

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Meeting

Johnson Hall Conference Room

October 6, 2004

Committee Members and Guests Present: Renee Baumgartner, Gary Gray, Dave Heeke, Jim Isenberg, Tom Larson, Michael Moffitt, Bill Moos, Rick Mowday, Jim O'Fallon, George Rowe, Jim Schombert, Kim Sheehan, Dan Williams, and Debbie Nankivell.

Update from Dan Williams

Dan Williams, vice president for administration, thanked the members of the committee for their service and provided a historical perspective on the creation of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee. When Myles Brand was the UO President, the State Board of Higher Education required all athletic departments to have balanced budgets. President Brand felt it was important to have a number of faculty members who were knowledgeable about all aspects of intercollegiate athletics and formed the IAC. The committee was designed to have representative constituents of the university to advise the university president on athletics policy issues and to counsel the athletic director.

The UO Athletics Task Force completed its charge last spring and recommended a number of items to be dealt with through the IAC this year.

Dan also informed the committee about changes the university will soon be facing due to upcoming administrative retirements. Dan will be retiring at the end of June, 2005 and his current position will be restructured to include finance and administration. A national search should be underway soon for that position. Athletics will report directly to the president with some form of additional support expected to come from Dan (at a reduced FTE) and Melinda Grier.

Arena Project Update

Discussed the need to replace Mac Court and create a new source of revenue to fund the department's operations. A number of donors want to be involved in the project and this is probably the best time to move forward with the project. The project fell through the first time because there was too much risk on the department to pay for the necessary bonds. The revised plan shifts the bond risk to the corporation (NCP) created to build and manage the project. NCP will be a subsidiary of the UO foundation with the department making lease payments to the corporation. At some point in the future, the arena may be gifted to the university.

The financial plan for the project has been vetted by a few groups to assess the risk to the department. The project does have some risk, however, it needs to be deemed an acceptable risk before proceeding. The senate budget committee, OUS and the state legislature all need to approve the final plan before moving forward.

There were a number of obstacles with the original Howe Field site, including major disruption to campus. New plans relocate the arena to the Williams Bakery site which has its own difficulties. The bakery is open to selling the site, but would also want their relocation costs paid in order to make the move. Dan will keep the IAC updated on the status of the arena project.

Future IAC Topics

Recommendations from the UO Athletics Task Force Final Report need to be addressed. Also, IAC members need to be invited to an upcoming SAAC meeting.

Next IAC Meeting

Wednesday, November 3rd at 4:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room at the Casanova Center.

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