Present: Phil Lane, Dawn Massey; Camelia Micu; Rajasree Rajamma; Gary Weddle; Phil Palumbo, Director of Recreation; Gene Doris, Director of Athletics; Ahna Johnson ’09, SAAC Co-President; Erin Mackey ’10, FUSA Director of Athletics

Regrets: David Sapp; Lindsay Ryan, ’09 SAAC Co-President

Agenda Items:

I. Approval of minutes from October 21, 2008 meeting – Motion to approve with corrections by Gary; 2nd by Phil Lane; the motion carried.

II. Old Business

A. Finalization of outstanding issues raised by AC re: 2002 report

1. Discussion of Operating/Capital Budget Numbers related to Recreation since 2000

   a. Phil Palumbo shared handouts with the committee that included the following for the academic years 2001-02 through 2008-09: (1) budget allocations pertinent to the Department of Recreation’s line items for: operating, travel, rental income, programming, sports clubs, capital-equipment and capital-improvements; and (2) actual spending pertinent to the department of Recreation’s line items for: capital-equipment and capital-improvements.

   b. The long-standing concern from the 2002 report centered around whether changes in funding for recreation were commensurate with changes in participation in recreation.

   c. Phil Lane noted that additional information was needed regarding participation for the academic years 2001-02 through 2008-09 – namely: (1) The number of RecPlex users; (2) The number of unique participants in intramurals; (3) the number of club sports; and (4) the number of students participating in club sports.

   d. Phil Palumbo indicated that – to the degree the data were available – he would endeavor to provide the requested participation information to the committee before the next meeting on December 10, 2008.

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1 The 2008-09 “actual” information is YTD as of approximately 11/15/08.
II. Old Business (con’t)

2. Discussion of formal policy for Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) to follow when students raise concerns at their exit interviews about the time-demands placed on them by athletics
   a. Dawn circulated a copy of the policy entitled, “Student-Athlete Evaluation/Exit Interviews” from the Athletic Manual that Gene previously provided to her.
   b. Because the handout does not indicate steps/procedures the FAR must follow when a student raises concerns, Gene discussed his general experiences in such situations. These include the FAR: (1) analyzing whether the situation is isolated to a single student or common to multiple students (e.g., compiling information on a sport-by-sport basis); (2) sharing noted situations with the program administrator for the particular sport; and (3) sharing pervasive problems with the Athletics Director. In turn, the Athletic Director would meet with a coach and has usually found that issues stem from miscommunications between the coach and/or assistant coach and/or the team captains. Gene noted that students who were unhappy following their meeting with the FAR could follow the Grievance Procedure on p. 71 of the Student Athlete Handbook.
   c. Dawn suggested that Gene work with the FAR to put together a formal policy outlining the FAR’s steps in situations in which student-athletes raise concerns to the FAR about the time-demands placed upon them.
   d. Gene agreed and indicated that he would try to bring such a policy to the next meeting of the FAC on December 10, 2008.

3. Discussion of formal written guidelines regarding the scheduling of athletic trips (especially regarding appropriate departure times)
   a. Dawn circulated a copy of the policy entitled, “MAAC Student-Athlete Missed Class Policy (Applies to all conference and non-conference competition)” from the Student-Athlete Handbook (pp. 74-76) that Gene previously provided to her.
   b. The handout clearly spells out the policy applicable to the scheduling of athletic trips (particularly regarding appropriate departure times) – and so the committee decided that this information could be added to their update report to the Academic Council, clearing the concern from the 2002 report.

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2 It was noted that the Athletic Director also requests from the FAR a sport-by-sport summary.
II.  Old Business (con’t)

B.  Triennial Survey of student athletes

1.  Gary reported that he had scheduled a meeting with Curt Naser to discuss the possibility of using EIDOS for the committee’s survey.

2.  Gene pointed out that Ann Steheny’s office now conducts surveys using a “Survey Monkey” like platform that we could also utilize.

3.  A discussion ensued about the appropriate vehicle for administration of the survey. By consensus, the committee agreed that since EIDOS is run by a faculty member and the survey of student athletes is being conducted by a faculty committee that EIDOS would appear to be the appropriate vehicle for administration of the survey.

4.  The committee discussed changes and additions to the survey, particularly given that an electronic format will no longer require the physical survey to fit on a single double-sided sheet of paper.

5.  Rajasree raised concerns about questions 6 & 11 (“Consider your experiences at Fairfield. Please mark the following [5-point] scale to indicate the degree to which you agree [5=strongly agree] with the following statement: ‘During [COMPETITION SEASON], I feel that I am pressured to spend too much time on athletics to the detriment of my studies.’”) She suggested splitting the question into three questions – to focus on the time spent on athletics, the time spent on studying, and whether the time spent on athletics was detrimental to academic performance.

6.  The committee agreed that Dawn would revise the previous version for the specific comments discussed at the November meeting and distribute in advance of the December 10, 2008 meeting so that everyone could have additional time to contemplate further improvements in advance of the December 10, 2008 meeting.

7.  Ahna indicated that she would seek input on the revised draft from student-athletes at the SAAC meeting scheduled in advance of the December 10, 2008 FAC meeting. In particular, Ahna was going to try to get information about what open-ended questions would tend to elicit student responses.
II. Old Business (con’t)

C. Faculty Resource Person (FRP) Initiative
   1. Gene reported that the program seemed to be progressing well and that
      he would bring to the December 10, 2008 meeting a listing of Faculty
      Resource Persons and teams so that we could ascertain whether
      additional faculty members were needed to volunteer.

D. Report from Gene Doris, Director of Athletics – Gene provided the committee
   with a copy of a report entitled, “Fairfield University Athletic Highlights As
   Of November 17, 2008.” Many of the fall teams have done well, particularly
   the Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams and the Volleyball team – all of whom
   have made it to tournaments.

E. Report from Phil Palumbo, Director of Recreation – In the interest of time,
   Phil provided a short report. He indicated that men’s rugby had advanced to
   the championships and won the first game, but lost the next game. Good
   weather had helped intramurals have a smooth fall season. Most teams are
   doing well, with the exception of men’s hockey, which is struggling now that
   some of the better seniors are not on the team and they have not been able to
   secure much ice time.

III. New Business

   (None.)

IV. Adjournment – there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Massey