

## Campus Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

October 25, 2021

Attendees: Marcus Jackson: moderator, Terry Elmore, Jess Gentry, Kate Green, Alana Harris, Alex Ochoa Cordova, Dementro Powell, Dr. Mike Raycraft, Jeanette Weider

Marcus: Recording this meeting, will send out to you all. The only new member on the call is Alex, but for the sake of everyone on the call, a quick round of introductions – name, department, or major / year.

Alana: I am Alana Harris. I am the associate director for student wellness, assessment, and adventure recreation here at Campus Rec. I don't want to share my major and year because I'm not as old as Terry, but I'm getting up there.

Jeanette Weider: Hello! I'm Jeannette, and I'm with University Housing.

Jess Gentry: I'm Jess Gentry. I'm the Associate Director of Programs and Rec Management – and not as old as Terry

Dementro Powell: I'm with UIPD and not as old as Terry.

Terry: I'm Terry Elmore, Associate Director for Operations and Dementro just got uninvited to Thanksgiving Dinner.

Mike: I'm Mike Raycraft and I'm a faculty member in the department of Recreation Sport Tourism, and probably older than Terry.

Alex: I'm Alex and I'm in my first year of my Masters in Recreation, Sport and Tourism and excited to be here.

Marcus: I have the pleasure of working with all these people that aren't older than others. Three items on the agenda – accomplishments, capital project updates, and information on staffing. Typically, with this meeting we loosely follow Robert's Rules. But due to the remote nature, we'll be even looser than traditional. Our Agenda generation is built on items by members of the committee sharing questions that they have.

First – a little about the past year. We sent the annual report to all of you and hope you have had the chance to review. What I'm hoping to do in short order is share my screen and the accomplishments of Campus Recreation which you would have seen as part of the Annual Report. This will flow evenly into the requests we made for the Student Fee Advisory Committee, or SFAC that I refer to. Some information of that nature is in this PowerPoint presentation.

\*presentation begins from 6:42\*

Slide 1 – Vision, Goals & Values

Slide 2 – Innovations for 2020-2021 – still able to offer access and services to support the students.

1 – Reservation system to access and pay

2 – Adventure Recreation offered Park & Play

3 – Intramurals provided virtual offerings from trivia to NFL Pick'em. Socially distanced sports were offered such as badminton, ping pong, tennis, and soccer tennis. As well as a virtual 5K

Slide 3 – Addressing Student Needs 2020-2021

Food Assistance and Well-Being program was launched with 1275 visits, and 241 unique visits. Giving Tuesday featured FAWB and 227 donors contributed \$41,652.

Other opportunities for support include volunteering, as well as monetary donations through the Amazon wish list or a food donation.

Executive Administration are aware and excited to find new ways to support our students.

Slide 4 – Program Statistics:

ARC – 243,482 swipes, with 14,276 being distinct.

Outreach – Frenzy 2.0 with 1700 in attendance

Climbing & Adventure – Fall: Over 547 visits, 154 unique / Spring: Over 652 visits, 139 unique

Intramural: Over 20 new events offered, over 3000 unique participants with 56 officials and staff

Facility Rental: SHIELD provided space in ARC and CRCE for COVID-19 testing, as well as space for flu and COVID vaccination clinics.

Club Sport: Over 2300 hours of club practices with over 1200 rostered club athletes

Aquatics: Filled 62% of lap swim reservations (20545 available, 12643 reserved), and had 249 “learn to swim” participants.

Slide 5 – Program Statistics cont.

Student Wellness – 22 synchronous, in-person and Zoom cooking classes. 172 cooking class participants (Zoom – 59, in-person – 113). Six wellness workshops at 100% capacity with a total of 60 participants.

FAWB – again, 1275 visits / 241 unique

Group Fitness – Two new incentive programs offered with 83 participants

Personal training – Facilitated 630 personal training sessions

Slide 6 – Assessment – Who are we serving?

Demographic data was collected from specific program participants (Group Fitness, Adventure Recreation, Personal Training, Bike Center, Intramurals & Wellness)

Group Fitness Needs / Wants Survey – 509 participants

Intramurals Needs / Wants Survey – 517 participants

FAWB – 285 participants, of which 100% stated they would recommend the program, and 91% were satisfied or very satisfied.

Slide 7 – ARC student patrons by Academic Year:

Graduate: 1,755

Freshmen: 2,565

Sophomore: 2,905

Junior: 2,579

Senior: 3,476

Slide 8 –Patron Demographics:

Race:

White: 6,024

Asian: 2,505

International: 2,049

Hispanic: 1,792

Black / African American: 764

Unknown: 649

Multi-race: 479

Gender:

Male: ~8,000

Female: ~6,000

Unknown: ~500

Demento: There's a large population of our white students who look like they're utilizing (services / facilities). Do we have any idea where the other students may be going?

Marcus: As in other rec centers? We do not have that kind of information. Not all our programs within the building capture what students are engaging in. For informal rec, once they swipe through, we don't know what portion are going to aquatics or the sauna.

#### Slide 9 – Student Patron GPAs

#### Slide 10 – Student Staffing

Best asset – student employees. Employs ~650 students (including the Ice Arena) many roles have leadership and promotional opportunities.

Investment in student staff – leadership and career development

In-service plan including diversity and inclusion within areas of employment

Partnership with the Illinois Leadership Center and Illinois Career Center to offer training for career advancement opportunities.

Goals: Reintroduction of leadership development program (LEAD) and positive communication classes. Represent UIUC Campus Rec by sending intramural officials and teams to NIRSA tournaments.

#### Slide 11 – Student Employment

Student Employment Experience Survey / 142 students self-selected to participate

Students were asked if their employment in Campus Recreation improved:

Social and emotional awareness – 70% somewhat agree or strongly agree

Creative Thinking – 64% somewhat agree or strongly agree

Problem Solving – 83.7% somewhat agree or strongly agree

Effective leadership strategies – 79.8% somewhat agree or strongly agree

Community engagement – 79% somewhat agree or strongly agree

Communication skills – 88.4% somewhat agree or strongly agree

Sense of belonging at Illinois – 76.8% somewhat agree or strongly agree

#### Slide 12 - Facility Accomplishments 2020 – 2021

Ground staff moved to a new facility on St. Mary's Road.

Campus Bike Center moved from the garage to a dedicated location on Gregory Drive

Future renovations: updating the front entrance access for ARC & CRCE as well as reviewing additional fitness and weightlifting space.

#### Slide 13 – Fee Request: Campus Recreation

Requesting a service fee increase total of \$2.70, or 3.8%.

Currently planning to replace \$500,000 of fitness equipment at end-of-life in FY22/FY23.

Fee Request: Ice Arena

Requesting a service fee increase of \$.44, or 6.4%

#### Slide 14 – Collaborations & Partnership Programs

Exercise is Medicine – Future so Bright 5k

Illini Wellness week with Student Affairs Partners

McKinley Health Center Flu Crew – Flu Shot Shoot Out

Student Experience and Athletics – Illini Fit @ Memorial Stadium

Adventure Recreation collaborated with the Illinois Leadership Center to offer three “Park & Play” programs

McKinley Health Center and the Counseling Center – virtual Well-O-Ween

ARC was utilized as a polling location

Police Academy fitness testing for new recruits

Worked with the SHIELD team on campus to provide testing locations (ARC, CRCE & Ice Arena)

Collaborated with faculty in KCH and MPH to offer James Scholar and class projects & internship

\*presentation ends at 22:53\*

Marcus: Questions? Clarifications? Thoughts?

Jeanette: What did you do with Student Staff that you had as graduate assistants? I don't remember how that all ended for you guys.

Marcus: That's still landing. Of course, we honored, and continue to honor the graduate assistants who were on staff prior to the announcement or change in tuition remission. We are still in conversation as to what the future will hold in terms of graduate assistants. A lot of our colleagues have gone to changing those positions to coordinator positions or to interns. To help address the increase in costs that develops for the departments. Those options are on the table for us, but we haven't decided yet. We do have a lot of what we call grad interns which are grad hourlies that we continue to employ during the pandemic. Other questions? (Hello Kate! Kate Green joined at

Jeanette: Do you have an update on full time staff and where you're at?

Marcus: Yes, that was the third item on this agenda, and I promise I'll get to it. What I will say is that it's apparent that some of the impact on what we've been able to provide during the pandemic is certainly significantly affected by our staffing, so I will just ask you to keep that in the back of your mind.

I spoke about seeking the opportunity to improve our spaces without expanding on the footprint. We are landlocked. We move west we take out parking, we move east we take out athletics and ultimately some academic buildings, so those aren't going to be options for us. I think our staff has worked long and hard to think about different ways to repurpose our existing space in our buildings looking at usage patterns and trends within the recreation and wellness fields. As well as we're doing a lot of benchmarking with colleagues both in and outside of the Big 10. One of the things that we've had a lot of conversations about is trying to meet the need of increasing our strength space in the building. I'd like to share with you some of the ideas we have started moving towards to increase that strength and conditioning space.

\*Marcus shares screen with layout of fitness equipment\*

This is just a rendering borne from an external review of the department from a few years ago. One aspect of that was our facility space where they did a comparison of other universities of similar size and those within the Big 10 as well, and one of the recommendations that they came back with was for us to find ways to increase our space for strength and conditioning. So, we have embarked on and started the work to convert three of our racquetball courts for small group work and training. This is what they call a HIIT pod that you see on your screen. When you do these sorts of projects with different vendors, they of course only put their equipment in the space, and we typically mix and match a lot of our things so we can make the most of the experience that students have. This is not exactly how the space will look but it gives a general idea. Some of the things you're seeing here are plyo boxes which are used for box jumps, squat jumps, step ups, push ups and that sort of things and those are the three that you see here. You also see assault bikes. The name sounds interesting, but it's for aerobic conditioning. The Ski Erg you see here is for resistance training. Spaced for kettle and dumbbells as well as a TRX unit which uses body weight as resistance.

\*Marcus shares second rendering of fitness equipment\*

Our second racquetball court conversion is for an Olympic performance pod. It will have platforms for Olympic lifting as well as squat stands which allow for support while doing squat variations. You can also see storage for bumper plates.

\*Marcus shares third rendering of fitness equipment\*

This is a performance pod with a rig in the space. It's a versatile training space allowing for monkey bars, pull ups, those sorts of things. You also see a Power Pivot that allows you to do a pivot motion in exercise. More assault bikes, as well as a hammer/glute raise bench. And then more power blocks for adjustable dumbbells.

Again, these are already happening in our existing facility and we anticipate the work to be completed in seven to fourteen days total. This is a list of what I'm hopefully going to call "Phase 1" of our capital projects. We are looking for what hope to be a busy summer. If you have been in the facility recently you will have seen where we have moved some of our equipment from the basement to what was formerly a basketball court gym. Our intent is for that to never be a basketball court again. Our intention is for that to be the new primary strength and training space for Campus Recreation. Our folks in Wellness and Facilities have been working hard with various vendors and colleagues on campus to create what that space can look like. We had earlier renderings, but a lot of things have changed over

time. I mentioned previously the 500K of equipment that we're hoping to spend to outfit that area. I've thrown a lot of information at you, so I want to pause see if there's anything I can address.

So, Kate, I know you're regularly in the building, Alex I don't want to presume – any thoughts or reflections on what you've heard?

Kate: I think all the new weightlifting stuff looks awesome.

Marcus: Do you co-sign on that Alex? No pressure.

Alex: Sorry, I'm in the library but a lot of my friends liked the basketball courts the way they used to be.

Marcus: We did a survey, a couple years ago, for our participants, and a large number of the feedback suggested that we were lacking in this area of (strength equipment) as well. That's where the decision came from. I promise it wasn't just me.

Alex: Okay cool. I don't know what .... \*unintelligible due to mask\*

Marcus: This is exactly what I want you to do, Alex, is to please challenge us on our decisions and things that we do. Please don't apologize. That's a great question. I'm sorry that I didn't know you were in the library – I'll speak quieter – just a bad joke.

Seeing and hearing no more questions or comments, and usually in a meeting we would have a structure where we allow for the public to ask questions, but since we've done this Zoom format, we haven't had any public members that have attended a meeting, so that's just why we're kind of shooting through.

The last item on the agenda that I have is staffing. Again, sorry I don't have a fancy slide for you all.

Currently we are down a total of seven FTEs, or full-time employees. The areas that those staff come from are: Member Services, Human Resources, Student Development, Outdoor Adventure, Competitive Sports, an Office Administrator, and an Accounting Associate.

We anticipate, by the end of this year there may be some more retirement or attrition just due to general transitions. But that's where our numbers stand now. We recently completed a search process for a Member Services Coordinator so that is just missing an Assistant Director. The Human Resources position leads all the efforts we have in HR so hiring, training, onboarding, collective bargaining. Our Student Development does a lot with our student staff, helping to implement different leadership workshops and things of that nature. And then our Outdoor Adventure person supervises the climbing wall, as well as our Outdoor Adventure programs which includes our Park & Play which happened during the pandemic, and the competitive sports and the position will help to oversee the Competitive Sports area, but focus will be on club sports and community programs. The Office Administrator provides direct support to me but will also have some HR functions, and the Accounting Associate will assist with contracts and things of that nature. Does that answer your question, Jeanette, from earlier? \*Jeanette nods affirmatively\* So that's what we're looking at as far as full time. In terms of student staff, we are better off than we were at the beginning of the semester. It was scary for a little bit where we needed to have some full-time staff at the student stations to help keep the building operational. We are continuing to hire student staff, so if you know of any students looking to be employed in one of what I believe is the most fun locations on campus, please feel free to send them our way. We have a lot of

different training and development opportunities available and we allow them an environment unlike any other. So that is our staffing picture. Any questions on anything we've covered – or not covered?

Dementro: Is there any discussion or updates regarding the ice arena?

Jess: It's still open!

Marcus: I don't know that that's what he meant. You mean the downtown project?

Dementro: Yes.

Marcus: I don't have a whole lot of information, but I know that is still in the plan, but I'm not sure how much the pandemic pushed that back. But the city, from what I've been told, as well as DIA and Campus Recreation are still on board with that plan to develop and build and run a downtown ice arena, but I haven't been involved in any conversations lately. That's the news I have currently. Other questions? Alana must head out – so I must ask a question Michael usually asks and I'd like to have your angle on it – In what ways have we found ourselves having to adapt or change to meet the needs of our users? Just from your angle in Student Wellness I wondered if you could speak a little towards that.

Alana: Well, I will say when I started my career that I never thought I would be opening a food pantry inside of a recreation facility and see it grow and expand the way that program has. Marcus in his presentation shared the numbers from last year, and I'm currently working on a report with our numbers from so far this year, and we're expecting a third to twice as much more than we saw last year. Food insecurity is a real issue on our campus. It's not something that I saw myself having a role in supporting the prevention of.

Marcus: Thank you Alana. Aside from this, I just love that question, and I may have said this last year, but when you asked that question, that question also comes up among my counterparts in other schools. So far, I would say that a lot of the things that were the case last year continue to be. Some of our traditional programs have started slowing in terms of our group fitness. I think our folks are still looking for virtual options in that area, but we have seen growth as the semester has gone on. I think early on our intramural numbers were lower than we anticipated but in recent weeks they've certainly shot up so that's where we still are. I wanted Alana to speak to that because in food assistance and well-being programs, food pantries are not things you see in a Rec center. But I think the good thing is that it shows the different ways we're looking at well-being overall. There are some campuses on the west coast UC Berkeley comes to mind – that have food pantries on campus but not housed within the Rec center. I bring that up to say that this whole conversation about basic needs has really grown and we've become a big part of it in the past year. I know that housing has the "Everyone Eats" that also provides similar services to address the needs of food insecurity. That's one of the ways we're certainly starting to morph from ways we might have thought were traditional recreation and wellness offerings to answer the question as to how we're hitting all areas.

Mike: You know, that covers a lot of the social programs. Is there anything going on in the field – not just in Champaign-Urbana, where you're hiring someone to develop and maintain the virtual programs? As we have an increasingly larger number of students enrolled in online programs. Are you seeing this in different places?

Marcus: I would say I'm seeing that in one aspect, and I would invite Jess to speak on this. Certainly, seeing this in a competitive sports area, the advent of e-sports is still on the rise. Some of that, in my opinion, would have happened without a pandemic. That's just the trend as to where the interest in that area comes from. That's usually where I'm seeing it. I'm not yet seeing a dedicated staff person toward those sorts of efforts, but I wouldn't be surprised because that takes on a life of its own and certainly takes up a tremendous amount of time. I don't know Jess, if you feel different.

Jess: No, I would reiterate what you said. I know for us Alana has offered to have a Zoom-only group fitness membership pass that's just \$20 and gives you access to all the Zoom classes we have in tandem with the \$50 unlimited in-person pass. So, we're trying to do both, but I think that's where a lot of the departments find themselves struggling is the fact that there isn't the funding to hire someone purely dedicated to this but we're still trying to meet both needs because we have people that aren't comfortable doing in-person yet and we have people who want to do things in-person. Those of us in the field are just trying to walk that line and get a sense of where campus expects us to be. I felt that the big push was in-person, we're a normal campus experience this semester and then that has taken a few different shapes over the last few months, so I think that is also trying to match what campus wants. So, I'm not aware of anyone who has a role created and solely dedicated to virtual options.

Mike: There are just so many programs where, the online master's degrees particularly, are becoming such a revenue generator for the departments. Where this type of programming would be a huge asset to groups on campus regarding trying to recruit students, and to make the University attractive. The same reason why Campus Rec was built fifty years ago was to recruit students and be kind of a showcase. In a way you could do that again, but by offering it virtually. It's kind of the same model, but just 50 years later and saying that we're doing it a little bit differently. Just my two cents.

Marcus: Other thoughts? Questions? Comments?

Jeanette: I think one of the challenges is that there's so much content to access from online videos and platforms that are doing – so many services that are doing the whole thing. Peloton, for example is doing it all via virtual component. So even if we had some resources, I think that competing in that arena would be very difficult.

Marcus: We have about five minutes left. I'll open the floor to agenda items for the future – this is not the only time to share these, you can also send those to me via e-mail – things you want us to talk about or share information. Our goal, again, is for this group to be certainly advisory to our operations and to help see the things that we may not see from a campus colleague perspective, and certainly from a student perspective and bring these things to our attention, so please feel free as you're going around campus and hearing things about Campus Rec, or NOT hearing things about Campus Rec. Again, I'd like to pause to see if there's anything else folks would like to hear about. And Dementro, I still have your list from last year – I haven't forgot! ..... Well, I appreciate you folks joining us this afternoon. I hope it wasn't too much of a burden but just know I appreciate you being willing to take part in this committee and certainly encourage you to think about things and let me know so that the agenda is truly driven by the members of the committee, and we're letting you know the things that you or your peers are curious about. Not hearing anything else, I will adjourn the meeting.