

MIAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
Fall 2009 Meeting
Sunday, September 20th, 2009 – 1 p.m.
Macalester College- Leonard Center- Conference Room

Present: Gaby Hammerlinck & Kelly Anderson-Diercks (AUG), Eric Johnson & Annie Beasley (BU), Maddy Lenhard (CAR), Julia Schultz & Brittany Holm (GAC), Javan Copley (HU), Will Chen & Marie Godwin (MAC), Andrea Millerbernd & Abby Richardson (CSB), Kayla Bergerson & Kelley Holmes (SCU), Andrew Sollom & Tom Hoffman (SJU), Lindsey Hickman & Karin Christensen (STO), Mark Geskermann & Nikki Arola (UST) and Dan McKane, Matt Ten Haken and Brittany Feser (MIAC).

I. Call to order - 1:05 p.m.

II. Introductions/SAAC Goals (Brittany Feser)

MIAC staff members were introduced. Brittany discussed the goal for SAAC this year as doing what we do on our campuses and doing it well. She emphasized not attempting to become the biggest and best student organization on campus, since there are so many.

III. DIII National SAAC Update (Marie Godwin)

NCAA National SAAC Member Marie Godwin (Macalester) was in attendance. She talked about her role as an NCAA National SAAC member. Marie will be the voice of the MIAC SAAC members and will take our thoughts on certain issues to the NCAA Convention and National SAAC. Marie discussed the possibility of tracking graduation rates of student-athletes at the Division III level and asked for the group's input. It's something being discussed at the national level that Division I and II already do. Numerous representatives were in favor of this proposal because it would be a good way to show what we accomplish as DIII student athletes. The idea of tracking GPA was also brought up as a possibility.

IV. Election of new MIAC SAAC officers (Brittany Feser)

Chair: Gaby Hammerlinck (AUG); Chair meetings; assist in setting meeting agenda; represent Committee
Co-Chair: Maddy Lenhard (CAR); Chair meetings in absence of Chair; assist Chair; monitor Committee work
Secretary: Nikki Arola (UST); Record minutes; maintain attendance records; and prepare legislation record votes
Treasurer: Will Chen (MAC); Work with SAAC Advisor on financial issues; come up with ideas to spend grant money

V. Communication Strategies (Brittany Feser)

The group did a team-building activity to take back to campus SAAC groups. The activity helps individuals understand how they learn and relate to others based on different personality traits. Brittany discussed the weekly e-mails she'll be sending to all of the SAAC representatives and members each Monday titled the "MIAC SAAC Weekly Update".

VI. MIAC SAAC Community Service Projects (Brittany Feser)

Brittany discussed a bigger emphasis on Toys for Teens this year and suggested getting a jump start on collecting donations. The group discussed possible strategies for collecting donations; collecting at games, team banquets, and special student-athlete donation days were all suggested as ideas. Brittany also discussed the possibility of doing Rebuilding Together-Twin Cities in the fall and spring to give spring sport athletes the opportunity to participate in the fall. She has been in contact with people from Rebuilding Together and talked about a project in Wayzata rehabilitating an apartment building. The group was in favor of doing this in both the fall and spring and Brittany said she would get back to us with dates.

VII. Best Practices on Campuses (Brittany Feser)

Representatives from Saint Benedict, Gustavus, and Augsburg presented the projects/activities their SAAC groups do on campus. Bethel, St. Thomas, Saint John's, and St. Olaf were assigned to create information sheets on their campus projects/activities for the December SAAC meeting. Brittany again emphasized focusing on doing what we do well on our campuses and being advocates for the student-athletes.

VIII. Student-Athlete Leadership Conferences (Brittany Feser)

- Brittany discussed the upcoming NCAA DIII Student-Athlete Leadership Conference in Dallas, TX in October. She urged every institution to send representatives; 8 of the 13 MIAC schools currently are sending student-athletes. The deadline was extended to Wednesday, September 23, so there is still time for students to sign up.

- The possibility of a MIAC Student-Athlete Leadership Conference was discussed. It's possibly in the works for 2011-2012. It would be in the summer over a weekend allowing 10-15 student-athletes from each institution to participate. This conference could take place every 2 or 4 years using the NCAA Strategic Initiatives Grant. SAAC representatives were urged to discuss the possibility of this conference with SAAC advisors and the Athletic Directors to gauge interest.

IX. NCAA Grant (Brittany Feser)

- Each MIAC institution will receive \$185 to supplement SAAC operations on campus. The group discussed ways to best utilize these funds. Suggestions included food for meetings, an all-athlete food gathering, posters for events, and t-shirts. It is emphasized that this money cannot be used for give-aways.
- Brittany gave a quick oversight on how institutions utilized their NCAA Strategic Initiatives Grant the previous year. Many schools used it to bring in speakers; for special equipment, purchasing AEDs etc. Brittany told us about the theme for next year, which is sportsmanship, and suggested starting to think about what to do with this topic.

X. NCAA Items to Consider (Dan McKane)

- The committee received a handout describing changes in NCAA rules from 2009, proposed laws for 2010, and MIAC Hot Topics for discussion. New NCAA bylaws of note include the allowance of coaches to provide voluntary individual-specific workout programs during the off-season and the prohibition of fundraising for individual athletes.
- Proposed NCAA bylaws for 2010 include an addition to the Division III philosophy statement, and rule requiring non-traditional seasons to end 5 days before finals, and the allowance of alumni games during the non-traditional season without losing a season of participation.
- Hot topics in the MIAC include a greater emphasis on sportsmanship, an emergency/contingency action plan to prepare for H1N1, and the new redshirt transfer rule being enacted in the MIAC this year.

Adjourned: 2:30 p.m.

Minutes by Nikki Arola (UST), MIAC SAAC Secretary