Rec Center Advisory Committee
April 6, 2018 - Meeting Minutes

Members present: Abby Bennett, Bob Hofstetter, Adam Leonard, Zak Meyer, Michael Prostka, Renee Reynolds, Julia Rutledge, Kip Leonetti (minutes-taker)

Members not present: Brette Boesel, Randall Burtz

Meeting started at 3:00pm.

Meeting began with introductions by RCAC committee members.

Adam Leonard:

- Gave a brief introduction of committee’s purpose and timeline of future meetings (3-4 future meetings during spring quarter).
- The Rec Center fee is an S&A fee which limits the committee’s ability to raise the fee. Washington state’s minimum wage increase is creating budgetary challenges. The committee will be voting on a potential fee increase in a future meeting this quarter.
- The current student recreation fee is $101.20 per quarter for full time students. A maximum fee increase of 4% is allowed if tuition does not increase. The fee was not raised for 8 years until fall of 2017 (previous fee was $99 per quarter).
- There was a $80,000 hit to the Campus Recreation budget due to the minimum wage increase in last year. Washington’s minimum wage will increase to $12 in 2019 and $13.50 in 2020.
- Last year’s RCAC voted to raise fee $6 but instead the fee was only increased by $2.20. Roughly $40,000 is raised for every $1 of quarterly fee increase.
- The Campus Recreation department has an annual budget savings of about $160,000 due to other cost-cutting measures. The department budget currently has $2.8 million in maintenance reserve, $700,000 in operations reserve.
- Not raising fee by maximum of 4% and supplementing with other sources of revenue would be detrimental to student experience.
- An analysis of Rec Center usage statistics show that 91% of all WWU students have used the Rec Center at some point. This compares favorably to other institutions which are in 60-65% range.

Bob Hofstetter:

- Gave background information about the Rec Center’s pool and history with old Carver Gym pool. When the Rec Center was originally designed, students favored a higher quarterly fee to ensure that a pool was included. Pool programming is handled in such a way as to proactively keep community groups out and give more space for student use.

Zak Meyer:

- Explained that in his role as a front desk attendant at the Rec Center, he did not notice any pushback from students regarding the last fee increase.
Adam:
- Asked committee members if they think a $4 per quarter increase would be a problem. Nobody on the committee indicated that they thought it would be a problem.

Rene Reynolds:
- Pointed out that any potential fee increase would be going right back to the students.

Adam:
- Explained that he will be sending out copies of the Rec Center’s annual budget for review by the committee prior to the next meeting. He indicated that he will be recommending a full 4% fee increase.

Julia Rutledge:
- As an Associated Students board member, she understands the Rec Center’s predicament. The AS is experiencing the same challenges as the Rec Center.

Michael Prostka:
- Asked about how students will be notified when the fee increase is voted on. Bob explained that meeting when fee will be voted on will be open and advertised to the students, and the Western Front will be notified.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

Next RCAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 4 at 3pm.