

2022-2023 Annual Council Committee Report

Committee: Athletics, Intramural and Recreation Policy Committee

Prepared by: Christine Connolly

Date: 4/5/23

Include the following information in your annual report:

1. Members of the committee (including name of the chair)

Chair: Christine Connolly

Committee: Leah Dorfman, Elizabeth Kiesewetter, Peggy Lynch-Gadaleta, Annette Griffin, Don Tencher, Kelly Graziano (student), and Austin Faria-Mead (student)

2. Meeting dates

The committee on AIR policy met three times during the academic year.

Oct 12, 2022, Nov 16, 2022, and Mar 22, 2023

3. Summary of committee activities (Please also include relevant minutes in an attachment)

There were no policy changes during this academic year but the following issues were discussed

- Athletic improvements, maintenance and changes to campus, including the residence hall updates for student athletes staying on campus as part of recruitment
- The need for additional staff including coaching staff
 - We are tied for the lowest athletic budget in our conference
 - Coaching salaries are underpaid as compared to our conference
 - The time it takes to appoint new coaches makes it difficult to not lose people and to continue to have a competitive coaching staff
- AIR has moved forward from the COVID epidemic and is doing fine
- AIR has seen delays with completing the track and turf fields
- This year there were opportunities for two trips to FL to partner with the alumni relations office for the benefits of both areas
 - Outreach and growth
 - Relationships with Alumni for funding/donation opportunities
 - Spoke to over 500 people
- President has been supportive of Athletics and Recreation
 - Gymnastics will carry 10 more students
 - Will help with RIC enrollment
 - Will help with residence hall enrollment
 - Will provide some funding for this team to grow and get some of the equipment they need as equipment deteriorates
- In process of the formation of the Sports Administration Program
 - May help to recruit athletes, even if they don't make a team

- Minors will include Coaching component and Interscholastic League Components
 - This may help with coaching jobs needed in RI and with sports management positions
 - Several speakers joined our meetings to educate the committee about policies and student athletic experiences and services available
 - Joanne D'Allesandro – Compliance expectations and requirements
 - Tony Ramone – Student Athletic Center
 - Jerry Shellard – Asst Athletic Director of Sports Medicine
 - Scott Gibbins – Media Liaison with radio show, web site, computers, signs and NCAA stats
 - NCAA has extended the seasons leading to overlap and some challenges for Athletics
 - Things seem to be improving with Admission and Financial Aid Issues
 - Turn around time still needs to be quicker if we don't want to lose athletes
 - We need to build better facilities and offer more services but this is difficult with the current budget.
4. Decisions approved and actions taken (including proposals approved by Council)
No proposals submitted this year. The focus this year was coming out of Covid and looking at next steps for athletics and recreation.
5. Recommendations for next year's committee
Athletic Director would like to see the name of the committee changed. He does not feel it is a policy committee but more of a program committee.
6. Self-evaluation
This group worked well together and learned much about AIR challenges for all of the programs and about next steps for the future of athletics, recreation, facilities and equipment, playing fields, etc.

Please submit your report to Valerie Endress (vendress@ric.edu) by April 25, 2023.