

MIAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee
Winter 2007 Meeting
February 18, 2007 (Sunday) – 1 p.m.
Augsburg College - Christiansen Center – Minneapolis Room

Present: Brain Jungworth, Jacci Mattern (Augsburg); Brad Dahlman (Bethel); Matt Topeff – Co-Chair, Samantha Hendricks (Carleton); Chris Lutz – Chair (Hamline); Lindsay Tucker, Jill Burgard – Secretary (Saint Benedict); Sara Schafhauser (St. Catherine); Eric Sonnek (Saint Mary's); Neil Hutton (St. Olaf), Sarah Rainey, P.J. Theisen (St. Thomas) Dan McKane, Matt Ten Haken, Kelly Diercks (MIAC); Emily Pankow – National SAAC.

- I. **Call to order** – Chris Lutz, Hamline (MIAC SAAC Chair)
- II. **Introductions / Ice Breaker** (Kelly Diercks)
Each member paired with another and introduced what they are going to be doing for spring break.
- III. **Service Projects** (Kelly Diercks)
 - Toys For Teens: MIAC institutions raised over \$1,000 and three cars full of toys (from institutions who dropped off at MIAC office and/or KARE11 on Dec. 14). Next year the MIAC will sign up for a reserved KARE11 spot. There was great participation from all MIAC institutions. With all cash donations next year we plan to make a large check to present during the broadcast.
 - Habitat For Humanity: The plan is to register for a Saturday project, hopefully April 14 or 21, 2007, in the Twin Cities. Because Habitat does not do Sunday projects we are attempting to schedule a Saturday project. As a result, spring sport SAAC members will likely not be able to attend. Therefore, the two representatives from each institution don't have to be the MIAC SAAC representatives. Kelly will submit the application and will email MIAC SAAC members with a date confirmation in March. There will be no funding from the MIAC this year, but we will look into options next year.
- VI. **NCAA Grants** (update and discussion) (Kelly Diercks)
 - Sportsmanship: SAAC sportsmanship statements were published last week. Winter sport playoffs are approaching, each institution should continue to remind fans and student-athletes about good sportsmanship.
 - Diversity and Gender Equity: Next year the focus of the NCAA tier II grant will be on Diversity and Gender Equity. The conference will attempt to allocate maximum funding to each campus. SAAC members are encouraged to work with athletic staff on their campus to plan for use of these funds. Augsburg is bringing in Elaine Penn who speaks and sings on this topic. Institutions could pair up on this project if others are interested to lower costs. Penn is also an option to attend the MIAC SAAC meeting next September. SAAC members are encouraged to talk to their AD about the speaker as well as other ideas. Augsburg SAAC members noted that they only heard good feedback from students about the speaker. MIAC SAAC decided that the meeting in September should be more focused on conference issues. The possibility of a regular meeting along with the speaker was discussed and will be perused by McKane
- V. **NCAA Convention Update** (Dan McKane)
McKane reviewed results of legislation coming out of 2007 NCAA Convention.
 - Male practice players: Limit use of male practice players in women's sports: **Referred** for further study. This will be a major topic of discussion in the coming year. There are strong beliefs on both sides of the table. Some believe this is a title IX issue—taking away practice time from female student-athletes. This item was referred so that additional information can be gathered about the frequency of use and purpose of male practice players in Division III. There was discussion about male practice players being used as the scout team and the benefit for the female student-athletes. There was also discussion surrounding the inability of single gender institutions to use male practice players.
 - Season of participation in the nontraditional season: **Approved**. This legislation gives student-athletes the opportunity to practice throughout the nontraditional season without losing a season of participation.
 - Redshirt transfers (MIAC submitted legislation): **Rejected**. This proposal would have made it so that a student-athlete who redshirted at a Division I or II institution and transferred to a Division III institution would utilize a season of participation. The MIAC currently has this rule in place. It is likely that there will be discussion in the conference to decide if the rule will be retained.
 - Safety: **Referred** to Safeguards Committee that at least one individual certified in first aid, CPR and AED use shall be physically present at each required practice, competition and strength and conditioning session involving student-athletes. The committee on Safeguards will investigate logistics issues on costs and practicality.
 - Medical Examinations: **Adopted**. This legislation requires prospective student-athletes to have a physical while current student-athletes will be required to have an updated medical history each subsequent year the student-athlete participates. The updated history is not limited to doctors; it may be a trainer performing the update. The NCAA wants to make sure that student-athletes are physically able to participate.

- VI. **National SAAC Update** (Emily Pankow)
-The male practice player legislation was a proposal from National SAAC and they will continue looking into the issue. Please speak with the student-athletes on your campus and contact Pankow if have any thoughts or concerns.
- Recruiting: National SAAC is hoping to implement some recruiting regulations at the D3 level. National SAAC feels that currently some recruiting techniques (i.e. text messaging) are invasive and going against D3 philosophy. Pankow mentioned issues of well-being and work/life balance for coaches. She discussed that student-athletes are being contacted at a younger age and this causes more stress on these prospective student-athletes. National SAAC is collecting information to potentially form legislation.
- Service projects: National SAAC is strongly encouraging student-athletes to begin working with Habitat for Humanity. The MIAC SAAC is on track with the project they have planned for this spring.
- VII. **NCAA Double A-Zone** (Kelly Diercks)
Diercks showed MIAC SAAC members the NCAA Double A-Zone, an online blog for students and coaches. There are many good features and topics for student-athletes to read and react to. The NCAA is encouraging broad participation in the blogs. Posts are monitored and approved in order to avoid the site becoming a place for banter. If there are new issues, student-athletes are encouraged to post about them. The NCAA is especially interested in Division III involvement so SAAC members are encouraged to share this information with their campus SAAC. Site: www.doubleazone.com
- VIII. **New MIAC Website** (Matt Ten Haken)
The MIAC is excited to be implementing a new conference website which will be launched in July. There will be a consistent design with increased functionality and ease of use. Sports information directors will be able to update results which will automatically update the MIAC website. The goal is for the MIAC website to be the central site for MIAC information. SAAC is encouraged to contact Ten Haken if have they have any thoughts or suggestions on the SAAC page or the website in general.
- IX. **Upcoming MIAC AD meeting** (Dan McKane)
- McKane discussed key items that will be covered at the upcoming March AD's meeting. He will bring SAAC's thoughts forward to the ADs on these issues.
- SAAC members were encouraged to speak with their ADs and also encourage their women's teams to speak with their ADs about the use of male practice players.
- McKane informed SAAC that there are many people who feel Division III has grown too large. Currently there is investigation of a Division 4 or a Division 3A and 3AA. This will be a very hot topic in the year to come and if student-athletes have any thoughts on the issue they should contact their AD. McKane will update SAAC as he receives more information.
- The MIAC is approaching its 25th year of having women's athletics and is looking for ideas as to how to best celebrate this occasion. Anyone with ideas can contact McKane or Diercks.
- The March ADs meeting will review basketball doubleheaders. McKane asked for SAAC's thoughts as student-athletes and fans. The general consensus among SAAC members was that the early game was difficult for the students and community to attend and it is a lot of time for a fan to devote to basketball. SAAC also felt that the crowds at women's games had been affected. McKane noted that the MIAC is investigating weekend-only double headers.
- X. **Best Practices on Campuses** (Open Discussion)
- Carleton: SAAC will put on a spring youth camps for all sports. They collected \$461 in change from fans at basketball games and donated to Northfield youth sports.
- Saint Benedict: The CSB/SJU will hold its annual "athletic formal" this spring with proceeds donated to Special Olympics. CSB is planning a Women's Walk fundraiser that will be held this spring. They are looking for it to be an annual event and a major fundraiser. Also planning a "Faculty Dessert" this spring to thank faculty for their support.
- St. Catherine: Looking into a wrap up activity to get student-athletes together one last time.
- Saint Mary's: Holding an Easter egg hunt where the prizes are redeemable at a spring athletic contest.
- St. Olaf: Softball/Baseball bingo game. The Go Oles! Sportsmanship shirts are a huge success.
- St. Thomas: UST is updating their athletic facilities and SAAC is encouraging administration to put more pictures of current student-athletes on the walls.
- XI. **Election of New Officers for 2007-2008** (Dan McKane)
SAAC chose to wait to hold elections until next fall when conference SAAC reps have been decided by each institution.
- XII. **MIAC SAAC Bylaws**
Last year the date of the third SAAC meeting was altered. It has also been recommended that the September meeting be pushed back one week to allow SAAC representatives to meet with their institutional SAACs before the first MIAC SAAC meeting.
Motion: Bylaw IV. Fall Meeting – 2nd Sunday Following Labor Day / Spring Meeting – 3rd Sunday in Feb. **Vote: 13-0**
*Also, there is desire to place SAAC bylaws in the MIAC Policy Book (appendix).