

Athletics Report

This athletics report has been developed to review the fall 2017 semester program, inform on the winter 2018 semester plan, and discuss potential future goals.

The information within was taken from statements provided by the Student Life Coordinator, the two student Athletics Convenors, and the students body at large.

Fall 2017 Semester Review

At the beginning of June 2017, we (Trent University and TDSA) drafted an athletics agreement to allow the university to develop an athletics program utilizing their resources and staff in order to attempt to build up the program and provide the TDSA the time opportunity to focus on their larger portfolio of responsibilities.

Under the supervision of the Student Life Coordinator, the program was refocused on several goals:

- 1) Increasing the number of athletic opportunities for students on campus;
- 2) Increasing the attendance of students at intramural sports;
- 3) Increasing the number of student staff in promoting/running the programs;
- 4) Further developing the extramural teams at the Durham Campus;
- 5) Developing an athletics committee and utilizing student feedback for program direction.

An athletics committee was developed consisting of a majority students that provided feedback for the types of programs they would like to see at this campus. Further to that meeting, there was regular consultation with the TDSA executive, the student convenors, and students at large to try to provide different opportunities as part of the program.

It was decided to increase the number of days of programming from 2 days to 4 days to allow for more options for students on different days of the week. Discussion led to the approval to offer indoor soccer, court sports, ball hockey, and squash as the focus of sports in the Fall, to be reviewed at the end of the semester and determine winter sports from that information.

The increase of number of days allowed for the hiring of 2 student convenors to run the 4 different days of sports, 2 days each respectively.

Having 2 convenors, being the main marketers for participation, also led to a significant increase in participation, including students who had not participated in the past. Participation rates were recorded as follows:

- Monday: Soccer saw significant attendance with an average of around 20 participants
- Tuesday: Basketball saw decent numbers with an average of 12 participants
- Wednesday: Ball Hockey saw fair numbers at the beginning and end of the semester with an average of 10 participants, but was low mid-semester
- Thursday: Squash saw significantly low numbers with an average of 2 participants

There were a few barriers that led to lower participation rates at some intramural programs. Class schedules have become more complex as we grow and don't always allow great options for student

schedules. Basketball is played at Steven Saywell P.S. and is a distance away. Only students with vehicles or rides have participated. Ball hockey was played outside and the temperature changes and weather hindered many of the weeks. Squash is a bit of a unique sport and many students were not comfortable or familiar with it and did not want to participate. Social media was a main source for advertising the intramural program by day, but there was significant oversaturation of promotion that would cause many students not to read the messages.

All the students that did participate were happy to have the option to play these sports, and wanted to see more opportunities to play even more.

For the extramural program, the co-ed indoor soccer team was continued this year with more development on team tryouts, tournament bookings, and a larger tournament hosted by TrentU Durham at the Civic Centre. The team consists of 14 players who pay an additional fee to cover some of their individual costs such as uniform, practice times, travel, and tournament fees. The tryout was significantly larger this year with many more students interested in competitive sports.

Overall, the semester was successful in the goals we sought to accomplish and we hope to further those goals in the winter semester.

Winter 2018 Semester Plan

With guidance from the athletics committee, the winter semester plan has been put in place to change the sports available and offer some different programs that cater to the interests of students.

For intramural sports, Soccer is now booked for 2 nights a week on both Mondays and Thursdays. Tuesday will remain Basketball at Steven Saywell P.S.. An additional court sport night has been added for Wednesday at Waverly P.S. which will include a rotation of sports such as volleyball, badminton, and dodgeball, as well as ball hockey.

We have also added tournaments to this semesters program including ones for dodgeball, basketball, badminton, volleyball, and soccer. The convenors will market and sign up students as teams or individuals and the tournaments will include prizes and giveaways.

The extramural team has a significant number of tournaments this semester and are booked into 3 at the time of this report.

On top of the plan for the semester, the athletics membership agreement with the City of Oshawa is also up for renewal at this time and will require a fair amount of work to resolve a new agreement, if one is pursued. TDSA executive along with Trent staff will meet with City staff to discuss, develop, and approve the next agreement.

Long Term Goals

Pending the approval and results of the referendum, the goals of the university are to further develop the athletics program at the campus by:

1. Continuing to have an Athletics Committee comprised of majority students (and TDSA members) who will assist in determining the direction of the program and all fees related;
2. Hire a staff member whose sole responsibility is the supervision of the athletics program;
3. Create and develop more extramural competitive opportunities for students;
4. The addition of a fitness program more accessible to students;
5. An increase in intramural programming with the potential to develop league based sports.

Referendum

Our hope is that through the example of the Fall semester's outcome and information surrounding the goals for the future of the program, the TDSA and the students at large will vote on changing the Athletics Levy Fee into an Ancillary Fee to continue running the athletics program under the supervision of the Athletics Committee and the Student Affairs department beginning May 1st, 2018.

Pending approval of the TDSA Board of Directors, we would like to propose the question be included as part of the TDSA voting process of their election with information given to students surrounding the proposal taken from this document.

Questions

Any questions surrounding the information provided in this document or regarding the Athletics Program can be directed to Chris Nelan, Student Life Coordinator at Trent University Durham. (christophernelan@trentu.ca)