



Sports and Recreation - Reporting to the AVP – Student Experience

FOR APPROVAL

Recommended: That the reporting structure for Western Sports & Recreation be changed from the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences to the Associate Vice-President (Student Experience).

Background:

Sport and Recreation Services (SRS) at Western is a highly regarded operation that has responsibility for all recreational, intramural, fitness sports on campus and for Varsity Athletics. The program contributes significantly to student recruitment, retention, enrichment and preparation.

On April 2 of 1971, the Senate endorsed a recommendation of the Senate Committee on University Development and approved the creation of the Faculty of Physical Education and Athletics. From that time the SRS has reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Athletics (later the Dean of Kinesiology, and today, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences). Many changes have transpired in both SRS and Kinesiology/Health Sciences since that time that make it appropriate for SRS to be administered through the portfolio of the Associate Vice-President (Student Experience) rather than through the School of Kinesiology to the Dean of Health Sciences. The School of Kinesiology supports this move and the following motion was approved at the November 5, 2015 meeting of Kinesiology Council:

Watson/Heine: That Sport and Recreation Services report to the AVP- Student Experience effective December 31, 2015

Motion Carried: 20 in favour; 1 opposed; 1 abstention

The recommendation aligns with the administrative structures that are in place on most Canadian university campuses. The change also aligns with the recommendations presented in the Crawford, Mahon and Moran (September 2011) review: *"Setting a Place at the Table for SRS: Report of the Review of UWO Sports and Recreation Services"*. The proposed change responds to, and aligns with, the creation of the new Associate Vice-President (Student Experience) portfolio and will closely align the SRS program with like-minded units and funding sources. This change also reflects the true pan-University focus of the SRS programs, where student athletes and campus recreation participants are drawn from all Western Faculties and all three University Colleges, and not exclusively from the School of Kinesiology in the Faculty of Health Science. Finally, the proposed change reflects a major shift in emphasis within the School of Kinesiology to one less focused on sport and to one aligned with human movement and health. We anticipate this shift will become more pronounced in the future as the programming in the School of Kinesiology aligns with Clinical Kinesiology as a regulated health field.