

Cougar Crew Alumni Association (CCAA)

Fall Meeting

March 21, 2009, 8:30 AM

Lewis Alumni Centre, Pullman Washington

Call to Order

Tim "Haole" Richards, CCAA Chairman at 8:45 AM

Attendees:

Tim "Haole" Richards; Josh Proctor; Peter Brevick; Lisa Curtis; Doug Engle; Arthur Ericsson; Weston Spivia; Sean Martin; Danny Brevick; Andrew Winters; Garrett Lyman; Jason Lackey; Kramer Wahlberg; Rob Obom; Jacob Logar; Lauren Curtis; Tim Malkow; Ken Struckmeyer; Brad Carlberg; Jimmy Johnson; Chris Gulick; Mike Pabisz; John DeLong; Andrew King; Mitch Williams; Lauren Curtis; Nick Estvold; Julia Gamache; John Lafer; Steve Ranten; John Holtman; Alex Van Rijn

Approval of Fall Meeting Minutes

Doug Engle motioned, Arthur Ericsson seconds.

Announcements / Communications

None

CCAA Reports and Updates

1. Financial Advisor - Doug Engle

Financial summary: foundation has taken a hit because of stock market, but still maintains guaranteed payout to the team.

Balance summary

2. Cougar Crew Treasurer - Garret Lyman

Account overview

PAC-10 funds, received last 2 years of travel reimbursement. Suggestion to follow up and make sure they rectify this in the future.

Ergathon brought in about 20k

Rent-a-rower: because of weather there were many cancellations and lower income.

Adding 2 extra days of rent a rower to cover the shortfall.

Not sure if last 2 payments have been made for the Struckmeyer (shell). Garrett following up on this.

How to use the funds from the auction? Endowment or operating expenses? Plan to use 10K for operating expenses with the rest going to endowment. If there is any need to modify this, the CCAA board will do so over email after the weekend.

3. Faculty Advisor - Ken Struckmeyer

Member of faculty board, attended athletic department advisory meeting to discuss the crew team and its varsity club status request. President was impressed with the presentation by the crew, but the athletic department has not found a way to help out yet. Faculty reps of other universities concerned over funding of "Olympic sports". Funding becoming smaller and smaller for these (like rowing). In 80's, budget for football and basketball was 50% and now it is 80%. Concerns over making sure athletics is available to students in the other sports. No mechanism at the NCAA or conference scale to influence how the athletic funds are allocated.

Convinced value of the rowing program here is still providing high value to students and making contribution to the university. Alumni need to help fund the endowment.

Anticipating tuition increase this year, alumni need to help. Goal continues to be funding for the coaching salaries.

4. Cougar Crew Varsity Club Status (Danny, Arthur)

Working on this for at least 2 years. Recently met with President Floyd to present the idea. He described the situation as the Tier system with UW, Cal as top tier and WSU in 3rd tier along with USC, UCLA.

Goals are 1: funding for all travel costs, 2: priority registration to make sure team can practice together, 3: funding for coaches salaries, 4: graduate assistant coaching funding Challenges with the current overall financial situation, and Title IX.

Specific funding request was comparable with Oregon State, who shared their budget with the team. The funding was based on roster of about 60 rowers.

With respect to Title IX, if men's rowing were brought into athletic dept, it would tip the balance of current adherence to rules.

Considering adding a women's lightweight rowing program to current team to help balance opportunities for men / women on campus - and help show if team became varsity there would be this balance for Title IX.

With importance of lightweight rowing to history of WSU, women's lightweight rowing could be a good fit. Met with URec and Jane (women's coach) and they were supportive. There would be additional resource requirements, but obtaining an additional launch, agreed to wait for water time until boats are available, using ergs at a later shift. Team can compete at most races except PAC-10s. Found a coach, Emily Cole. All 3 current coaches will work together for success of team.

Budget impact? Projections show that their dues and fundraising would cover costs.

Their participation would be through the existing organization, not a separate.

Womens lwt is a 1 year trial being reviewed by team officers.

Should we change name from Men's Crew to something more gender neutral? Readdress after the 1 year trial. Need to keep in mind before 1990 there were many female rowers as part of Cougar Crew that don't feel a connection to the current "mens" crew.

Some concern has been made known that an additional organization may cause additional strain on the system and the women's lightweight team may be second class to the men's team.

5. CougarCrew.com - Kramer Walberg

New parents page on web site.

Trying to get misc pictures identified with comments

Wish list on web site.

Wants to put some video on the web site.

Lauren Curtis developing a history of the crew dating back to 1969.

Ken: may be able to work with VP of Info Tech to discuss the situation with linking from the official university page to the cougarcrew.com.

Average hits per day are 50 to 60, but during peak times like after races there are over 100.

Suggestion to make the donation link more apparent.

6. Commodore Report - Andy Winters

One of the largest teams in recent years.

Adding Paul Enquist to athletic hall of fame: the coordinator of the hall inductees notified the team that he would need to be added to a list of people under consideration every 2 years. There was also a potential issue of whether he meets requirements since Cougar Crew is not a varsity sport.

There is another avenue to pursue an Outstanding Alumni nomination.

7. Cougar Crew Head Coach - Arthur

Thanks to all alumni who are here supporting the team.

Novice coach Julia Gamache doing well and has a large team this year.

Recruiting: worked with the Alive summer program and had a display along side the womens crew. This is especially important since the university does not allow mailing letters to incoming students due to privacy concerns.

Another recruiting method is challenge a rower: get students coming into the rec center to challenge a rower to a 500m piece on the erg. Resulted in some good athletes.

Some referalls already from the poster targeting wrestlers, swimmers, runners at high schools.

2nd annual spring break spent at Tri-Cities for training. Very successful.

Started a dual race in the fall with Western, going over there next year.

Paul Enquist made a visit to the team recently.

If the team moves to the athletic department, URec still wants to maintain some control over access to the current team resources. They feel since the organization is based on student fees they have to protect those resources.

IRAs is no longer available for sport clubs, but there is a club sport nationals race (ACRA championships) that will be held in Tennessee this year.

Julia: help dad's row in the fall during the last CCAA meeting.

Started with a novice roster of 80, currently have 3 8's of rowers. First and second 8's beat Gonzaga's boats in the duel.

8. Other Business

Access to women's rowing tank? Even though the men did not contribute to the fundraising effort, apparently in a recent newsletter said both men and women could use it. Want to make sure this does not divide the men's and women's program.

Lisa: Parents booster club. They are having a meeting this morning to discuss spring schedule and who is supporting where. Next year there will be a parent's booster representative on the auction committee. Donations and money generated by this group typically used for buying food.

Lisa: auction. 2 years ago: about 11K, last year about 12K, this year about 18K worth of donations. Expect a high class event tonight.

Due to gambling laws, capping the raffle to 5000.

Looking for committee members for next year's auction.

Shirts and hats will be available for sale at the auction.

Volunteers for committee: Jason Lackie, Dale Brevick, John Lafer, Chris Seaman, Josh Proctor, + parent booster

Danny: banquet schedule. Doors open at 6:00. Held at ballroom at the CUB.

Apparel sales through web site, looking at different options for offering online.

Ken Abbey Shellhouse: Doug found that this has never been given the official name. Talked with Urec, and Jane, and received support from both. Will need support from Athletic director as well. And need 2 additional letters from Ken and CCAA representative. There would be a plaque created and set in concrete between the men's and women's bays at the shellhouse.

Endowment fundraising: been a long term issue for the team, but the difference now is there is a much larger alumni base for the team. Pursuing looking for an experienced fundraising alumnus to take some ownership. Peter Brevick will take responsibility to try and identify somebody to do this.

Ken: possibly add to this committee size and do some face to face meeting with items such as estate planning. Also include former rowers' parents in the approach. Rob Obom is volunteering to help find some help in this area.

Rob Obom: Slow row happening today. Alumni will pay for the opportunity to row in the boats in a non-competitive environment.

Board succession: important for the continued success of the CCAA organization. Josh Proctor nominates Tim Richards for re-election. Peter Brevick seconds. No other nominations.

Jess Odell motions to close nominations and unanimously elect Tim. Tim accepts.

Westin motions to adjourn, Arthur seconds. 11:30