

**University Recreation & Wellness Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 6, 2017

**Time:** 11:00am

**Location:** University Recreation and Wellness Center (Multipurpose Room 7)

**Attendees:**

Sam Palmer - Chair, All Campus Representative  
Sarah Heemstra - Vice Chair, All Campus Representative  
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness  
Chloe Huelsnitz - Council of Graduate Students  
Claudia Dube - Panhellenic Council  
Fred Clayton - Civil Service St. Paul  
David Okita - Civil Service Minneapolis  
Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness  
Max Chu - Minnesota Student Association  
Keerthanaa Jeeva (proxy, Sonya Ewert) - Professional Student Government  
Dr. Connie Magnuson - Faculty - School of Kinesiology

**Staff Advisors:**

Ryan Townzen - Recreation and Wellness  
Mikayla Miller - Recreation and Wellness

**Guests:**

Beth Ashfal - Recreation and Wellness  
Greg Stephenson - Recreation and Wellness  
Luke Day - Recreation and Wellness  
Brooke Paider - Recreation and Wellness  
Mark Joekel - Recreation and Wellness

**Regrets**

Bennett Olupo - Minnesota Student Association  
Abby Doeksen - Undergraduate Housing Representative  
Griffin Ehlen - Interfraternity Council  
Jonang Thao - Multicultural Greek Council  
Azhar Akesh - International Student and Scholar Services  
Fardowsa Hassan - Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence  
Ryan Warren - P & A Staff  
Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee, Recreation and Wellness

## **I. Call to Order**

Chair Palmer called the meeting to order at 11:03pm.

## **II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The November 3, 2017 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. After a short review, Mr. Palmer and Mr. Chu requested two grammatical edits to the Minutes (sections VII - “Mr. Brown” to “Dr. Brown” and V.a.iv - “HEEPER” to “HEAPR” and “funs” to “funds” respectively). Edits were made.

After no further discussion, Mr. Palmer called for a motion to approve the November 3, 2017 Minutes. Mr. Okita motioned to approve the Minutes, with a second from Mr. Clayton. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the Minutes passed.

## **III. Introductions**

Mr. Palmer welcomed the group, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

## **IV. Updates**

Mr. Palmer welcomed Ms. Ashfal to speak on some updates with Recreation and Wellness Facilities projects.

### **a. Roofing**

Ms. Ashfal announced the updated expected completion date of the Recreation and Wellness roofing project as Friday, December 15th, noting the completion is weather dependent.

First question was asked, “Will that project at all effect the gym availability?”

Ms. Ashfal responded, and noted that there will be minor changes to the availability of the entire gym, and updates will be posted to alert patrons.

Second question was asked, “Is there a way students can get an email with this update so they know how to change their route (to access RecWell facilities)”

Dr. Brown and Mark Joekel responded that while RecWell cannot directly email students with those updates, the RecWell website is available to add and advertise updates to the currently on-going construction projects. Dr. Brown also noted that he will reach out to Facilities Management to ensure that current pathways to the facility are well-maintained.

### **b. Dome Opening**

Ms. Ashfal announced that the URW Sports Field Complex (Dome) opened Wednesday, November 29th and is fully-functional. She welcomed all attendees to the Dome’s Grand Re-Opening event on Thursday, December 7.

Ms. Ashfal presented a current map of the facility to all attendees, and detailed some of the facility’s improved features: improved parking availability, staffing two RecWell students during evening hours, extended Gopher Chauffeur hours (to begin in February), and additional field space. Dr. Brown noted that RecWell is exploring additional after-hours parking availability options in the Victory Lot with Parking and Transportation Services for future semesters.

Mr. Palmer asked if RecWell has been given any feedback about the new Dome from current users. Ms. Ashfal and Dr. Brown responded that yes, feedback has been given, and has been mostly positive (location, parking, additional field space).

c. Fieldhouse

Ms. Ashfal noted that the Fieldhouse project is still on track. She presented a brief overview of the project, noting that design work is expected to start in April/May 2018 and construction in August 2018. Dr. Brown noted the availability of additional funds for this project (“added alternate”) to update and modernize the restrooms in the facility.

First question was asked, “What is the expected timeline for completion of this project?” and Ms. Ashfal responded that the project is expected to take at least 12 months to complete.

A second question was asked, “Will the Fieldhouse be closed during the entirety of the project?” Ms. Ashfal responded that closure is possible, but will depend on the construction needs presented in April/May 2018. She noted that the goal would be to only close the facility entirely during “strategic times” when there is lower use. Dr. Brown noted that they do not plan to do the interior and exterior projects at the same time, so that the impact on programming can remain minimal for all user groups.

d. Club Sports Review

Ms. Miller presented a ‘Fall 2017’ review of the Sport Clubs Program. Before presenting her review, she noted the positive feedback the Program has received about the new Dome site and its improved amenities. Highlights of her review included successful postseason travel and award-winning event participation from multiple clubs (Sail Race, Men’s Soccer, Women’s Soccer, Women’s Rugby), participation data, travel data, and a RecWell facility hours review.

Dr. Brown noted that while the Program does face some challenges, including facility space and funding, they artfully balance their potential for growth with the resources they are allocated. He also noted the Program would benefit and grow from additional outdoor field space.

A question on the process for application and program participation restrictions was presented. Ms. Miller briefly discussed the current application process for prospective Program members, which did not include any barriers to the addition of a Women’s club to the current Men’s Club, and referred this question to the Sport Clubs Program Director.

**V. Staff Wellness Program**

Mr. Palmer introduced Mr. Stephenson, who presented on the 2018 changes to the current Staff Wellness Program. Mr. Stephenson noted that the new program is complex, and included a review of 2018 Program updates. Highlights of his discussion included details of the dramatic changes in reimbursements, demographics (estimates) of those affected by the recent changes (about 40% of current participants), RecWell’s new membership structure, and cost difference estimates to individual participants with the new Program. After that review, he determined that there is a small difference in cost per participant with the new program. To counteract some of

those major changes, Mr. Stephenson noted that RecWell has elected to reduce some of their Program fees in order to reduce the impact on any participant.

Dr. Brown highlighted that this is a self-generated income area and has the potential to reduce the burden of RecWell's student fees request, indirectly affecting students.

Mr. Chu noted his appreciation for the Program offerings as a student employee with RecWell.

A question was asked, "Has the cost reduction in Programs brought in more participants?" Mr. Stephenson responded that the data has not yet been collected to answer his question.

## **VI. Disability Resource Center Conversation**

Mr. Palmer noted that this agenda item was tabled at the November 2017 meeting, and Dr. Brown continued with a brief update.

Discussions with DRC and Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute have continued and tangible projects have already started to take shape with the hard work and dedication of RecWell staff. Those tangible projects include:

- *Nordic Skiing* - Groom the golf course and nordic track skiing and have accessible skiing options and equipment available.
- *Spring 2018 Event* - Planning "Adaptive Day," where RecWell facilities looks and feels as accessible as they can be, to promote equal access and opportunity and attempt to revive adaptive programming. This event is tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2018.
- *Youth Programs* - Planning to offer an adaptive 2018 summer camp module, modified program with support from Courage Kenny.

## **VII. Student Development Committee Update**

Mr. Palmer invited Ms. Heemstra to speak on Student Development Committee update. The committee is led by Latasha Stowe, Ms. Heemstra, and RecWell Program professional staff representatives. She noted that the main goal of the committee for the 2017 - 2018 academic year is to plan and execute an 'end-of-year' student gala event to intentionally recognize and appreciate student staff. To accomplish that goal, she noted that the committee has an upcoming meeting. Highlights of that meeting are set to include discussions about event logistics and awards to recognize and honor the accomplishments of the current student staff. A date and location for the event are still pending, and the committee will send an update to the Advisory Board as soon as it is secured.

Ms. Heemstra opened a discussion about appropriate award types after a question was proposed of what awards already exist. She noted that the current awards are based on department supported leadership criteria, but are still open for discussion.

## **VIII. Announcements**

Mr. Palmer called for announcements from the attendees, and the following announcements were made:

- URW Sports Field Complex (Dome) Open House event - The event will be hosted on Thursday, December 7th and is open to all.
- The URWAB meetings for Spring 2018 will revolve around a set schedule. Mr. Palmer will confirm the final dates and times via email.

- A certificate of appreciation for Claudia Dube was presented for her participation on the URWAB.
- Mr. Day invited the URWAB attendees to the ‘Ski-U-Drop’ event on Friday, December 8 at the Aquatic Center at 7:00pm, and asked attendees to spread the word.

**IX. Adjournment**

Mr. Palmer called for a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Chu, with a second from Ms. Heemstra. All were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was passed (12:18pm).