

Vitalization Project – Workgroup 4
Meeting #5, Shelbyville Room
4:00pm, October 25, 2016
MINUTES

-Committee members present: Tami Babbs (Chair), Steve Rich, Dan Sheeran, Kelsie Abolt, and Kevin Linker

-Tami called the meeting to order at 4:03pm and the minutes of the 10/20/16 meeting were approved (providing the “verb tense” correction is made) following a motion by Steve and second by Dan. Tami announced our timeline on workgroup objectives, recommendations, and updates with rough draft posted on Sharepoint by Friday (Oct 28) at noon, and final draft due Monday (Oct 31) at noon. She said a Monday meeting was tentative depending on update needs. The report is due Tuesday, November 1 and the President will return report Monday, November 21 asking for additional feedback and information if needed. Tami let us know the final recommendations were due no later than Thursday, December 15, 2016.

-Tami introduced Dr. Jim Davis, Chair and Faculty Representative for the Intercollegiate Athletic Board (IAB). Jim summarized what the IAB does and his role. He brought the yearly report and discussed that he has twenty years worth of reports filled with plenty of data, but he said the areas this workgroup would be concerned with are the “exit interviews.” He said those interviews are held three times a year in the Fall, Spring, and Summer with Cindy Miller, Academic Center Director, heading up committees of two faculty, one student, and one athletic administrator, and six student athletes are interviewed. He said these meetings only last 20-30 minutes depending on how much the student athlete wants to share.

-Jim explained this yearly report holds academic data, missed class and violation data, exit interviews, as well as, budget information. The board does not review or oversee budgets, but can ask Tom Michael questions, and Athletic Directors before him, and Jim sends reports to IAB and the Faculty Senate, etc. Jim said Tom wants to be transparent, and they have a good working relationship.

-Steve asked Jim if there was negativity surrounding the program and he said the past few years seem to be more negative, but you still find the same negative comments from exit interviews decades ago, so it’s all relative. He did explain with reduced resources and coaching/training staff it is a little different these past few years, but a sign of the times.

-Dan asked about budgets but Jim does not review them and there was discussion on certain account lines or sports that appear to be in the red, but by the end of the year the line balances. This is possibly due to guaranteed dollars from games played against larger institutions.

-Dan asked about a discrepancy of the total number of student athletes tallied in the IAB report. The Profit-loss report registered 499 student athletes while IAB had 402. Jim noted students are listed by their majors only. Tami thought injured/red shirt students might not be included. Jim said his job is making sure student athletes are not “clustering” or all taking the same major. He said those students athletes on aid may not be included either. Academic redshirts can practice but may not count in total. Jim said Cindy Miller runs his report on “summary of majors.”

-Steve asked if anything stood out in the exit interviews, and Jim mentioned athletic facility complaints and concerns. Safety and risk management are big concerns. He did admit even in good financial times students still complained. Reports show when asked to compare OVC facilities, our student athletes said they were similar, and not worst, but not best. Athletic facilities are always a common theme in the report.

-Dan asked Jim if the board had discussed cutting sports. Jim said that has never been a discussion topic, and he's never been involved in sport reduction discussions. Jim shared that the NCAA is always pushing for sport growth, such as Beach Volleyball. He was concerned about staying compliant with Title IV in relation to sport reduction and enrollment decreasing with many student athletes paying tuition.

-Tami asked if our student athletes do well academically and Jim confirmed. He said our students have always been quality even before the Academic Center was in place. He went on to mention our athletes led in the OVC Honor Awards, and praised Cindy Miller on the relationships she has built with students. She is very supportive. Jim was impressed with Athletics overall 3.0 GPA for roughly a decade.

-Dan wanted Jim to project challenges ahead. Jim stressed facilities, but really didn't know. He said his job is to support student athletes, and was amazed on how well they do with what they have. He mentioned if enrollment does go up, then more problems might exist in terms of facilities. He remains positive.

Other Discussion:

-Dan and Kevin interviewed Kelly Miller, Admissions Director, last week, and Admissions offers the "MyEIU" portal. Kevin passed out data sheet from prospective student's interest. Athletics was first with the most interest. However, the question remains if it's fan interest or prospects who are potential athletes.

-Tami will talk to Cindy and Paul concerning the total student athlete numbers

-Dan presents another detailed report on athletic expenses from 2014-2015 and asked how does it relate to the 41 page report online. A budget discussion ensued and we concluded that budgets two-three years ago were all centralized under one line item, and Tom Michael has decided it's better to let each sport have it's own budget line.

-Steve mentioned about being compliant under Title IV and Shawn Peoples was the expert on this law. He mentioned how Tom has to work with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) each year, and they're looking for three things; portionality, showing pattern of adding sports, and allow for interest and abilities. Our athletic office is compliant and changes to the mix will be difficult and time consuming.

-Tami reminded us next meeting is this Thursday and asked for further discussion, and hearing none, asked for motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Kevin and seconded by Steve, and all were in favor.