

MIAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
Winter 2008 Meeting/ February 17th, 2008 (Sunday) – 1:00pm
Bethel University- Robertson Physical Education Center – Room #227

Present: Jacci Mattern and Brian Jungwirth (AUG); Brad Dahlman (BU); Sara Burns, Kellen Feeney, and Doug Byrnes (HU); Marisa Raether and Oliva Abbott (MAC); Jackie Hoeft (CSB); Sarah Meissner and Rebecca Zenefski (CSC); Trent Novotny (SJU); Courtney Sekevitch (UST); Emily Pankow (National SAAC); Dan McKane, Matt Ten Haken and Kelly Diercks (MIAC).

I. Call to order – 1:00pm Kelly Anderson Diercks (MIAC)

II. Introductions

III. MIAC Update– Dan McKane (MIAC)

- McKane began discussion with the new MIAC website (launched August 15th, 2008) and asked for thoughts and suggestions on enhancing and improving the website.
- Any ideas for the website or issues in athletics are to be passed along to Dan at dpmckane@miac-online.org

IV. NCAA Convention - Update (Kelly Anderson Diercks)

Diercks reviewed the proposals and results from the NCAA convention that took place in January.

- **Official Notice No. 4:** Text messaging – Electronic communication from coaches to prospective student-athletes is limited to electronic mail and facsimiles. This prohibits institutions from sending intrusive and impersonal forms of electronic information (i.e. text messaging and instant messaging). Convention results: **PASSED**
- **Official Notice No. 6:** Playing and practice seasons – permits an institution to “make up” a conference postseason contest that has been suspended or canceled due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, provided the contest is necessary to determine the conference champion or automatic qualifier to the NCAA championship. Convention results: **PASSED**
- **Official Notice No. 7:** Basketball (first contest date) – In basketball, to specify that a member institution shall not play its first contest (game or scrimmage) with outside competition before November 15th. Convention results: **PASSED**
- **Official Notice No. 8:** Male Practice Player use – Limitations put on male practice player use in a women’s sport would be limited to one practice per week and the male participants would not exceed half the number of student-athletes of a typical starting unit in the sport. Convention results: **PASSED**
- **Official Notice No. 9:** Athletic sports-safety personnel - At least one individual employed by the institution certified in first aid, CPR and AED use and familiar with the institution’s emergency plan activation policies must be present at each athletically related activity involving student-athletes. Convention results: **FAILED**

V. NCAA Membership Issues (Future of DIII) Matt Ten Haken (MIAC)

The future of Division III has been under considerable debate recently. Because of differing philosophies and characteristics of institutions and conferences, suggestions have been made to split up the division into a sub-division or a completely new division. Matt Ten Haken introduced the process of evaluation that is currently taking place within the NCAA.

- Currently there are approximately 420 institutions within Division III.
- In order to split into a new division, approximately 150 schools would need to be willing to move.
- This division has no guidelines as of now, but this new division would most likely have more restrictive legislation which could include shorter playoffs and reduced non-traditional seasons.
- A survey due March. 7th, will be submitted by all presidents of DIII institutions to start the process of gathering information about this topic. This survey will take into account feedback from administrators, coaches and students.
- The information from the survey will be compiled and a group will meet in March to evaluate and release results.
- A potential vote for a new division could occur in January 2009 at the NCAA convention.
- The new division would not start until 2011 or 2012 at the earliest if that would be the case.

After the information was presented, discussion was opened up to SAAC. Many voiced opinions that reflected the possible stigma of a Division IV title on an institution’s athletic programs. Information about the debate on the new division is accessible online at www.ncaa.org – click on the Division III homepage. It is very important to start discussion on your campuses with student-athletes to educate them about the current issues and start forming opinions to represent the student vote. Bring all issues and opinions to your athletic director or email National SAAC rep Emily Pankow (pankem07@gmail.com) or the MIAC office.

VI. National SAAC – Update Emily Pankow (National SAAC Rep)

Because Pankow’s term will be ending in May, the MIAC will need to appoint a new National SAAC rep. This individual will start their 2 or 3 year term in May and attend the first conference with Pankow in July. All student-athletes interested in getting involved in athletics and are current first-years, sophomores, or juniors are encouraged to look into this great opportunity. Pankow mentioned that National SAAC meets 3 times per year (July, November and January) and the rep would also be required to attend 3 MIAC SAAC meetings and 1 IAC SAAC meeting. The National SAAC committee has 24 members who speak on behalf of the student-athletes and instigate changes in DIII. Information on how to apply and a

recap of Emily's experience has been emailed to all athletic directors. Interested student-athletes must apply before March 28th.

VII. NCAA Leadership Conference (Kelly Anderson Diercks and Dan McKane)

The NCAA DIII leadership conference that took place on January 25-27th, 2008 in Irving, TX was reviewed and discussed. The conference is intended to develop and enhance student-athlete leaders throughout all NCAA institutions, and each MIAC institution is invited to send 3-4 student athletes or administrators to attend. Each institution developed an action plan to be brought back to their campuses. SAAC Reps at the meeting that attended the conference then shared their action plans.

VIII. MIAC SAAC Projects (Kelly Anderson Diercks)

- Toys for Teens: The successful project collected over \$1,200 and 600 toys!
- Habitat for Humanity (Brush for Kindness): On April 12th, approximately three to four student-athletes from each MIAC institution are invited to participate in the event. It was noted that last year's Habitat for Humanity proved to be a rewarding experience for all institutions across the MIAC. This year, the hope is to generate an increase in attendance and use this as an opportunity for athletes across the MIAC to interact. The exact location will be determined later this spring.
- Possible International Project Idea: Doug Byrnes (Hamline SAAC Advisor) introduced an opportunity for students to get involved with Parag V. Patel, Director of Cardiac Intensive Care at Advocated Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. His mission to get medical supplies to Kenya and other African countries in desperate need led Byrnes to introduce this project to MIAC SAAC. Unsure of what exact steps that could be taken, Byrnes suggested that any interested individuals contact Parag (paragvpatel@comcast.net or 224-875-1631) or himself (dbyrnes@hamline.edu or 651-206-7796 cell or 651-523-2383 work) to receive further information.

IX. Student-Athlete Well Being – NCAA Grant (Kelly Anderson Diercks)

The 2008-2009 NCAA grant will include topics surrounding student-athlete well being. To start generating ideas, Diercks asked SAAC reps to list off some possible themes that could be used. The list included: 1.) Nutrition – dining hours, availability, and food choice 2.) Stress management 3.) Sleep – relaxation techniques 4.) Injury prevention 5.) Health insurance coverage 6.) Time management 7.) Work/athletic balance and 8.) Leadership development.

X. MIAC SAAC Website

The MIAC SAAC website is looking for improvements, and SAAC began suggesting ideas that included: 1.) Adding photos; 2.) Including more links on each MIAC SAAC website; 3.) Creating SAAC sites for each school; 4.) Writing updates or recaps of what SAAC is doing; 5.) Creating a SAAC contact list with photos or action shots of athletes; 6.) Blogging. Because blogging might be difficult for the website to handle, the NCAA's official blog, the Double-a Zone, (<http://www.doubleazone.com/>) was mentioned (there is a link on the MIAC SAAC webpage).

XI. MIAC Championship Enhancement (Kelly Anderson Diercks)

To help improve the student-athlete experience, Diercks asked for suggestions that would help enhance and improve championships in the MIAC. Some ideas included: 1.) Improving quality of metals/awards; 2.) Creating a ceremony at the end of the Track and Field conference meet with a possible podium; 3.) Team plaques; 4.) Improve athletic training at championships. A survey will be created and distributed to institutions and athletes will be asked to fill them out at the preseason meeting at the beginning of the year.

XII. Best Practices

Institutions suggested ideas for student-athlete activities that are fun and involve all teams on campus. One successful program at St Bens/St Johns was an athletic formal that invited all teams from both institutions to participate in a dinner/dance event that helped raise money for the Special Olympics. Macalester athletes participated in a "Think Pink" program that helped raise over \$750 for breast cancer research. Augsburg mentioned their annual softball tournament which is a fun event to get 8 teams of athletes outside and having a good time in the spring.

Adjourned: 2:55pm

Next year's MIAC SAAC meetings:

- Fall Meeting – 2nd Sunday following Labor Day (September 14th, 2008)
- Winter Meeting – 2nd Sunday following Thanksgiving (December 7th, 2008)
- Spring Meeting – 3rd Sunday in February (February 15th, 2009)