

Indiana University South Bend
Senate Athletics committee
October 9, 2020

Attendance: Steve Bruce (Director of Athletics and Activities), Cati Hebert-Annis, Kirk Mecklenburg, Brent Newcomb (SGA Representative), Maryann Oak, Tony Randles, Kathleen Sullivan, Samaneh Torkzadeh

Time/Location: 4:00-4:48 p.m./Zoom

Recorder: Samaneh Torkzadeh

- 1. Approval of September 4, 2020 Minutes**
- 2. Steve T. Bruce (Director of Athletics and Activities)**

We have 12 sports here at IU South Bend. We have about 160 student athletes at this time. And our fall sports had been pushed to the spring, that would include volleyball, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis. They've been pushed to the spring. The only sport that we kept going in the fall was cross country and that was because we felt like we could run cross-country is an outdoors thing.

Basketball:

So, then what most recently came down was what's going on with basketball because basketball overlaps between the fall and second semester. And just last week we received the directive from our conference that all of our conference games are going to be moved and to post January. So we're playing a limited conference game schedule. Typically, we would play 22 conference games, both men's basketball, women's basketball. Now we're playing 14 conference games every Wednesday and Saturday starting January. And then they gave us the freedom to do whatever we wanted to do prior to that. So, our decision here at IU South Bend was to try to start as late as possible and yet have some time to play more games. Because I guess our foundational thought was, how can we maximize the student athlete experience under these circumstances? We arbitrarily came up with the date of November the 16th, which is a Monday. And so, between November 16 and Christmas, we've been able to schedule about ten games, which gives us 24. And our men have scheduled 11, so they have 25. We feel like 24-25 game season will be well, we'll meet our goal to keep the student athlete experience strong for this year. That's kind of where we're at with basketball. Basketball has been practicing for a couple weeks.

Sanitizing:

So, we've got masks until we get on the floor and start running around. The coaches, we wear masks all the time, throughout practice. We have a kind of pre-practice sanitizing. We wiped down every and all the equipment. We go in the locker room six at a time instead of all 12 at a time, we wiped down equipment afterwards. And for those of you that may have crossed paths with our athletic trainers, we have three terrific athletic trainers and our lead athletic trainers, Kara Warners Sanders. She's a great leader in terms of the medical side of things. So, we feel like we're doing all the things we're supposed to be doing over here to remain as safe as we can and yet still proceed forward with our athletics.

Spring:

So, we're going to have a busy spring because every sports going to be competing in the spring now and we're trying to figure out how to handle that. That brings some challenges with athletic training and with our sports information and covering games and things like that. Because we can have days where we could have volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball going on the same day in the spring. And we're just actually were just happy to be able to do all those things. So, we're trying to look through the right lens here, and have our paradigm such that we're grateful rather than we're complaining. So, we're going to keep a positive attitude, and keep moving forward safely.

Fans Presence:

We have not decided yet. And maybe this is something we can toss around here. We have not made that decision yet. And what we're getting from all the schools that were plain is all over the board. I talked to somebody other day that they are allowing no fans whatsoever. Some schools are allowing families of the home of the athletes at that university and not allowing any visiting people in so in our facility is pretty large if we pull out both sides, but we haven't nailed that down yet and that's something that we got to get done. So, I'm open for suggestions from anybody on this committee because that might be helpful.

Budget:

Steve mentioned that SGA really did a nice job. They are very helpful for us this past year. Roger was outstanding in terms of understanding where we are coming from and all the dynamic to deal with. And so, SGA was helpful to us and we will go with what we get and were able to operate a strong athletic program with the combination of what we get from SGA and from the university. I think there are some things that SGA are funding that they feel like should be based budgeted. Maybe the upper admin starting to look at some of that and say, yeah, coaches' salaries need to be based budgeted rather than relying on SGA every year because that's going to fluctuate so much based on enrollment, based on the membership of the SGA, et cetera, et cetera. So, we would get a little more stability if we had more based-budgeted and less reliance on SGA.

Brent explained that's one thing we're currently in the process of battling with this, figuring out what's based budgeting, what falls on the SGA. As Bruce summed it up perfectly, we get our funding based on enrollment. If enrollments down, our entire budgeting is down, and that's going to affect people.

Maryann mentioned when she co-chair in the senate budget committee, it was a hot topic. Why is athletics with SGA and not based budgeted? We just can't seem to move those. And I don't know why.

Why it was not moved to be based budget?

Steve explained from a historical standpoint. When I came in 2006, At that time we had two sports men's basketball and women's basketball. Enrollment at that time was much higher. And so, I think it made sense that SGA would be able to fund and there would be plenty of funding available and that wouldn't be a problem. And then what happened over time is we've added more sports. Now we're up to 12 sports. And that model is not able to survive anymore. And so the changes, I don't know, the change has been slow just because I think SGA maybe made a push. I think Roger made a push this year to our upper

admin, campus leadership to say listen, you know, this should be base budgeted because. They're align on knowing X number of dollars are coming in each year. And it's hard to run programs when you don't know what kind of money you're getting. And so I do think it's in the right place. But that's the reason that it was originally SGA kind of funded primarily because they were able to do it. And then as time has gone on, that's become more and more difficult really to now where it's impossible for them to fund the way that we would need them funded with all the other funding that they have to send out as well. And the main thing is that they're saying it's worked in the past. Why can't continue working now and either changed in that regard, we're saying, well, it's completely different. We need to deconstruct it and find a new system to implement. Both, implementing a new system that requires writing a new system. And that's currently where we're at, is trying to figure something we can present that they will accept and that they can basically agree with.

Do we have a number that how many percentage is base-budgeted right now and how many percentage is coming from SGA?

Steve explained that SGA funds assist with men's basketball, women's basketball, and volleyball. Those are the three sports. The other nine sports are based-budgeted.

Move to adjourn at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samaneh Torkzadeh