

Campus Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

April 18, 2014, 12-1:00PM, CRC Multi-Purpose Room

Attendance: Jay Souza (CREC), Sue DiMonda (DOS), Leigh Mizvesky (CREC), Jessica Flareau (CSA), Garry Lachhar (USG), Dannah Sajorda (SHAC), Stephen Lee (GSO), Duogian Duan (CREC), Collin Bartoldus (Sport Clubs), Howard Gunston (SAC Facilities), Rose Faber (CREC), Eric Nechayer (Open Rec), Tom St. John (CREC), Brad Avenia (CREC), Marie Turchiano (CREC), Durrion Newman (CREC)

Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM

1. Introduction

- a. Facility: New lockers were installed at the end of May. There are more lockers than previously, so patrons shouldn't have a hard time finding one to store belongings.

New flooring has been installed to replace the carpet throughout the facility. This makes it much more sanitary and easier to clean. The flooring is also more durable.

- b. Fields: The intramural fields will be offline until spring for rehab. All teams will be scheduled on South P for outdoor sports.
- c. New Equipment: The Freedom Climber was installed in August. It acts similar to a rock-climbing wall, but uses body weight to make it more challenging to climb in limited space. We also bought a rope climber and Texas deadlift bars.
- d. Other: Jay asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves. He also asked permanent members to please provide the correct spelling of their names, so he can update the website. Members of the Advisory Board are representatives of their given area and should speak on behalf of that constituency.

Jay is still looking for representatives from the following areas:

- Open Rec—Fitness
- Open Rec—Intramurals
- Disability Support Services

2. **Recreation Updates:** As our new Assistant Director of Intramurals & Sport Clubs, Tom St. John is revamping the whole program. He is planning an extramural flag football event with other higher education institutions on Long Island including Hofstra, LIU Brooklyn, Adelphi, Dowling, and Farmingdale. The winner of this will go on to play in the NIRSA regional tournament at Springfield College.

3. Discussion

- a. Membership update:

- i. Non-Matriculated certificate students—graduate option? There are a number of non-matriculated certificate programs on campus. These programs are through the School of Professional Development and the hospital. Students in these programs are interested in purchasing a membership to the facility. The rates proposed would be that of a graduate student-- \$25.75/month and \$247/year. Jay asked the Board to vote on whether they would support the facility offering a membership option to these students. The support was unanimously in favor of adding the new membership option for these programs.
 - ii. Ollie affiliates—Alumni/Spouse rates? Ollie is a community-based educational program for life-long learners. These affiliates are actively engaged on campus and want to have the opportunity to utilize the facility. Jay proposed that we offer the partner-spouse/alumni rate (\$40/month, \$410/annual) to these individuals. The organization that oversees this group would provide us with a list each semester, so we can verify their membership. Some Ollie members are retired University employees and would be eligible to receive the faculty/staff rate (\$31/month, \$310/year). These patrons would not be eligible for fitness classes or recreational programming, just use of the facility. They would also be most likely to use the facility during the morning/daytime and would not be here during prime use. There are approximately 100 Ollie students and not everyone would look to purchase a membership. Jay held two votes on allowing Ollie students to purchase memberships. The first was on whether they could join, which was unanimously supported by the board. The second was on restricting their membership to certain times of the day—two members were in support and the remainder opposed this. The membership will not restrict their access based on time of day.
- b. Rental rate revision: Marie brought up the proposed rental rate changes for the indoor and outdoor facility rentals. The thought is to lower the rate so they are more reasonable for outside groups to utilize. The current rates were determined in 2012-2013 and it seems these rates are too high. Marie has researched the rates at neighboring institution and comparable fields. The Stony Brook University community would continue to be top priority with rentals and usage. There are four categories: student organizations, internal University departments, internal sponsored external events, and external organizations. Student and internal organizations would not be charged for facility rentals, but would continue to be charged for facility fees like custodial, field lining, site supervision, UPD, and field lighting. The prices for the other groups would drop for the actual rentals, but the facility fees would continue to remain the same. These cannot be discounted because these are fees we have to pay people to provide. There was a unanimous vote in support of revising the site rental fees, especially because students will still continue to be the top priority.

- c. Delayed opening for student staff training on the Saturday before classes begin, open facility at 1pm: This would allow for in-building training and the opportunity to carry out the emergency action plan. Campus Recreation expects stronger participation in this training before school starts. Freshmen are the only students on campus and in organized programs anyway, so we wouldn't be taking away an opportunity for students to recreate. Howie proposed closing a half day on Thursday or Friday instead of Saturday. The reason we chose Saturday is because we already don't open until 10 am; during the week we open at 6 am. Sue recommends speaking to RA trainers to see what works best for them so we can have greater participation. It is very clear that we need to schedule in-facility training at some point during our fall staff training to provide the best service for our patrons. Jay asked the council to vote and they unanimously agreed there should be a delayed opening for training, up until 2 pm on Saturday before school starts.

- d. FY 2014-2015 enhancements discussion: The following items are up for discussion as enhancements for Campus Recreation in the next year.
 - i. Scoreboards: These would be on all 3 South P fields and cost approximately \$270,000.

 - ii. Outdoor facility
 - 1. South Fields: \$600,000 (50x100)
 - 2. Intramural Fields: \$250,000 - \$300,000

 - iii. Ropes course: \$70,000 + 1 full-time professional employee to run the program

 - iv. Feedback: The Sports club rep suggested lights on the third South P field as the #1 priority (cost is approx. \$150,000). The facility on South P would be #2. He also asked whether we would consider temporary storage out on the field because it's hard to bring equipment all the way from the Rec Center. Others in the group suggested scoreboards (necessary for a spectators) and more bleachers. While there is facility with restrooms out by South P, it is owned by 3 Villages is not always opened. There are porta-potty available, but this seems like a temporary fix. Kate, the Campus Recreation employee rep, also felt the facility should be priority.

Vote: The top priority is the facility at South P with 6 votes; #2 is the lights on field C (3 votes); and #3 is the score boards (0 votes)

For 2nd Priority: 7 people felt lights on field C should come next and only 2 people voted for scoreboards.

Ropes Course not included because it was not discussed as a top priority among the advisory board.

Jay will look into portable scoreboards for now to hold us over

Other comments included:

- What do females think of facility? Marie Turchiano is working with Sport Clubs to get more feedback.
- What will the facility include? Male and female facilities, storage, and first-aid room
- Brad reminded everyone that it will help with rentals.
- Would it be open to commuters? The commuter facility currently has no bathrooms. Jay would have to assess this for cost analysis and safety concerns. Vandalism and cleaning would likely be an issue and a major expense—approximately \$25,000. He would rather put the money towards other items to finish out the field complex.

4. Other

- a.** The Strength Club brought up using chalk in the facility. Jay stated it is not allowed and will never be allowed. He tried liquid chalk, but it took two hours to clean up when it exploded. He is not willing to reconsider. Jay was a lifter for years and understands the concern, but will NOT allow. He stands firmly by this decision. It gets ground into the floor. Other members of the Strength Club asked why other gyms allow its use and are not dirty, providing examples of gyms that use, but Jay said those are more serious and accomplished users. Anyone who wants a facility that allows the use of chalk is welcome to try these places out because we won't be able to accommodate this. The Strength Club asked if we could we have a staff member just work in the weight room and watch chalk use? Jay said no, there is a cost to this and if we pay to have someone work in this area only, then there won't be money for Jay to buy equipment the club has requested.
- b.** Tom: Professional staff that work for the Department of Campus Recreation cannot use facility without a membership. He asked the advisory board to consider several issues with this decision:
 - i.** Health and wellness: The phrase “sound body, sound mind” as used in the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center naming earlier today, is the epitome of this department. It would develop healthy employees.
 - ii.** Common sense: We would essentially be paying to come to work because otherwise we cannot use our own workspace. We are the stewards and face of facility.
 - iii.** Relationship building: We should be able to practice what we preach. We are role models for work and that includes utilizing everything the building has to offer. We are trying to build brand, which means we should be visible in building and using the equipment. It also helps the professional

staff speak knowledgably about the equipment and programs. The staff is not looking to take opportunities away from paying members. It would actually enhance the experience of others by having our staff present.

- iv. In line with national practice: In the recreation field, no one charges professional staff a membership fee.
- v. Feedback from on the membership issue:
 - Marie explained that Athletics gets to go to games for free and gets Special Service parking for free because it's seen as being easier to have employees nearby and present for their events.
 - Sue Dimonda expressed some concerns with offering this perk to the professional staff of the facility.
 - Howie understands Sue's concerns; however, it is not uncommon for benefits to be given for full-time employees in different areas. Campus Dining gets food. It is important for the people that represent an area to be visible.
 - Jay explained he does pay for his membership, but he also helps and corrects students who are using the facility. He believes using the facility is a mentoring and leaning opportunity.
 - Leigh reminded the advisory board that the professional staff are not looking to take anything away from pay members. Instead, the professional staff wants to be experienced and knowledgeable to recommend programs and services within the department.
 - Durrone believes it is an excellent opportunity for stress-relief and helps him get away from his office for a bit.
- vi. **Vote:** Jay asked for everyone to vote on the issue. The advisory board voted unanimously in support of providing memberships, without cost, to the professional staff of the Department of Campus Recreation. Many students expressed that they were surprised to learn the professional staff wasn't allowed to use the facility.
- c. Fitness classes don't line up with class schedules. It can be hard for students to attend fitness classes because they cannot find classes that fit with their schedule or just miss classes. Since there is a lateness policy that bars participants from entering a class late, students miss the opportunity to take classes. Is this something that can be addressed for future schedules?
- d. Would we consider purchasing women's training bars for the weight room? These could even be checked out if necessary. Jay doesn't feel comfortable with this because he is concerned too many people who shouldn't use them, will, and the bars will be bent quickly.

The next meeting will be Friday, October 20th at 12:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Lunch will be served.

