ITEM: Approval of Intercollegiate Athletics Addition of Women’s Golf to Sponsored Sports List for the University of Houston

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY: The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics seeks to add the sport of Women’s Golf to the list of NCAA Division I sports sponsored by the University of Houston. Women’s Golf will be added over the course of three years beginning in 2012-2013 and ending with full sponsorship and representation of the program in 2015-2016. The program is being phased in to assist in the financial impacts of adding a sport.

One of the principles of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is compliance with the Office of Civil Rights which includes the compliance with Title IX. Educational Amendment, Title IX states that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Institutions are provided the opportunity to comply with Title IX by satisfying one test of the three prongs:

(1) Provide opportunities substantially proportionate to enrollment; (because 51% of all UH students are female, 51% of the athletic participation opportunities must be for females – currently female participation is at 42% ); OR
(2) Demonstrate a history and continuing practice of program expansion for the underrepresented sex; OR
(3) Fully and effectively accommodate the underrepresented sex.

Athletics last added a women’s athletics program in 2001 with sponsorship of softball. The addition of Women’s Golf will provide an opportunity to satisfy prong two of Title IX by demonstrating “a history and continuing practice of program expansion for the underrepresented sex.”

Women’s Golf is an appropriate fit for the Intercollegiate Athletics as there is a strong heritage of success in Men’s Golf which has enabled the construction of the golf training facility at Redstone. One of the primary expenses of adding a women’s sport is the issue of facility, and the new golf training center will accommodate both genders. Women’s Golf is a common sport represented in the Big East with many non-conference opponents available locally. Also, women’s golf is a popular sport played in Texas high schools which will assist in the recruitment of prospects to represent the University of Houston.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Women’s Golf Proposal – Title IX/Gender Equity Presentation

FISCAL NOTE:

RECOMMENDATION/ ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

COMPONENT: University of Houston

10/12/12
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