



Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

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October 31, 2008

To: Kelly King  
OARDC Staff Council

From: Dave Benfield, Associate Director, OARDC *DB*  
Rhonda Billman, Assistant Director, ATI *RB*

Re: Campus Exercise Survey and Summary

Kelly, apologies for the late response. We thank you and staff council for doing the fitness facility survey and providing the results to Wooster Campus administration to review. It is surprising that you received only 61 responses (16 ATI, 45 OARDC). Based on the responses and the provided summary, our response is as follows:

1. The ATI SAC is primarily established to provide fitness activities for ATI students. Faculty and staff benefit from the availability of the facility and can use the facility free of charge, but student activities and student fees provide for funding of equipment, and personnel to staff the facility.
2. With current and past budget recessions at OARDC and ATI, it is unlikely that a new fitness facility for faculty and staff is a possibility unless funded through private or other public sources other than annual rate.
3. Also due to budget reductions, the option to provide payments to employees for wellness plans is not possible.
4. Funds to expand the operational hours of the SAC and to replace, repair and purchase equipment for the SAC would also need to come from private or other funds independent of the annual rate of OARDC and ATI.
5. One potential source of funding for improvement to the SAC is the implementation of a SAC facilitates membership similar to the Recreation Facilities in Columbus. Membership fees at the Columbus facility for faculty and staff are \$115 per quarter or \$437 annually. Most respondents to the survey were not willing to pay more than \$10-20 per month for services.
6. OARDC and ATI employees can receive a discounted membership at Health Point on the northern edge of Wooster.

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*◀ The OARDC shall be the premier institution committed to:  
safe healthy and affordable food and agricultural products; sustainable food and agricultural systems;  
strong rural and urban communities; stewardship of natural resources and the environment; keeping Ohio  
positioned favorably in a global economy. =*

On a positive note, construction of Secret Road will have a portion of a bike path on the South side of the road. This will also expand the walking perimeter for individuals that use this activity for fitness.

ATI is currently offering classes in golf, bowling and volleyball (with plans to offer additional physical education classes in the future) for individuals that want to learn these wellness activities.

OARDC and ATI will continue to investigate the possibility of expanding the outdoor walking paths and perhaps the addition of fitness stations along these paths.

Rhonda and I will make both of our Directors aware of the survey and request for improvements in the current SAC equipment. In addition, we will continue to keep this request as a topic of discussion for the future.

If you wish to discuss this response with either or both of us, please let us know.

C: Steve Slack  
Steve Nameth  
Eileen Kieffaber