Meeting Minutes of the Athletic Committee of the Faculty Senate

When: Monday, April 6, 2015, 12:00 PM – Called to order at 12:04
Committee Members Present: Grace L. Coggio, Joel Peterson, Jennifer Willis-Rivera, Earl Blodgett, Tanner Milliron, Crystal Lanning, Roger Ternes, Brenda Creighton (sitting in for Donna Robole), Abby Veloske (sitting in for Gillian McDonald); Committee Members Not Present: Sylvia Kehoe and Joe O’Kroy; Student Athletes Present: Kelsey Johnson (Tennis), Kelsey Hochberger (Tennis), Anna Ebensperger (Tennis), Jackson Shaw (Cross Country/Track & Field/SAAC), Deanna Cahoon-Draus (Cross Country/Track & Field/SAAC)

Where: UC - Apple River Room 333

I. Approve minutes from February 6, 2015, meeting
   - Earl moved to approve, Brian seconded, unanimous voice approval

II. Announcements
   - Committee and students introduced themselves

III. Business

   - Winter/Spring Athletics Update – Crystal
     Women’s Hockey 3rd place in NCAA
     - Cranston, Johnson, and Kinsel named 2015 AHCA All-Americans
     Men’s Hockey didn’t make it into the NCAA bid but should have
     Men’s Track & Field – 3 competed in NCAA Championships
     - David Paynotta placed 3rd in 60 M Dash
     Tennis and Golf haven’t started, Softball halfway done, and we’re well into Outdoor Track & Field

   - Falcon Center/Ramer Field Construction update – Roger
     o Month ahead of schedule due to the mild weather
     o Waiving the state’s fee for Falcon Center is still in flux

   - 2015 Hall of Fame selections – Crystal/Roger
     o 8 people selected plus a Positive Contributor

   - UWRF Athletics budget updates – Roger
     o $100,000 cut assessed to us by July 1, 2015
     o We have $103,000 deficit carried over from the past
few years that adds $33,000 to the current cut for a total of $133,000 reduction by July 1, 2015

- Review UWRF Athletics sports module and recommendations
  - Roger
    o To accommodate the budget reductions, we explored multiple options. We considered being in the UMAC, but we didn’t fit – there’s no hockey, we’d traveling more for football, and we’d also have to add baseball and men’s soccer
    o We looked at the costs of resurfacing the track and thought about cutting Track & Field – but we can’t cut any Men’s sports and still stay in the WIAC
    o If we drop just Women’s Track and Cross Country, it wouldn’t result in savings because of the shared resources with men’s team
    o We looked at dropping softball, but we would likely lose most/all the softball students, who are recruited to play here
    o Falcon Center covers a number of resources, so dropping those teams wouldn’t save a whole lot of money
    o We are lean on athletics staff compared to other programs, but likely will need to reduce or eliminate some staff
    o The proposal is to suspend Intercollegiate Golf and Tennis. These two teams cost approximately $31,000 combined.

- Tennis
  o Reviewed the eight considerations for suspending or terminating a sport: 1. The ratio of women’s to men’s sports offerings at UWRF is the largest in WIAC, 2. UWRF has a quality intercollegiate tennis facility, 3. Between 8 – 12 students compete each year, 4. Quality coaching is available; however, the pool of candidates is limited due to it being a part-time ad hoc position with a limited coaches salary ($6,217.06 in 2013/14), 5. Total financial impact of operating the sport was $13,666.75 in 2013/14, 6. There are no intramural alternatives at this time, but students are welcome to join the UWRF Tennis Sport Club, 7. Suspension would reduce the number of WIAC institutions sponsoring
women’s Tennis to 6, 8. The roster is consistently between 8 – 12 students/year, an estimated 30 – 50% of the current students may look to transfer and students currently in the recruiting pipeline may look elsewhere

- Golf
  - Reviewed the eight considerations for suspending or terminating a sport: 1. The ratio of women's to men's sports offerings at UWRF is the largest in WIAC, 2. UWRF has access to quality golf facilities, 3. Between 5 – 8 students have competed over the past 5 years, 4. Quality coaching is available; however, the pool of candidates is limited due to it being a part-time ad hoc position with a limited coaches salary ($6,217.06 in 2013/14), 5. Total financial impact of operating the sport was $17,431.00 in 2013/14, 6. There are no intramural alternatives at this time, and no UWRF golf sport club currently exists, 7. Suspension would reduce the number of WIAC institutions sponsoring women’s Golf to 6, 8. The roster is consistently between 5 – 8 students/year, an estimated 30 – 50% of the current students may look to transfer and students currently in the recruiting pipeline may look elsewhere

- Jennifer motioned to support beginning the procedures for suspending the golf and tennis teams. Discussion about the next steps and open meeting procedures followed and Roger seconding the motion
- The vote was 7 in favor of beginning suspension procedures and 0 against, with 1 person, Brian Schultz, abstaining
- Roger moved to adjourn, Tanner seconded, meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM