

**MIAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee**  
**Winter 2006 Meeting / December 3, 2006 (Sunday), Augsburg College**

**Present:** Jacci Mattern, Mike Matson (AUG); Brad Dahlman, Liz Glesne (BU); Katie Lee (CON); Lindsay LaVoie, Steven Jensen (GAC); Chris Lutz [Chair], Katie Davis (HU); George Robbins, Kaela Schramm (MAC); Jill Burgard [Secretary], Lindsey Tucker (CSB); Halie Vosler (CSC); Jay Kasner, Andy Minck (SJU); Megan Wallisch, Eric Sonnek, Tony Guinn-SAAC Advisor (SMU); Audrey Volstad, James Bechdol [Treasurer] (STO); Katie Potts, Scott Mattke (UST); Dan McKane, Matt Ten Haken, Kelly Anderson Diercks (MIAC).

I. **Call to order** – 1:03 p.m.

II. **Introductions**

III. **Service Projects** (Dan McKane and Kelly Diercks)

- Toys for Teens: Toy drop off at KARE 11 will be **Friday, December 15th**. Schools can arrange to drop off toys at MIAC office if they cannot make the drop of date. Out-state schools have the option to donate to local chapters. Guaranteed on-air spots at KARE11 are full, but the SAAC may still be able to be seen on TV. Details regarding drop off information will be sent via email as the date approaches. Ideas to increase collection include: Collect money at basketballs games and have the announcer make an announcement that money is going to be collected; Everyone who donates receives a t-shirt; Enlist SAAC members to collect the money from the athletes.
- Habitat for Humanity: A date will be set in the middle of April, a Sunday, to avoid spring championships and with the hope of decent weather. Details will follow via email from Kelly as the dates gets closer.

VI. **NCAA SAAC Grant to MIAC** (\$2,000) (Dan McKane)

Checks were distributed to campus SAAC's for \$140 each last month. The money must be used toward the operation of SAAC. Ideas on how to use the money include: Post season banquets; Half-time prizes; Reimbursement for travel to MIAC SAAC meetings; Food at meetings; The remaining balance of the grant will be used by the MIAC for food on the day of the Habitat for Humanity service project in the spring.

V. **Sportsmanship** (Kelly Diercks)

- In August schools received materials (sandwich boards, posters, etc.) and a video to use to promote Sportsmanship on campuses. The video and other helpful information can be viewed on the MIAC sportsmanship website. The AD's approved the SAAC proposal for the creation of an All-Sportsmanship team. Teams have been chosen for cross country, volleyball, football and soccer thus far. The MIAC sportsmanship initiative has received national attention both by the NCAA and a Sportsmanship newsletter. Results are being noticed on campuses; spectators and student athletes are supporting the teams at competitions and are demonstrating positive behavior. Hamline discussed giving 'gifts' to opposing teams that include information about sportsmanship. A Sportsmanship pledge has been advertised all over a campus to help students gain awareness. At Saint Mary's sportsmanship shirts were given to those that donated to Toys for Teens. The sportsmanship pledge is read by an athlete before the beginning of each sporting event.
- Sportsmanship paragraphs: MIAC SAAC members were asked to bring a paragraph detailing what SAAC is doing on campus to promote sportsmanship. These paragraphs is will be used to create a media release and draw attention to the good things with sportsmanship that are happening on MIAC campuses. SAAC's were told they may include things they have done or plan to do or how they might utilize the NCAA grant towards promoting good sportsmanship. Students were advised to contact their Athletic Director or MIAC office if they need assistance. Paragraph should be sent to the conference office by Friday, December 15, 2006.

VI. **MIAC AD and FAR meetings review** (Dan McKane)

The MIAC AD's and FAR's recently met. Several of the groups decisions were discussed by SAAC.

- Visiting Team Roster Limits in team sports. There was confusion among MIAC institutions regarding the existing travel rules and recent conversations/voting resulted in the following new rules. There are an unlimited number of student-athletes that visiting teams may bring to a contest, but set limit o student-athletes who can dress and be in the team area when traveling. McKane explained some of the reasoning behind this legislation: Facilities lack the physical space for a large number of student-athletes; there is a liability for those student-athletes not participating but on the sidelines; budgets supporting the extra transportation and food costs; taking the student-athletes away from campus and classes for competition when they will not get in the game; and desires for a consistent rule among all sports. Many MIAC SAAC members were opposed to this legislation. A majority of the group feared it would break team unity if all the players couldn't travel and compete together. Students voiced the opinion that this legislation does not promote participation in athletics, something Division III stands for. Some felt that it is the athlete's decision to participate in sports and they understand that it may require missing class or other events on campus. Some feared that with a limited number of roster spots, seniors or captains if they do not make the travel team but should be going may be forced to sit or stand in the bleachers. There were some among the group who believed that by having roster limits would force competition among the teams and raise the level of competition among the sports by having the best players on the roster.

- The Conference will focus on Diversity and Gender Equity in the 07-08 year using NCAA Tier II grant funding. We will be starting to put together programming ideas surrounds these subjects. MIAC SAAC members were asked to brainstorming ideas on how the conference as a whole or each individual institution can promote this topic.
- MIAC SAAC was made aware of the MIAC Radio Show which is every Thursday at 1pm. The radio show covers all sports. Listeners can access the show through the MIAC website.

**VII. 2007 NCAA Convention Legislation (Dan McKane)**

A handout of NCAA Legislation was distributed and key items were reviewed. Legislative items will be voted on at the NCAA Convention in January by institutions. The views of the MIAC SAAC will be passed on to National SAAC and the MIAC ADs. Discussion was raised over legislation No. 6- Male practice players and No. 7-Seasons of participation. Male practice players - The majority of student-athletes felt that male practice players were beneficial and that they provided good competition. Some of the institutions expressed that they needed the male players just to have enough players to properly conduct a practice. The male players can fill in spots so that some players can be practicing and others can be working on drills. The amount of time using male players should be the issue, not whether are not they can be used.

Seasons of participation – Many speakers expressed that athletics are more competitive when allowing transfers student-athletes to play and felt it was in the best interest of MIAC competition, for it to be at the highest possible level, for transfer's red-shirt years to be not counted as a season of competition. One student spoke about how allowing transfer students red-shirt years to be accepted would take away opportunities from athletes who chose to compete their entire career in Division III.

**VIII. Competitive Resources Group (CRG) (Dan McKane)**

A lengthy discussion was held about having CRG attend an MIAC SAAC meeting. The general consensus was that most institutions felt they had similar resources on their campus and that it may be repetitive information for the MIAC SAAC members. SAAC really wanted to focus on conference business at SAAC meetings. It was decided to not have CRG attend a MIAC SAAC meeting this year but to possibly look at having CRG as an option when the focus of the MIAC Tier II grant is on Student Athlete Well-Being in 2008-09.

**IX. Conference Self Study (Kelly Diercks)**

The NCAA requires conferences to perform a self study every five years. The MIAC is currently in the middle of this process. Part of the document includes information regarding MIAC SAAC. Kelly read the MIAC SAAC mission statement and the part of the Conference Self Study that included information aimed at SAAC. Members suggested adding a few goals and actions to the document. Input included promotion of sportsmanship, community service activities, supporting each other and athlete / non-athlete relations. Students who would like to see the entire document should contact the MIAC office.

**X. Best Practices on Campuses (open discussion)**

Institutions discussed what SAAC has been doing on campuses this year so far.

St. Catherine - Held a Lip Snyc/Skit event that was open to the entire college community.

St. Thomas - Held a talent show and created a traveling trophy.

Gustavus - Donated money to local domestic violence center. Athletes and Greeks are working together on fundraisers.

Augsburg - Sold Super Fan shirts and bought prizes for half time competition.

St. Mary's - People who donated to Toys for Teens received a sportsmanship t-shirt. Saint Mary's also held a student-athlete talent show.

Bethel - Youth sports day, youth come and play a variety of sports.

**XI. Spring Meeting - Feb. 18, 2007 (Sunday), 1:00 p.m. at Augsburg College.**

**XII. Closing Comments**

- Hamline is planning a fundraiser with the proceeds going towards cystic fibrosis. If anyone wants to become involved contact Katie Davis (kdavis03@hamline.edu).

- Andrew Minck (SJU) suggested that MIAC SAAC members become aware of what is going to be discussed at AD and FAR meetings in order to give input into any legislation before it is passed.

- Adjourned 2:35 p.m.