

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

**Date:** 12/2/2019

**Time:** 9:00am

**Location:** University Recreation and Wellness Center (MP 7)

### **Attendees**

Amelia Kreiter - Chair, All Campus Representative

Mackenzie Boivin - Vice Chair, Special Position to the Board

Dr. George Brown - Ex-Officio, Recreation and Wellness

Giovann Alarcon Espinoza - International Student and Scholar Services

Kenzie Maybrun - At-Large Representative

Anneke Duin - At-Large Representative

Karen Lovro - Budget Subcommittee

Peg Hanssen - Civil Service Representative

Brandi Hoffman - P&A Representative

Kevin Ross - P&A Representative

Emily Hauck - Professional Student Government

Catherine Chicoine - Housing and Residential Life

Andrew LaFortune - Interfraternity Council

### **Staff Advisors**

Jaime Medina - Recreation and Wellness

### **Guests**

Eric Paredes - Recreation and Wellness

Lisa Lemler - Recreation and Wellness

Jessica Novotny Couillard - Recreation and Wellness

Mikayla Miller - Recreation and Wellness

Julie Faulkner - Recreation and Wellness

Caley Conney - Recreation and Wellness

### **Regrets**

Rahul Rajan - Recreation and Wellness

Molly Hynes - Minnesota Student Association

Raymond Muno - Civil Service Representative

Melissa Tinucci - Panhellenic Council

Sydney Crims - Multicultural Greek Council

Melvin Coleman - National Pan-Hellenic Council

UJ Bhowmik - Minnesota Student Association

Otiti Mayo - Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence

I. **Call to Order**

Chair Kreiter called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

II. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The November 1, 2019 meeting Minutes were distributed to all attendees. Ms. Anneke Duin motioned to approve the Minutes, with a second from Mr. Kevin Ross. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the Minutes passed.

III. **Program Highlight - Competitive Sports**

Chair Kreiter invited Ms. Jessica Novotny Couillard to highlight the Competitive Sports program. Ms. Couillard first indicated that Intramural Sports serves between 6,000-7,000 students on campus and Sport Clubs serves 1,200 -1,400 students. She mentioned that with the transition to Competitive Sports, the total professional staff went from four to three. One of their goals coming into fall semester was to address the general intramural industry decline in participation. This past fall 2019 term, intramural participation increased by 40% compared to the previous fall term. The main challenge they had was being fully student staffed. By mid-semester, they had hired over 45 new officials and the hiring issues were no more.

Ms. Couillard indicated that Competitive Sports introduced Unified Sports last FY19 by collaborating with the Special Olympics club at UMN. About 50 students participated in flag football and soccer this fall 2020. It was fully funded by the Special Olympics club and ESPN. She also mentioned that they were exploring eSports this semester and offered a one-day event in collaboration with T-Wolves Gaming. It was held downtown at the T-Wolves gaming facility. What was noticed from the event was that students that came to the event by themselves left with new friends. It was a positive experience for the 32 participants. Caley added that there were about 15 additional spectators.

Ms. Couillard mentioned that Competitive Sports hired 62 coaches this year for their Sport Clubs and trained 100 officers. There were over 30 club events, tournaments, and clinics hosted with another 45 out of state competitions attended. The department also owns two vehicles that are utilized by the clubs with additional vehicles rented when needed. She then went on to mention that the Men's and Women's Soccer clubs earned bids to their respective national tournaments, both Men's and Women's Rugby had numerous players selected to Big Ten teams, and a total of 16 teams qualified and went to their national tournaments.

George praised the Competitive Sports professional and student staff for their dedication as well as the passion from the coaches and officers of each team.

Mr. Giovanni Alarcon Espinoza asked about graduate students and alumni participating in intramurals. Ms. Couillard responded that anyone paying student service fees or a University Recreation and Wellness membership may participate in Intramural Sports which can include graduate students.

Ms. Duin asked if non-University affiliates could eventually play in Intramural Sports. Ms. Couillard talked about conversation currently going on about increasing numbers and generating revenue, but iterated that leagues were nearly full with only 1-2 total team slots having been available across all sports. Ms. Duin suggested the possibility of having a certain number of non-University affiliates be allowed to participate. Ms. Lisa Lemler further expressed the emphasis of Competitive Sports being student fee funded so the opportunity going first to students. Ms. Lemler acknowledged the lower participation numbers during summer and are navigating how to further increase participation.

Ms. Brandi Hoffman praised Competitive Sports with how well the program has come along and was impressed that student involvement has increased as much as it has.

#### IV. **RecWell Pricing Structure**

Ms. Kreiter invited Ms. Lemler to speak. Ms. Lemler noted that the Group Fitness spring semester pass would be discounted \$20 if purchased between January 2-31. The cost of the semester pass will then return to \$55 starting February. Ms. Lemler mentioned that there is a 35% drop off in participation from Seek Week to those that purchased a semester Group Fitness pass. There will be a survey sent out to all participants regarding barriers in participating in these classes. Ms. Lemler said that this is all being marketed throughout many different campus departments and services. The goal is to learn more about pricing and the experience. There are target sales goals but their efforts should better inform the pricing structure for fiscal year 2021.

Ms. Hoffman was curious if there were items in place to ease first-user experiences and be more welcoming. Ms. Lemler responded that Mr. Ben Kohler specifically trains his fitness instructors to create a more inclusive environment and to make the space less intimidating.

Dr. George Brown then invited Ms. Karen Lovro to speak on the upcoming student fees request. Ms. Lovro mentioned that they are currently preparing the budget for any potential fees request. She is hoping that there is not a fees request but there are a number of pricing restructures occurring this year that are allowing for more accountability and creativity with the budget. Ms. Lovro is hoping to wrap up the budget preparation to present to the Advisory Board during the January meeting. In early-February, any fees request would be submitted. Lastly, Ms. Lovro mentioned that Chair Kreiter would play a role in the fees request.

Ms. Lovro then passed the floor to Mr. Eric Paredes. Mr. Paredes expressed his excitement for the pricing restructure in hopes to find a balance between the fees that student's pay and both the access and opportunities that the students receive. This would also be alongside what non-student members pay. Mr. Paredes believes there are opportunities within the department that can create more positive outcomes specifically for students.

Dr. Brown praised the work done on the last fees request that covered the next couple years of Recreation and Wellness student wages as the minimum wage continues to rise. Dr. Brown iterated his determination to be less reliant on student fees and more so on self-generated revenue.

##### 1. **Student Services Fee Finance Sub-Committee**

Dr. George Brown then invited Ms. Karen Lovro to speak on the upcoming student fees request. Ms. Lovro mentioned that they are currently preparing the budget for any potential fees request. She is hoping that there is not a fees request but there are a number of pricing restructures occurring this year that are allowing for more accountability and creativity with the budget. Ms. Lovro is hoping to wrap up the budget preparation to present to the Advisory Board during the January meeting. In early-February, any fees request would be submitted. Lastly, Ms. Lovro mentioned that Chair Kreiter would play a role in the fees request.

#### V. **Committee Updates**

##### 1. **OSA Mental Health Committee**

Dr. Brown was invited by Chair Kreiter to speak about the OSA Mental Health Committee. Dr. Brown mentioned how mental health is central to President Gabel's initiative. He mentioned that the results from a recent survey regarding mental health could potentially be released in 2020. Dr. Brown continued by mentioning how difficult it is to have enough staff and counselors to help the demands and needs of the students. He appreciated Ms. Kenzie Maybrun's participation on the

OSA Mental Health Committee and expects the Board to be asked for further representation in the future.

2. **Food Steering Committee**

Chair Kreiter mentioned that the committee is meeting in mid-December to discuss a recent survey regarding the daily meal trends. She further clarified that the Food Steering Committee is exploring whether the University should continue with Aramark or if operations should become in-house. Mr. Ross asked why the committee is focused on students so much more than staff and faculty. Chair Kreiter said that it was probably due to the dining halls within the residential halls.

VI. **Staffing Updates**

Chair Kreiter invited Dr. Brown to share staffing updates. He said that the department is close to making a decision on the Fitness and Wellness Director position. He expressed that with a staff of 63, there is bound to be continual movement.

VII. **Winter Break Building Hours**

Chair Kreiter invited Mr. Jaime Medina to speak on the winter break building hours. Mr. Medina mentioned the reduced hours over winter break and being hopeful that weather would not close any additional days during this time. Dr. Brown expressed his concern with Minnesota winters and the University being mindful of closing the University keeping in mind the travel of students.

Ms. Duin asked for clarification on April 12 being reduced hours. Mr. Medina responded that it was Easter Sunday.

VIII. **Announcements**

Chair Kreiter invited any and all announcements.

Mr. Medina briefed the the Board on the Field House Open House event to celebrate the newly renovated facility. He mentioned that the event will occur on Thursday, December 12 from 11:30a-1:30p. The invite went out to all staff, faculty, and students.

Mr. Alacron Espinoza requested more information on the badminton signature inquiry and Cooke Hall. Dr. Brown mentioned that badminton is a growing community and that their request for more facility space and specific accommodations were being addressed. Mr. Medina mentioned that he and Ms. Beth Asfahl met with the badminton group and had a productive conversation regarding their concerns. Lastly, Ms. Duin shared information about a meeting regarding the Health Sciences buildings. She said that the buildings have become more secure and that there were specific student, staff, faculty entrances now due to the uptick in incidents that have occurred in recent months. Ms. Duin expressed concern of the possibility that the Recreation and Wellness Center could be affected by this lockdown of the Health Sciences buildings during the winter months.

IX. **Adjournment**

Chair Kreiter called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Duin motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Mr. Alarcon Espinoza. With no objections, the motion to adjourn was passed at 10:02am.