**Graduate Student Assembly**

**Facilities and Healthcare Committee**

**Meeting with Anthony Diaz (Gym Director)**

November 2nd, 2012

In attendance: Sabina Matyiku and Mark Redmond

* Anthony Diaz (Duke) has been the director for two years, this is his third
* interested in collaborating with us to make a general member survey as not many surveys have been sent out to gym members and he would like input from gym users
  + would like input from all gym users, not just grad students
* surprised to find out that this is the only gym grad students have
  + would like to see if he can find out how many of the people signing in at the door are grad students, the system may not allow him to see that information
* the Athletics budget keeps getting cut and the gym budget is affected by this; there is not a lot allocated for new equipment
* there were 20 people at the door on Tuesday after the hurricane, it seems like the gym is important to students
  + Duke would like to find out where the gym ranks for students’ non-academic priorities
* would like to meet with us regularly in order to determine which types of questions should be asked
* Recent gym improvements:
  + many rooms have had new lights installed and have recently been painted
  + new surface in Lanman center and new floor in ballet room
  + better scheduling of space for students
    - the schedules are posted online
    - anyone can request space, when a lot of people request space for an activity, recreational spaces for that activity are made and anyone can go and use that space at the time
  + in fitness center, the bench covers were recently replaced and the cleaning stations are more clearly marked
  + Duke is happy with the variety of classes being offered and how well they are doing; the personal training program is also successful
* In progress:
  + The transient lockers in the men’s change room will soon be replaced, will cost $1 rather than $0.25; the transient lockers in the women’s change room that are broken will be fixed
  + In the fitness center, the cleaning fluid containers will be replaced with sturdier ones
  + Duke is doing research on cooling stations for the fitness center, whether we will get them depends on the budget
* Next big steps:
  + improve the sound system for games in JLA
  + get new exercise equipment for the fitness center when able
* Responses to student concerns:
  + Concern: Keeping the gym open for longer hours on Fridays and on weekends
    - Duke is aware that people will come and use the gym at any time if it’s open, but there are not a lot of people who use the gym on Friday nights and on weekend nights
    - Keeping the gym open longer does not seem to be a high priority, but Duke seems willing to reassess if it is a high priority for gym users
  + Concern: The exercise equipment is in poor shape and should be replaced and possibly increased in number
    - There is not a lot of money for equipment in the budget
    - We have the oldest equipment in the Ivy Leagues
    - The priority for new equipment is as follows:
      * 2 treadmills
      * ellipticals
      * bikes
      * cross trainers
    - will be getting some free weights and older varsity equipment for the weight room soon
  + Suggestion: The stairmasters are not as well used as other equipment, some of them could be replaced with treadmills
    - Duke had already thought of this, has noticed that they are not used very much
  + Concern: The water fountain in the fitness center is often broken and ends up breaking quickly after it is fixed. Can it be replaced with one that is sturdier?
    - It was recently fixed and is doing well
    - the plan is to install cooling stations where people will be able to fill up their water bottles
  + Concern: There should be more cleaning stations in the fitness center and each of them should have paper towel and cleaning fluid at all times, and they should all have garbage cans
    - Duke thinks that the cleaning stations were not clearly marked, so the focus has been on ensuring that there are 10 stations that are clearly marked
    - was not aware that some of them did not have garbage cans, this is an easy fix
    - monitoring is a challenge because there isn’t a lot in the budget for attendants, but gym users should feel free to bring to the attention of the attendants anything that needs to be replenished
    - the paper towels come from the custodial staff and the gym is already going through a lot of paper towels
      * there is a possibility that gym users will be required to bring a towel into the fitness center at some point in the future
  + Concern: Empty lockers are not cleaned out and have collected a lot of dust; gym users who request lockers have to clean the lockers themselves
    - This is an easy fix, Duke has asked staff to clean lockers when they empty them
  + Concern: The new shower curtains in the women’s change room on the third floor have recently been replaced; their width is better, but they are too short. They are a little over two feet from the ground. This is an issue particularly for children and disabled individuals, but also for individuals who bring their own toiletries and store them on the ground
    - The custodial staff replaced them and Duke found out only later. There have been issues with shower curtains dragging on the floor, not allowing enough air through and being prone to mold, but Duke was surprised to find out how short they are. He has met with the custodial supervisor and discussed this issue and it should be fixed soon
  + Concern: Some women keep a towel in their locker because they need a towel for their hair.
    - Duke is not very concerned about this, but what he is concerned about is people who store a lot of towels in their lockers. A lot of towels go missing and new ones are purchased at the beginning of each year. When people store a lot of towels, the locker agreement is such that staff is allowed to open lockers and remove the stored towels from the lockers
      * always two individuals are present when member lockers are opened
  + Concern: Some women who have towel service find that the towels are too small to wrap around their bodies
    - The towels used to be smaller
    - Duke will take this concern into consideration when ordering new towels, but the next size up is typically a lot more expensive and would now allow him to buy as many towels