Senate Document SD 17-2
Approved, 9/11/2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Kathy Pollock, Chair
Executive Committee

DATE: August 29, 2017

SUBJ: Athletics Working Group Final Report

WHEREAS, Senate Document SD 16-17, adopted by the Fort Wayne Senate in December 2016, approved the formation of the Athletics Working Group; and

WHEREAS, The Athletics Working Group was facilitated by John O'Connell, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and was composed of four faculty representatives appointed by the Senate Executive Committee (Benjamin Dattilo, James Hersberger, Zafar Nazarov, and Beverly Redman); three staff/administrators (Jens Clegg, representing Athletics; Michael Carpenter, representing Financial Aid; and Angie Fincannon, representing Advancement); and four students selected by IPSGA (Zach Funk, Madison Jaqua, Andrew Kreager, and Abigail Schnelker); and

WHEREAS, The Athletics Working Group was charged with answering three questions:

(1) Is there a role for intercollegiate athletics at IPFW?
(2) If so, what is that role, and what does IPFW get for its participation in intercollegiate athletics (or, put another way, how would IPFW measure success)?
(3) If there is a role, what is the acceptable level of investment in intercollegiate athletics necessary to fulfill this role? Given the role and level of acceptable investment, what form should Athletics take (e.g., NCAA DI, DII, or DIII, or NAIA)?; and

WHEREAS, The Athletics Working Group did not propose measures to fully address question 2; and

WHEREAS, SD 16-17 stated that "the Senate will evaluate the final recommendations of the Athletics Working Group";

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate thanks the members of the Athletics Working Group for their efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate delegates the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) and the University Resources Policy Committee (URPC) to formally evaluate the Athletics Working Group report and to develop specific measures in response to question

2; specifically, SAC shall develop measures related to student performance, and URPC shall develop measures related to financial performance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the measures developed by SAC and URPC shall be submitted to the Senate no later than the November Senate meeting.

Charge: Make recommendations to the Chancellor regarding the future of Athletics at IPFW in response to these three questions:

1. **Is there a role for intercollegiate athletics at IPFW?**

   Yes.

2. **If so, what is that role, and what does IPFW get for its participation in intercollegiate athletics (or, put another way, how would IPFW measure success)?**

   The role of athletics at IPFW is to provide student engagement and involvement; contribute to brand awareness for the university, both internally and externally; contribute to campus culture and ethos; and to create an environment for social activity on campus in conjunction with many other extra-curricular activities.

   What does IPFW get for its participation in intercollegiate athletics?

   Attendance records show that we have under-developed student engagement and involvement in athletics. We have evidence of some success in branding but see the external as being more successful than internal, with room for improvement in both areas.

3. **If there is a role, what is the acceptable level of investment in intercollegiate athletics necessary to fulfill this role? Given the role and level of acceptable investment, what form should Athletics take (e.g., NCAA DI, DII, or DIII or NAIA)?**

   What is the acceptable level of investment in intercollegiate athletics necessary to fulfill this role?

   Maintain current investment, however, seek new avenues of financial structures based on the final recommendations found in this report. Of significant concern to the Working Group is the amount of student fee dollars currently dedicated to Athletics.

   Given the role and level of acceptable investment, what form should Athletics take (e.g., NCAA DI, DII, or DIII or NAIA)?

   The majority of the working group supports continuation of DI participation with the following recommendations and concerns:

   - expect the five year strategic plan, currently in development with consultants Spelman-Johnson, to assist Athletics with developing financial plans for sustainable DI activity that does not require further university investment that would have a negative financial effect on other university units; and

- strongly recommend positioning IPFW to be considered for a move to another league that could reduce overall costs (travel, etc) and allow for more regional student/fan engagement at athletic events; and

- investigate the expansion of the Athletic Tier System in tier participation sports; and

- resources need to be brought to the forefront to cultivate a stronger, more engaged university culture of student participation in university activities and campus life; and

- Athletics cannot build the necessary community infrastructure for DI involvement without full university commitment to enhancing and coordinating athletics and student engagement across all units.

Working Group Members:

Jens Clegg
Michael Carpenter
Benjamin Dattilo
Angie Fincannon
Zach Funk
James Hersberger
Madison Jaqua
Andrew Kreager
Zafar Nazarov
Beverly Redman
Abigail Schnelker

John O'Connell – Facilitator