



Campus Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes

Monday, February 26, 2024, at 3 PM

Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance: Marcus Jackson, Latashia Key, Mike Raycraft, Terry Elmore, Dian Dean, Dementro Powell, Teagan Miller, Nolan Duquaine, Sam Schultz, Jess Gentry, Jacob Razo, Mikey Kraus, and Jeanette Weider.

Committee Charge, Responsibilities, and Description of Proceeding

Marcus shared that this committee is advisory in nature and does not typically have votes but will follow some degree of Robert's Rules. The purpose of this committee is to assemble and provide feedback and advice to Department of Campus Recreation staff, which helps to drive decision-making. Your attention and responsiveness are appreciated in that regard. Conversations are advisory in nature and will typically need to pass other thresholds before becoming policy. Agenda items are typically based on current events occurring within the department from the perspective of the staff that serve in the department. In this case, Marcus encouraged and welcomed other committee members to reach out to add items to the agenda for any upcoming CRAC meeting.

Marcus acknowledged that since switching to an online forum for the CRAC meetings it has been easier for folks to join, therefore having a higher participation rate, so the meeting will remain virtual for the time being.

Open Question Forum

Marcus explained that this time is given for any questions or clarification from the previous meeting minutes. If there were no questions or clarification needed on any of the items, that would conclude that meeting and the minutes would then be released to be published on the CRAC website (<https://www.campusrec.illinois.edu/about/initiatives/crac>).

This session was closed with no questions at this time regarding the previous meeting minutes.

No Old Business for this meeting

New Business

➤ *Ice Arena Update*

Marcus shared information regarding the history of the Ice Arena when it was built in 1931 and that the aging of the facility is taking its toll on the condition of the building and the financial upkeep. Marcus made reference to the Ice Arena web page (<https://campusrec.illinois.edu/facilities/ice-arena/future>) for further details and updated information about the plans for the Ice Arena.

Marcus shared that starting tomorrow (February 27, 2024) students will start voting regarding the future of the Ice Arena. Here are the three questions on the ballot:

1. Would students be in support of renovating the existing Ice Arena, which would result in approximately a \$5.00 per student fee increase, and turning the Ice Arena into a multipurpose court?
2. Would students want to renovate the current Ice Arena to remain the Ice Arena and continue operating as it currently does with a \$13.00 per student fee increase?
3. Would students want Campus Recreation to partner with the community and offer an Off-Campus Ice Arena option, with no additional cost to students?

Marcus mentioned that the third option would be off campus, adjacent to campus, and would offer similar operating hours and opportunities for student engagement and participation.

Marcus said that Campus Recreation has no agenda except to find out what the students want. Once the voting process is complete, after its end date of February 29, 2024, the votes will be tallied and shared with the campus and the board, which makes the final decisions. The board will consider the students' votes along with information they may have regarding the economic climate and similar regards.

Marcus: The Ice Arena and other Campus Recreation buildings are part of a campus-wide facility condition assessment project. In this assessment, they will be looking for any critical issues that may need to be addressed. This assessment will also play a part in the options that we have for the future of the Ice Arena.

Question from Nolan – you mentioned the price increase, it was \$5 or \$13 what would that look like? Where will that come from?

Jess – right now the student fees per semester are \$340 in these options it would increase to either \$345 or \$353 per semester.

Marcus – the community would also likely see an increase in the skating fee.

Marcus mentioned that results will come out from the student vote, but unsure of how or when they will be distributed at this time, but he will update folks at the next meeting.

➤ *Facility Updates*

Terry: We just completed phase two of our outside LED upgrade lighting project which covers everything on the turf field areas, basketball courts, sand volleyball, and tennis courts. Terry mentioned that one good thing about this upgrade to the LED system is that now they can program the lights to come on and go off at different periods, which can be controlled from their cell phones as well as their computers. This change to LED lighting and having the capability for easy on and off is predicted to be cost-effective, but this new system will need to be up and running for a full year before a cost comparison can be shown. Completion of all outside lighting for the Campus Recreation areas will start in the summer and this will be the final phase of that project.

Terry: We have several projects going on this summer, which consist of:

- Finishing up outdoor basketball courts
- Projects will be going on in the ARC basement (cycling studio, PT studio renovation)
- Fixing the pool ceiling at the ARC
- New ADA ramp and stairs out front of the Ice Arena
- Catwalk in the ceiling of the Ice Arena
- Illini Grove Project
 - Adding ADA sidewalks
 - Putting up a new pavilion
 - New lighting

Terry mentioned that the Ice Arena projects must be completed immediately, regardless of the future outcome of the Ice Arena.

➤ *Program Updates*

Jess: We wanted to share that we have opened all our outdoor spaces, except for the complex field. The outside spaces were opened on Monday, February 19, 2024. That is about 2.5 weeks earlier than we've opened in the past, so we are trying to be sensitive to the weather cooperating a little more. Again, this is an attempt to respond to feedback on our students' wants and requests for accommodations. We still don't have restroom options or water fountains because of the risk of freezing. The outside facilities will be open until November before closing for the winter.

➤ *Campus Updates: Revenue Sources, Parking Proposal*

Revenue Sources:

Marcus: Campus Recreation, like a few other departments on campus, is an auxiliary department, which means that we are self-operating. In a self-operating atmosphere, there is a real need for departments to be mindful of the resources that they have and to continue to look for more opportunities to generate revenue so they can continue operations.

Marcus shared that the Student Finance Advisory Committee is a great student committee that helps recommend--to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees--the need for funding in certain departments and areas and encouraged student members to get involved in this committee so they can not only advocate for departments but also see what their student fees are being spent on. The SFAC can help make decisions to take to the Chancellor and BOT on whether to provide more, sometimes less, and sometimes the same amount of funding for initiatives. The final decision on any matter of funding is up to the BOT. The BOT has been known to deny increases in funding fees, which is why it is important to make sure that we are generating revenue where we need to so that we can continue operating. So, if students are starting to notice an increase in fees for things, this is why.

Parking Proposal:

Marcus: The parking proposal considered by ISC would offer free parking for students in the E-24 lot, the one just West of the ARC during certain peak times in the week to promote more access to health and well-being on the part of students, and essentially to lessen the burden from them. The folks that are pushing this proposal forward are due to meet with the Parking Department, they have already spoken with Campus Recreation, though our role in this is minimal since we don't manage the parking lot. If this goes through, the target date to offer this service would be Fall 2024.

Open Q & A

Nolan: Regarding the fields, we get 2 hours per week per club and then if we go past that 2-hour allotment, do we have to pay a certain amount?

Jess: Good question. It is 21.5 hours of practice, so it's 3 hours total per week for 13 weeks. With the increase in enrollment and the demand for field time, to be fair, we must stick with the allotment of time.

Marcus: last call for any questions.

No other questions. I want to thank you all for your time, and again, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2024, at 3 PM.

Meeting was dismissed.