This final meeting of Athletic Committee for Fall Semester of the 2009-10 academic year was brought to order at 3:00 pm in the Eau Galle Room at the Student Center. Those committee members in attendance were:

Brian Huffman – Chair
Richard Bowen – Athletic Director
Melissa Wilson
Craig Morris
Kathy Olsen
Kevin McLaughlin
Kenneth Ecker
Victoria Houseman

Minutes Approved
Rick made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 28, 2009 meeting which was seconded by Kevin. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Athletic Director’s Statement
The meeting began with a statement by Rick Bowen commending both the Swimming and Diving Team Coach and the team itself for remaining civil and professional throughout the discussions during the past weeks on the possible suspension of the team.

Rick also wanted it noted that the team’s impassioned pleas for keeping their team would be typical of what any of the university’s athletes would say about their team should it be considered for suspension.

Edits for the Final Report to the Chancellor on the Swimming & Diving Team
The bulk of the meeting concerned edits to the final report to be given to the Chancellor. Brian reminded the committee that the vote to keep or suspend the swimming and diving team would be taken at the end of the meeting. He asked the committee to agree that the final report should be completed by November 13 and that it should be delivered to the Chancellor and Faculty Senate Monday morning November 16. These goals were accepted by the committee.

Kevin asked that all edits be made to the report such that this process could serve as the model should it become necessary to consider the suspension of another team in the future. He asked that each of the 8 items covered in the report contain explicit conclusions both for suspending and for keeping the team in place.

The following edits to the report were recommended:

Item 1: Title IX Impact – State that the Title IX impact of suspending the team would be minimal. Note that the ratio of women’s to men’s sports offerings at UWRF
will still be the largest in the WIAC Conference and place a supporting table in an Appendix.

**Item 2: Adequacy of Facilities** – Mention that it was reasonable to consider the desirability of retaining a team when their primary facility fails. Do not discuss the U of Minnesota pool. Mention the Hudson YMCA pool. Mention that adequate facilities exist whether or not the team is suspended. Cut financial information.

**Item 3: Competitive History** – Note that the women’s and men’s teams have never been competitive in the WIAC Conference finishing last or second last in 36 of 42 years. Note that the UWRF swimming and diving teams are small, competitive for their size, and growing.

**Item 4: Coaching** – Cut the first sentence and simply state that the coaching staff is first rate.

**Item 5: Financial Implications** – Cut the second set of budget numbers (the cost of owning a pool). Cut the first paragraph. Keep the part about who pays now versus who paid when the pool was operational.
Item 6: **Contribution to a Broad Based Program** – Keep the part about the balance between the team and individual sports, but shorten the other paragraphs to a statement to the effect that there are no other opportunities for competition in swimming and diving.

Item 8: **Enrollment Implications** – Emphasize that the estimated loss of students is only an estimation (a potential loss).

**The Vote**

A vote took place on the question of whether to suspend or keep the swimming and diving team. The Athletic Director abstained from the vote. The vote in favor of keeping (versus suspending) the team was 6 to 1.

Brian said that the report recommending the retention of the team would go to the Chancellor and Faculty Senate Monday morning. Craig Morris asked that the committee members restrain themselves when commenting on the result of the vote so as not to undercut the Chancellor’s ability to decide the matter whichever way he finds right.

Notwithstanding that request, it was agreed that the swim team could be told about the result of the vote inasmuch as the meeting was open to the public and the vote could have been made known by any reporters had they attended.

This meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Huffman
Chair, Athletic Committee