



ETSU 125

Progressing toward ETSU's 125th Anniversary

Athletics

Task Force Meeting

Date: October 19, 2012

Time: 3:00PM – 5:00 PM

Location: President's Conference Room, Burgin Dossett Hall

Attendees: Ken Bailey, Dave Mullins, Emmett Essin, Ray Flynn, Leah Tilson, Lorianne Mitchell, Adam Hall, Robby Vance, Russ Brown, Brian Johnston, Meg Stone, Jerry Robertson, Matt Wilhjem, Dick Sander, Mike White, Katie Weinhold

Guests: President Brian Noland and Jeremy Ross visited for a few minutes

MINUTES

Distribution of previous minutes/Agenda for meeting

Beginning Questions:

The expected outcomes for the task force was discussed
Deliver concepts, data analysis and information to present to the Committee for 125 and the ETSU community

Subcommittee Reports:

Competition:

- Consideration of athletic conferences that compete at a high level in football and basketball and ETSU's needs and aspirations for these sports
- Pending other reports and study, the competition subcommittee would be supportive of starting a football team
- The gap (interest, support, etc.) between ETSU's athletic program and other athletic programs will widen if ETSU does not have a football program
- The level of competition in the ASUN and other conferences was discussed
For peer information and comparisons, conferences discussed and reviewed – ASUN, Colonial, Southern, Ohio Valley, Atlantic 10, Sun Belt
- Raising the standard of play in basketball and adding football within five years was discussed as concepts that are being studied
- The ultimate goal for basketball and a possible future football program is to win playing recognized and respected competition
- We need to emphasize the need for an Olympic Training center, and enhancements.
Currently bidding on events to help reach goal of hosting Olympic trials in 2016.
Looking at addition of rugby and rowing.
Looking at what sports to add – suggested formation of a committee.



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Finance:

- Handouts and a presentation was made
- Financial measuring sticks: student fees are up at ETSU, but surveys of other schools indicates that ETSU athletic student fees are less

\$7,195 in fees – where is the money allocated

In-state vs. out-of-state scholarships graphs were discussed

- Most other mid-major conferences, besides the Southern Conference, have an athletic budget that is double ETSU's
- Financial support from school/community has to be an emphasis
- Attendance at ETSU athletic events is comparable or higher than conference opponents – even with the some of our older facilities, i.e. basketball, Dome
- Basketball needs to emphasize making the game day experience exciting
- Financial considerations of the ASUN agreement and similar conferences was discussed
- The group will continue work on obtaining information from peer institutions regarding football, basketball, and general athletics budgets
- Consideration of football – A lot of peers, many within A-SUN, are adding football – Standing still is not the answer
- Before new Soccer, Golf, Baseball, and Softball facilities last addition was Mini Dome in 1976
- Any new facilities or new programs from this point at ETSU will cost significant dollars
- Three-Pronged Test for Title IX was presented

Levels of support:

- Student support
- Positive campus involvement
- Barriers to an environment conducive to a vibrant athletic culture on campus was discussed –
 - Example: commuter students
- Student opinions about starting a football program vary
- Athletic support from faculty / staff / students
- Athletic success or new programs could be a recruiting positive for new faculty / students.
- Community support for current sports – graph was provided
- Low numbers of students are attending basketball games compared to soccer matches
- Possible barriers to attracting community/alumni to sports and potentially football: facilities, competition level, and wide support for other state programs

Facilities:

- Current needs considered – Basketball Arena, outdoor track, Olympic training upgrades



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- Other facilities on campus are best in A-SUN conference, better than those of our peer institutions as well – Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Golf, Volleyball, and the addition of new tennis facility
- Football requirements – New stadium, locker rooms, etc. Potential building sites: intramural field currently is, valley opposite radio station/Buc Ridge apartments, across from soccer stadium. Other thoughts, tie-in new stadium and downtown development, have ability to expand
- Olympic training center – to be an attraction and a world class facility it can't be under the dome, perhaps incorporate into plans of new football/basketball facilities
- Barriers – Money, Space

Words from President Noland:

- Our work is part of a broader process – Committee for 125, a number of task forces, and engagement activities to study/recommend ETSU's direction over the next 25 years
- Look forward, not in the past, dream big
- Focus on visionary goals in lieu of implementation at this stage of the process
- Landscape is changing, where do we want to be in the future, how can athletics help?

List of concepts being considered were distributed and discussed