

MIAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
Winter 2009 Meeting - Sunday, December 6, 2009 – 1 p.m.
Macalester College - Leonard Center - Hall of Fame Room

Present: Gaby Hamerlinck (AUG), Eric Johnson, Joel Cassens & Annie Beasley (BU), Paul Lillehauger & Britney Barnett (CON), Andrew Valen (GAC), Jessica Johnson & Javan Copley (HU), Will Chen & Marie Godwin (MAC), Andrea Millerbernd (CSB), Sami Larson (SCU), Tom Hoffman (SJU), Lindsey Hickman & Karin Christensen (ST), Sam Moen & Nikki Arola (UST), Dan McKane, Matt Ten Haken & Brittany Feser (MIAC)

I. Call to order - 1:05 pm

II. DIII NCAA National SAAC Update (Marie Godwin/Dan McKane)

NCAA National SAAC representative Marie Godwin (Macalester) and Dan McKane spoke about the upcoming NCAA Convention and presented the NCAA legislative items that will be voted on. Dan stated the proposal and gave background on the issue. Marie provided the National SAAC opinion on each item. Voting took place as a group.

1. DIII philosophy statement that will include Presidents having a valued role (No vote, just discussed)
2. Transfer regulations, Two-year non-participation exception (Passed 17-0)
3. Deregulating tryout rule (coaches doing youth/club coaching outside of 50 miles of the school) (Passed: 17-0)
4. Allow coaches to monitor facilities (Passed: 16-1)
5. Nontraditional season must end 5 business days before finals (Failed: 6-9-2)
 - Issues: Golf concern in spring. What about schools on the quarter system? No consistency between schools?
6. Football - during 5 day acclimation period - allow 1 hour walk through session per day (Passed: 17-0)
7. Hardship waivers - base calculation on maximum allowable contests (Passed: 17-0)
8. Alumni contest and competition in non-traditional season will not trigger a season of eligibility (Passed: 17-0)
9. Alumni Contest Date at any time during playing season (Passed 17-0)

Brittany also mentioned that the NCAA has legislative videos may be found online outlining all the legislative proposals. SAAC members were encouraged to watch them with their SAAC groups. The link is as follows:

http://www.ncaa.org/wps/ncaa?key=/ncaa/ncaa/ncaa+news/ncaa+news+online/2009/division+iii/diii+video+series+previews+2010+proposals_11_03_09_ncaa_news

III. NCAA DIII Identity (Brittany Feser)

Brittany talked about the NCAA DIII Identity and how this is going to be a big topic of discussion at the upcoming NCAA Convention. The NCAA is unveiling a platform initiative at the Convention and starting a branding initiative. The slogan is "Follow your passions and discover your potential". Discussion ensued over the following question: What would we (the student-athletes) say about DIII to others?

1. Academics come first
2. We are encouraged to pursue interests outside of sports/school
3. More of a community feeling between teams, but also the conference overall
4. Real passion for sports, but high skills levels among the student-athletes

IV. MIAC Identity (Brittany Feser)

The NCAA Identity discussion flowed into a MIAC Identity discussion, and Brittany asked all of us the following four questions and then collected our answers:

1. Did you learn anything about the MIAC after enrolling at your institution that surprised you (in athletics)?
2. What does being a part of the MIAC mean to you?
3. Why did you choose to attend your particular institution?
4. How would you like the NCAA market Division III?

Responses to these questions will be used to voice the opinion of the MIAC by the student-athletes within the MIAC and to the NCAA over the next few months. Findings will be echoed within the MIAC to administrators and coaches as necessary.

V. FAR/Student-Athlete Relationship and National SAAC Discussion (Marie Godwin)

One of the topics discussed at the National SAAC level is the relationship of the FAR within athletics, and more specifically with student-athletes. Many student-athletes do not know what an FAR is or who they are on their campus, which posed concern at the national level. We learned that FAR's are an important resource for student-athletes to turn to with issues that are academically related, as student-athletes. The FAR is a liaison between student-athletes and faculty members to help deal with issues that may come up. Students were asked to find out who their FAR is and invite them to a SAAC meeting. At our next MIAC SAAC meeting, we are to bring our FAR name and report on how each institution started building a relationship with them.

VI. Communication Strategies and Best Practices (Gaby Hamerlink)

Discussion was held on the effectiveness of the handouts received at the first MIAC SAAC meeting, indicating what other institutions do on their campuses with descriptions and contact information. Gaby Hamerlink (Augsburg) talked about how they started using CSB's buddies program with their Fall sports and that it is going really well.

Four schools presented their events at this meeting: Bethel, St. Olaf, St. Thomas and Saint John's. At our next meeting the following schools will present their information: Carleton, Macalester, Concordia, Saint Mary's, Hamline, and St. Catherine.

VII. MIAC SAAC Community Service Projects (Brittany Feser)

Everyone gave the group an update on what they've been doing for Toys for Teens and how they have been doing with collections. Brittany reminded the group of the December 15th drop off date at KARE 11 for the 10 p.m. news. Brittany will need names of people attending and information on number of toys and money collected in order to create a giant check to present. Our Rebuilding Together community service date will be on a Saturday in mid-to-end of April.

VIII. Special Olympics (Marie Godwin)

Marie presented that National SAAC is considering a possible pairing with Special Olympics at the DIII level. Can we see this group doing this? Carleton does something with Special Olympics already. If we do Special Olympics we may have to eliminate one of our other service projects. It was brought up that we could possibly alternate with Rebuilding Together and Special Olympics in the fall/spring. Students liked the idea because it was a service opportunity that related to sports and athletes, plus the rotation gave more people an opportunity to help out. It was decided that we need more information on logistics before we can make any decisions. It will be looked at again for our next meeting.

IX. U.S. Census (Brittany Feser)

Saint Benedict, St. Olaf, St. Catherine, and the MIAC office each applied for this funding opportunity.

X. Student Athlete Leadership Conferences (Will Chen/Brittany Feser)

Will provided a recap of the National DIII Leadership Conference in Dallas in October. Some of the things that they talked about were the DiSC assessment, personality styles, branding team/self, and team building activities.

Brittany provided an update on the MIAC student-athlete leadership conference, which was approved by the ADs and FARs. It will take place June 2011 at Saint Mary's. Each institution will be allowed to send 10-12 student-athletes. The goal, financially, is to make it free for each student-athlete who attends, utilizing the NCAA Conference Grant. Institutions will be able to decide on their own how to choose representatives to send to the conference. Programming includes ropes course, orienteering, hiking, kick ball, student-athlete Olympics, speakers, and other activities focused on team-building, leadership, health and wellness and student-athlete well-being.

XI. Text Messaging Prospective Student-Athletes (Dan McKane/Marie Godwin)

The group briefly discussed thoughts on coaches text messaging prospective student-athletes. There were mixed feelings on the subject and it will be further discussed at the February meeting.

XII. Final Thoughts

The possibility of conference wide all-star games or MIAC/WIAC all-star games was brought up. Brittany will bring this idea to the ADs for discussion in March.

Adjourned: 3:05 p.m.

Next MIAC SAAC meeting is Sunday, February 21st at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes by Nikki Arola (UST), MIAC SAAC Secretary