

University of Connecticut
 University Senate Budget committee
 Minutes
 December 16, 2019

Present: Michael Jones, Michael white, Paulo Verardi, Lauren Slingluff, Lisa Park Boush, Nafis Fuad, Jeffrey McCutcheon, Daniel Stolzenberg, Carol Polifroni
 Guests: David Benedict, Director of Athletics, Rachel Rubin, Associate Director, Jaci von Hiest

1. Mr. Benedict provided a historical picture of conference re-alignment and other space decisions.
 - a. Big East & other conferences more lucrative TV revenue than American Athletic Conference
 - b. We joined AAC because no football in the new Big East
 - c. We play two sports off campus: football at Rentschler Field and Basketball (men's and women's) at XL Center
 - i. We pay rent
 - ii. At XL lose 50% of revenue as do not receive anything from food, seats, parking
 - iii. State decision as to what to do with XL Center
 - d. Ticket sales for football and men's basketball have declined; expected to change with Big East
 - e. Women's rowing will be in Colonial league
 - f. Football will be independent
 - i. Routinely play Army, Rutgers, UMass, Syracuse to re-establish rivalries
 - ii. Negotiate TV contracts on our own
2. Decision to join Hockey East in 2013 mandated a new rink and adjustments in women's sports (tennis and rowing in particular) to meet Title IX requirements for gender equity.
3. Travel funds will decrease with return to Big East (currently spending greater than \$2M per year)
4. Peer comparison's with university subsidies

School	# sports	University subsidy
UConn	24	\$41Million
Houston	17	\$31Million
Cincinnati	19	\$30 Million
UCF	16	\$20 Million

5. Changes made/under consideration
 - a. FY13-FY18 \$15million increase in budget at the same time administrative staff decreased by 3% in costs; scholarships have increased to 16.9million/year
 - b. Priority seating revamped along with seat choices
 - c. Significant decrease in travel by air
 - d. Sports will change if not competitive on national level
 - e. Payment of student athletes is being watched closely ; likely require a federal solution
6. Business plan
 - a. Not public
7. Goal: aspire to compete for championships and provide a good experience for student athletes; increase revenue and decrease expenses
8. Next meeting:
 - a. 1/27 to discuss library
 - b. 2/17, 3/9 and 4/20

