UMASS Athletic Facility Survey 2009 Results and Conclusions

By Ryan Norton
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**Introduction**

In making this report, 784 members of the UMass Boston community were surveyed about the current athletic facilities and were asked how the facilities could be improved. Of the 784 surveyed, 484 were students, 79 were faculty, and 204 were staff. The results from all of the surveys were broken down into various demographics and organized into tables. The 784 surveyed were broken down two ways: the first was into gender by age, and the second was into role (student, faculty, or staff) by gender.

**The Beacon Fitness Center**

According to the survey results, the Beacon Fitness Center is utilized most by younger people, especially males. Not surprisingly, significantly more students use the Center than faculty or staff.

Overall, of those who use the Beacon Fitness Center, most do so occasionally. Those who use it frequently seem to have incorporated into their weekly routine, but not their daily routine, as the group of people who use it 2-3 times a week is almost as large as the group of those who use it occasionally.

Several comments about the BFC said that it should be expanded. One suggested that there should be separate changing facilities for students and faculty/staff. Two were concerned about the sanitary conditions in the lockers. A few comments said that memberships should be extended to people outside of the UMB community. Some also mentioned adding more classes in yoga, pilates, et cetera.

![Beacon Fitness Center Use](image)

*Beacon Fitness Center Use*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Occasionally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Faculty</td>
<td>1 day/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>2-3x/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>4-5x/week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Pool

According to the survey results, the pool is not used by the majority of students, faculty and staff. Of all of the men surveyed, 70.1% had never used it and of all the women, 78.6% had never used it. Some of the comments express complaints about the shower facilities and the pool’s hours, as well as concerns about sanitation in the showers. Some respondents said that the showers were too cold.
The results indicate that only a small amount of students have participated in the intramurals program. Most of them are men. This number could skew lower though since the question refers to the department and not just any intramural or recreation in general. Some of the responses indicated that respondents might have interpreted the question to include any recreation activity. According to the director of intramurals, it is common at any university for the number of males participating in intramural sports to be much larger compared to females. When invited, the women will play, but otherwise they usually do not.
It is worth noting that 52.6% of those surveyed who participated in intramurals and recreation were male students. This same demographic also was highly in favor of broadening the intramural program, more so than any other. In this group, 57.34% wanted to broaden the program while 26.61% were satisfied with the number of sports offered, and 16.06% didn’t respond. Most other groups were split down the middle, with roughly half saying yes and half saying no. The only one that was significantly different was the female staff, where 22.13% said they should broaden intramurals, 37.70% said they shouldn’t, and 40.16% didn’t respond.
Athletic Contests

The athletic contests are to be attended by a small percentage of members of the community. There have been numerous attempts made at gaining new fans, such as the creation of UMASS United. However, the majority of fans at the games are student athletes. Men’s hockey is by far the most popular sport on campus, while volleyball and soccer garner several fans as well. Of those surveyed who have attended an athletic contest, female students were the smallest demographic, with only 15.41% of them having attended a game. The largest demographic was the male staff, of which 41.46% have attended a game. Overall, students were the smallest group for those who have attended a game, compared to faculty and staff. A few comments mention the inadequacy of the seating at outdoor places as well as in indoor places.
Concessions

For most people, it is important to have a concession stand open during an entire indoor event. The only demographic opposed to it were faculty. Of the faculty surveyed, 41.77% said they did not feel that a concession stand was necessary and 31.65% said it was necessary. Most of the students surveyed were greatly in favor of having a full-service concession stand, as 55.79% responded that we should have a concession stand and 28.93% said we didn’t. The staff also felt that the concession stand was necessary. Of the staff surveyed, 46.08% thought having a concession stand was important and 26.47% did not. For those demographics it is almost a 2:1 ratio between those in favor of a concession stand and those not.
Facilities

There was a wide variation across demographics as to whether or not the facilities were adequate. Male faculty were the most satisfied, with only 3.13% of those surveyed saying that the facilities were not adequate enough, and 25% saying that they are more than adequate. The female faculty, however, were not as satisfied, as 21.28% of those surveyed said the facilities were not adequate and only 8.51% said they were more than adequate. The least satisfied group was the female staff, where 36.07% said the facilities were not adequate and only 9.84% said they were more than adequate.
When asked whether the university should add indoor or outdoor facilities, a large majority were in favor of indoor facilities. Of almost every demographic, there was at least a 2:1 ratio of those who preferred indoor facilities to those who preferred outdoor facilities. The only exception was the male faculty, where 25% said we should add indoor facilities and 21.88% said we should add outdoor facilities. Overall, 54.21% of those surveyed wanted us to add indoor facilities and 21.68% wanted us to add outdoor facilities.
When asked whether the university should investigate the possibility of adding lights, a large majority were in favor of investigating adding lights. The students overall felt they were important, with 65.91% of those surveyed saying that we should investigate adding lights and 19.42% saying we shouldn’t, a 3:1 ratio. Of the staff, 53.92% thought investigating adding lights was a good idea while 24.51% said it wasn’t. This is a 2:1 ratio. The only group that didn’t have a large majority was the female faculty, where 38.30% were in favor of investigating adding lights and 36.17% were not in favor of it.
When asked whether they prefer artificial turf or natural grass, there was a wide variation between those who had competed on turf and those who hadn’t. Of those who had competed on turf, 42.12% said they preferred grass, 31.87% said they preferred turf, and 23.81% had no preference. Of those who said they had not competed on turf but gave their opinions anyway, 26.58% said they preferred grass, while only 5.06% said they preferred turf and 31.65 said they had no preference.
Priorities

When asked what their priorities were, building a new comprehensive wellness and recreation center and upgrading the equipment were the two that stood out the most. For the new comprehensive wellness and recreation center, 22.70% of the people surveyed listed it as their first priority, 15.47% listed it as their second priority, and 20.88% listed it as their third priority. This constitutes 59.05% of the survey population. For upgrading the equipment, 17.75% of the people surveyed listed it as their first choice, 19.96% listed it as their second choice, and 15.33% listed it as their third choice. This constitutes 53.04% of the survey population.

See breakdown of responses in Appendix A.

Conclusion

Based on the responses across the demographic groups of faculty, student, staff, age, and gender, there were some similarities and differences in opinions. The hard data should be explored to find more commonalities in order to serve a diverse community. By using this data, the athletics department will be able to better prioritize its mission.
APPENDIX A