (Coordinator), Youth Programs (YP Coordinator), Leadership Team (Business Operations Manager).

VI. Financial Update
Chair Heemstra invited Ms. Karen Lovro to share finance and budget updates with the Board. Ms. Lovro was not present, Chair Heemstra presented.

RecWell is looking for an increase in budget from the student services fee for student wages. RecWell is the largest student employer on campus and a minimum wage increase would be a significant increase in the budget.

Mr. Alarcon Espinoza asked if wage increase would be in St. Paul facilities as well. Dr. Brown answered that the fee increase is to keep up with the mandated fee wage increase and remain a competitive employer. SSFs will be going back into students’ pockets in the form of wages. RecWell is trying to keep up with local competition for lifeguards and camp counselors especially.

Mr. Warren asked if Dr. Brown expected resistance from SSF committee. Dr. Brown responded that he does expect resistance, not because of RecWell’s specific request but because of a fee increase in general.

Ms. St. Clair added that there has been a pushback about the minimum wage increase from admin campus-wide. The argument has been that students can go work off-campus. Other universities outsource rather than using student labor. Dr. Brown acknowledged that this has been a discussion, but since RecWell is majority SSF funded, RecWell wants to hire students rather than temp casuals wherever they can.

Mr. Warren asked if there was a fee increase last year. Dr. Brown said there has not been an increase since he’s been here. Mr. Warren added that there was a fee increase approved years ago that was never implemented and that a strategy could be to ask for that to be implemented. Dr. Brown anticipates pushback about efficiency in student labor. RecWell will never compromise safety, but is open to the possibility of not being the largest student employer. Students working 2-6 hours are a much larger drain on the budget than ones working 10-15 hours.

Mr. Muno asked if students are able to use work-study. Dr. Brown responded that yes they are, and we need to utilize that more.

Ms. St. Clair said that there are bureaucratic complications with using work-study funds. It was noted that Recwell is not at full capacity for work-study students and should be recruiting more of them.

VII. Facility Updates
A. Aquatics HVAC
Ms. Ashfal shared photos of the new HVAC unit. Storage needs to be cleaned out by December 17th, which is sooner than was originally planned for or expected. She shared that exterior work will likely begin that day, and that the Director of Capital Planning is
serving as temporary project manager for this project as well as the Fieldhouse.

B. Fieldhouse
Ms. Ashfal shared that the project is planned to start April 15 - pushed back 2 weeks for the track team. The facility is scheduled to re-open mid-late November 2019. Discussions are still ongoing about converting basketball courts into turf, and moving two courts into the interior of the track, losing two courts; those courts would be rubberized and able to be used for tennis as well.

Chair Heemstra added that Intramurals has Fieldhouse Soccer and has been decreasing in popularity over the years. Turf would be an asset for this reason. Mr. Alcarcon Espinoza added that having turf in the Fieldhouse would allow for turf soccer year-round.

VIII. Intramural Participation Discussion
Chair Heemstra introduced Mr. Giovann Alarcon Espinoza to begin a discussion on current Intramurals (IMs) program participation eligibility. Mr. Alarcon Espinoza shared that he reviewed the current eligibility policies on the Intramurals program page on the Recreation and Wellness website. On the page, he shared that “it says they are open to all RecWell members” adding that University alumni were excluded from that group. He shared that he was told that these eligibility policies would leave more space for current student participation in IMs programming. Mr. Alarcon Espinoza expressed interest in updating current eligibility policies to include University alumni as eligible participants in future IMs programming in order to increase currently decreasing participation, noting that it would also help all members create and feel a “sense of community.”

Chair Heemstra noted that current IMs eligibility policies do include current students, staff, and faculty with current Recreation and Wellness Memberships. She added that in the summer semester, non-affiliates are eligible to participate.

Mr. Alarcon Espinoza noted that the ‘non-affiliate’ members do have to pay an additional fee to participate in the summer.

Mr. Drew Devore, Assistant Director for Competitive Sports, asked if there would be a demand large enough to change current eligibility policies. Mr. Alarcon Espinoza answered that yes, he would expect a demand for this (not in the hundreds, but “quite a few”). Mr. Devore added that he wants to ensure current students have an opportunity to form teams and enter current leagues first, before opening up to other groups, noting his experiences from his previous workplace. Dr. Brown asked if the number of alumni on each team could be capped, Mr. Alarcon Espinoza agreed that “yes,” that would be a reasonable compromise to his proposal.

Mr. Warren asked if we knew why they made the change to alumni. Dr. Brown theorized that it was to make space for students. In addition, it’s difficult to discipline non-affiliates if there is any misconduct during play. Mr. Devore added that in those situations, he would involve membership in the discussion, and say that they could potentially lose access to RecWell facilities.

Mr. Warren added that there are opportunities out in the community outside of the University of Minnesota. Chair Heemstra responded that the University’s fees are typically cheaper, which could be a draw for the community. Mr. Warren noted his opinion that University Intramural
programs are for University students. He added that summer alumni participation should be looked at more closely to see participation numbers. Mr. Langer agreed, adding that the numbers from before the alumni ban should be looked at. Chair Heemstra added that student refs could be made uncomfortable by much older alumni. Mr. Fred Clayton confirmed that the change was for disciplinary control. Ms. Hoffman adds that she was surprised that faculty and staff could participate. The experience for the first and second year students is important, and we don’t want those students to be scared away.

IX. Announcements
Chair Heemstra announced that she will be sending out future Spring 2019 URWAB meeting dates - likely the last Friday of the month at 9:00am.

Mr. Clayton expressed interest in pursuing a URWAB ‘field trip’ to tour the Velodrome in Spring 2019.

X. Adjournment
Chair Heemstra called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Langer motioned to adjourn the meeting, with a second from Ms. St. Clair. With no objections, the motion to adjourn was passed at 10:01am.