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Report of the 2016-17 Campus Recreation Committee

The committee met twice, on October 6, 2016, and on February 23, 2017. Nine members attended the fall meeting and seven attended in the spring.

What follows is a summary of the main points raised at both meetings.

Function and goals of the committee:

Our stated charge is clear: to review and recommend recreation facility policies to the vice chancellor for student affairs. If other groups are already reviewing and reporting on Student Recreation Center (SRC) policies, this committee can be dissolved.

On that topic, SRC director Diane Dahlmann wrote this on Sept 27, 2016: “Regarding the committee, no meetings were requested last year and we understood that there would not be a committee this year. The department is served by the Student Fee Review Committee/MSA and The Team Mizzou Advisory Council.”

It was unclear to the committee whether either of those groups serving the SRC provides any oversight of the SRC’s policies and its use of student fees. If there is no such oversight elsewhere, this committee could still provide a useful service to the campus – but only with the cooperation of SRC staff. SRC staff did not attend either of the two meetings. One model for a successful Recreation Committee might be the Campus IT committee, a group with representation from across campus that oversees the use of the student computing fees.

The committee also felt that its future success depends on participation by undergraduate representatives. No undergraduates were assigned to the committee this year.

Policy review:

While members of the committee had high praise for many aspects of the facilities and the functioning of the SRC, suggestions for improvement also arose.

- The change in billing methods. No longer allowing monthly payroll deductions, as done elsewhere on campus, creates inconvenience for some members.
- Family night. This is scheduled far less often now than before, and is more difficult to access, or find on the web. This is a change that negatively affects graduate and professional students as well as faculty and staff. Expanding and publicizing family night makes good business sense by attracting kids to swim lessons, and possibly even as future students.

- Communication with members about locker use and locker contents could be improved. The egregious example of the disposal of a faculty member's belongings, especially if caused by policy rather than error, deserves close attention.
- Increased use of biometrics. Despite the recommendation in the AY 2012/13 report of this committee that further use of biometrics (beyond the fingerprint scan) be discussed by this committee, there was no discussion before implementing the eye-scan technology. While we do appreciate the need for security, we wonder why the eye-scan technology is in place in the SRC when elsewhere on campus, say, in nuclear medicine laboratories, swiping a card is thought to be sufficient.
- West entrance problems. When the system malfunctions and/or large groups (such as ROTC) try to enter or exit at the same time, delays can last (in our experience) up to 15 minutes. When a member is denied entry for whatever reason, the requirement that the member leave the building and enter by the east entrance suggests an unpleasant degree of suspicion or lack of trust.
- Scheduled SRC closings. Faculty, staff, graduate and professional students often have schedules different from the undergraduates. Coordination of the scheduled closings with some of those groups in mind would allow for greater usage.

Policy recommendations:

- For faculty and staff, forging a connection with the Healthy For Life program to include the rec center in the wellness program. Wellness programs for medical students, and for all graduate students could benefit from coordination with the SRC.
- Increasing special promotions for faculty and staff (such as Tiger Express, the morning only membership) to attract users to off-peak times. Such promotions might offset potential losses as the enrollment at MU drops.

Respectfully submitted,
David Schenker
Campus Recreation Committee Chair, 2016-17