

# **Department of Recreational Sports Department Program Review Fall 2007**

During the 2007-08 academic year RSD conducted an External Program Review.

Components of the external review included the following:

- Self-Assessment based on CAS Standards
- Benchmarking/Comparative Analysis
- Student Voice Survey
- Ongoing Quantitative program Reviews

## **Overall Perception and Reputation of the Recreational Sports Department**

**Overview of Department:** The department was viewed as an outstanding organization; one that is characterized by a commitment to excellence. The department is well regarded by peer organizations and perceived as an important university asset. While there is room for improvement in any organization, the Department of Recreational Sports appears to be an organization in “very good operating order” that is positioned well for the opportunities that await the University of San Francisco and the Division of University Life. The general view across campus is that Recreational Sports is a dynamic, productive, and cooperative department.

**Campus and Community Commitment:** Many positive comments were made regarding the Department of Recreational Sports’ ability to work together for the good of all entities. The willingness of the Recreational Sports staff to become involved with various campus and community initiatives (i.e., University Life programming, Orientation, ICA, Counseling, e.g.) has fostered an appreciation of their knowledge and expertise. This involvement has increased the potential for future collaborative efforts.

**Staff Commitment:** As reported, "Koret is a well run facility and very user friendly. It helps to educate the whole person, spiritual well being and physical well being. It is an essential part of the educational process." That statement was indicative of the positive comments that were heard from members of the University of San Francisco community. "The service and expertise of the Koret staff is great!" was a statement that was heard from students, faculty and staff. In addition, the leadership of the department was consistently given very high marks.

**Program Commitment:** The RSD programs, in comparison to other well established/recognized programs and facilities nationally, has proven to be extremely competitive with these institutions across the board. These programs are integral and have a positive influence on students in choosing to attend USF. According to the recent Student Voice Benchmarking survey, USF Recreational Sports is above the national average in participation rates for students utilizing its facilities. The survey corresponds and supports all the positive comments heard from students, faculty and staff.

## **RSD IMPROVEMENT AREAS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations for improvement of the RSD and its services were made by the external review committee. The following areas were determined to be of greater importance for the betterment of the overall operations of the department. Implementation these recommendations would include additional resources, space, and/or budget.

**Reporting Structure/Staff :** Align the department within the Dean of Students office. This has been completed. Another area was to re-assess staff needs and responsibilities: Assign Building Supervisors to the Associate Director, this has been accomplished. Another suggestion was to change the title of the Intramural/Outdoor Adventures Coordinator to Intramural/Outdoor Adventures Director, this has been accomplished. Another recommendation was to add an Administrative Assistant Position to assist the Director. This has been approved and will be reviewed if and when funding is available.

**Facilities:** It has been strongly recommended that the oversight and management of the Soccer Field “Negoesco Field” be moved from the Athletic Department to the Recreational Sports Department. The report stated that the outdoor field space for student use were totally inadequate. This is due to the numerous outside rentals that are on the field that generate revenue for Athletics and limiting Recreational Sports Department program use. The number of rentals on the field has been addressed and is under review. Currently, the RSD department has been able to acquire more field time for our organized clubs and intramural sports. However, the department is lacking space for student open rec/non-structured time on the field.

Since the review, the RSD has opened a new weight room which was highly recommended in the review. Another recommendation was to increase the ventilation throughout Koret. This has been addressed: Facilities management has assigned a full-time engineer to the department to address these issues. Since the review there has been extensive work completed on the Heating and ventilating systems with a new-state-of-the-art ventilation control system.

**Technical Support:** Research online payments for memberships and all services, as well as credit card transactions was a recommendation. This has been researched and at this point in time cost prohibitive. Logistically, we require proof of residence when purchasing memberships which would be impossible to provide and approve online. Currently we are looking into electronic waivers. We have implemented computer upgrades to our current software system which facilitated and enhanced operations and sign-ups.

