

2006-2007 Administrative Department Annual Report

Recreational Sports

**Year in Review**

**Achievements**

**As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)**

1. Experiential education and staff development are key to our program. We are a "student run" operation as students learn staff and participant supervisory skills, risk management, conflict resolution, critical thinking, verbal and oral communication.
2. We continue to be successful in sending graduate assistants and undergraduates into the recreational sports professional field. To date we have 15 former undergraduates/G.A.'s who have been successful gaining employment in the recreational sports field, five of which became directors.
3. Plans have been finalized for the new student rec center with groundbreaking scheduled for this summer.
4. We continue to tweek programming in an effort to stay current with student interests.
5. We stepped up our efforts to attend as many of the student recruitment activities as possible.

**Enrollment**

**What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?**

1. We finalized plans for the new student recreation center and hope to break ground this summer.
2. We stepped up our efforts in attending as many recruitment fairs as possible and added a few promotional items to our display.
3. We traditionally hire a few high school students each summer as lifeguards.
4. We facilitate occasional high school and junior high climbing groups at our Sycamore Climbing Wall.

**What can your office do next year to help overcome enrollment challenges?**

1. Continue to promote the student rec center, especially at recruitment fairs.
2. Continue tweeking a good relationship that has been built with our community membership holders.
3. Continue to enhance our student development efforts with our employees.

**Action Steps**

**Do you have any further progress you would like to report?**

1. The outdoor recreation group failed as the principles outside of our department lost interest.

2. We worked a full year with a full staff for the first time in three years.
3. We hope to break ground this summer on the student rec center.
4. Graduate assistants Dan Bettmann and Rudy Mendez received IRSA scholarship awards. Our three G.A.'s plus three fulltime staff members attended the IRSA state workshop at IU-South Bend in November and the NIRSA conference in Minneapolis in April. All three G.A.'s are looking for fulltime employment with two of the three receiving at least two on-campus interviews at various institutions - carrying on our tradition. The three G.A.'s also attended the NIRSA Region III Student Lead On workshop at Indiana University in late January.

## **Assessment**

**What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?**

1. We assessed our student basketball officials to evaluate CAS learning outcomes utilized by the experience of officiating. We used a pre-test and post-test following up with a triangulated test done by supervisors. We will use what we discovered by adapting our preseason training. An example might be using more role-playing during training, especially regarding stressful situations.
2. A template was prepared for using CAS learning outcomes to facilitate focus group interviews with the informal recreation staff at the beginning of staff training next Fall. Results will be used to enhance staff training and procedures.

## **Budget**

**As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?**

1. We have increased our community membership revenues to assist us in the following.
  - increasing scheduled hours of recreation
  - allowing us to increase aerobic instructor rates
  - allowing for more staff professional travel
2. We added a credit card scanner allowing us to accept credit card membership purposes. It has resulted in longer membership terms and paid for itself in two months!
3. We are utilizing an online newsletter for community members and have already received interest from a local vendor to advertise in the newsletter.

## **Quality**

## **Feedback**

**This section is to allow you to share your ideas for enhancing enrollment, dealing with budget and other challenges facing the university community.**

1. As we prepare to start the construction phase of the student rec center, we are faced with the

removal of FF&E from the project. This is a significant concern. An option that could be available to us to assist in this shortfall follows.

External groups rent recreation facilities on a regular basis for many and varied activities. The rental revenues are deposited into the university's general fund even though we facilitate and often times assist with setup. Recreational Sports does not have a "reserve" fund. It would be advantageous for us to be able to keep those rental revenues in house and begin to raise an equipment fund for the new rec center.