

Response to the External Program Review for Intramural and Recreational Sports July 2011

Summary

Beginning in late 2009 the Division of Student Life began the process for a program review to be conducted for the Office of Intramural and Recreational Sports. Up until July 2009, Intramural and Recreational Sports had been a unit within the academic school of Physical Education and Tourism Management (PETM). Under the direction of Chancellor Charles Bantz, the unit was realigned from Physical Education and Tourism Management to the Division of Student Life. As a result of the realignment, the Division of Student Life thought it was important to conduct a program review due to the importance of growing health and fitness opportunities for the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) community – especially for students. During the spring and summer of 2010, Intramural and Recreational Sports, under the direction of Director Matt Rota-Autry, completed a self-study report detailing the office's history, staffing, facilities, programmatic offerings, membership profile, external demands, and challenges. In November 2010 (10th – 12th), a review team of five individuals (two internal to the University and three external to the University) conducted a three-day campus visit to assess the Office of Intramural and Recreational Sports. During their program review they met with multiple constituents and reviewed a wide array of documents, literature, surveys, and reports related to the work of Intramural and Recreational Sports, the Division of Student Life, and also IUPUI as a whole. A final report was issued by the review team to the university on December 14, 2010. The final report provided an executive summary followed by a detailed report of findings and recommendations organized into the following four areas: Strategy, Culture, and Transition; Facilities; Programs and Services; and Finances and Resources. During the first six months of 2011, the Director of Intramural and Recreational Sports, the Dean of Students, the Director of Assessment and Planning for the Division of Student Life, and the Vice Chancellor of Student Life reviewed the 34 short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations and identified action steps for the future development.

Response

Actions developed/taken as a result of the external review process:

Strategy, Culture, and Transition

- Name Change
 - The new name for Intramural and Recreational Sports is now Campus Recreation (June 2011).
 - This name was chosen based on National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association assessment of most common programs names and from student, staff, and faculty feedback.

- This new name will clarify the unit's purpose and help the IUPUI community to understand that Campus Recreation embodies not only intramural competition but the multitude of programs and activities associated with fitness and wellness.
- Strategic Planning and Assessment
 - Campus Recreation will begin strategic planning in collaboration with the Director of Assessment and Planning for the Division of Student Life to develop mission, vision, goals, and values by December 2011.
 - Campus Recreation will develop intentional learning outcomes for its student employees and assess these students' growth and development during their time of employment in the unit.
 - The unit will develop and implement a plan for assessing the satisfaction of students engaged in the programs and services offered by Campus Recreation.

Facilities

As noted by the review team, the most significant challenge impacting Campus Recreation is the overall lack of dedicated student recreation space. The Natatorium is a shared-use space that prioritizes academics first, athletics second, and then student recreation third. This tiered scheduling priority limits recreation and fitness opportunities severely. Additionally, the review team noted that much of the equipment is in need of significant upgrade and is below risk management standards that exist in collegiate recreational sports programs. Many of the recommendations made by the review team require upper-level university administration input and direction.

- General fee money from students was invested in the turf implementation project in the Michael Carroll Soccer Stadium. Campus Recreation will continue to explore possible opportunities for championship intramural play within the stadium.
- Campus Recreation staff are exploring alternative green space areas on and off campus for recreational sport activity and intramural competition.
- Campus Recreation has invested 1/3 of the cost to improve field conditions on the upper field.

Programs and Services

- A task force comprised of Natatorium staff, Campus Recreation staff, undergraduate and graduate students will be created in September 2011 to explore fee simplification in order to eliminate confusion.
 - Currently, students the option of paying one fee to utilize the Campus Recreation weight room and the ability to participate in intramural competition and have the option of paying an additional add-on fee to utilize the aquatic facilities and the natatorium weight room.

- The creation of a combined membership fee will aid in reduced fee confusion and more opportunity for space utilization.
- Budget cuts have impacted hours of operation for weight rooms – especially during the summer months.
 - As funding becomes available, additional hours for weight rooms will be explored based on assessment of usage.
- During the 2011/2012 academic year, the director of the Office of Student Involvement and the director of Campus Recreation will begin formulating a plan for the continual growth of sport club programming the required supervision and risk management policies necessary in order to sustain a viable sport clubs program.
- Campus Recreation will begin a newsletter twice a semester to market programs and services to the student population.
 - The name change will assist in the new “branding” campaign.
- Campus Recreation staff will engage Housing and Residence Life and Fraternity and Sorority Life staff during the 2011-2012 academic year in order to create intentional intramural opportunities for students living in housing and students that are members of fraternities or sororities.
- Campus Recreation created a new intramural coordinator position to support the continual growth of the intramural program with a specific emphasis on increasing participation with on campus residents and members of fraternities and sororities.

Finance and Resources

- Job descriptions for the Director of Campus Recreation and the Assistant Director of Campus recreation are in the process of being updated and will be finalized by October 2011 when the new Intramural Coordinator begins his/her role.
- Financial resources have been reallocated to provide for continual professional development of Campus Recreation staff.
 - Professional staff attended the following conferences and workshops during spring 2011:
 - The national conference of the professional association – NIRSA.
 - National School of Recreation Sports Management
 - National Fitness and Wellness Institute
- Cash handling procedures were reviewed and changed in January 2011.
- Implementation of the new facility scheduling process for the Natatorium, Athletics, PETM, and Campus Recreation will help improve communication between the four units sharing facility space.
- Campus Recreation will continue the hiring of student employees in leadership and supervisory capacities to support the growth and success of the program.
 - Campus Recreation continues to make intentional efforts to hire work-study eligible students to assist in budgetary cost savings.

Concluding Thoughts

The National Institute of Fitness and Sport (NIFS) facility has been mentioned in the past as a possible alternative to building a dedicated recreation facility for the IUPUI community. However, it is important to note that the review team stated: “NIFS is cost prohibitive, does not cater to the student population, and the facility, even if it were dedicated to solely students, would not offer enough space for appropriate programming.” It is apparent that the Division of Student Life, with support from the university, will need to develop a new space that incorporates best practices into a student-centered environment.

The program review has significantly helped to provide additional perspective on the short-term, mid-term, and long-term objectives of growth for Campus Recreation. Ultimately, many of the recommendations will involve the allocation of additional funding to Campus Recreation. Campus Recreation will continue to use this program review, in addition to strategic planning efforts for the unit, to shape future programmatic growth.

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