

**MIAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee**  
**Fall 2010 Meeting**  
**Sept. 19, 2001 (Sunday) – 1 p.m.**  
**St. Catherine University, Couer De Catherine – Room 355**

Present: Rick Wolke, Jennifer Pulscher (Augsburg); Caitie Helle, Haley Toter (Bethel); Alison Smyth, Maddy Lenhard (Carleton); Javan Copley, Rebecca McLaughlin (Hamline); Patrick Piepkorn (Macalester); Katie Lambert (Saint Benedict); Kris Wessinger, Kelley Holmes, Kelsey Luedtke, Kayla Bergeson, Sara (St. Catherine); Mitch Bidleman, Brandon Kasper (Saint John's); Fritz Waldvogel, Becky Theisen (St. Thomas); Marie Godwin (National SAAC Representative); Dan McKane, Matt Higgins, Sara Eisenhauer (MIAC).

**I. Call to Order** – 1:03 p.m. (Dan McKane)

**II. Introductions** (McKane)

McKane introduced himself and MIAC staff. SAAC members introduced themselves.

**III. MIAC SAAC Overview** (McKane)

McKane provided an overview of the SAAC materials on the MIAC website, including committee bylaws. McKane spoke about SAAC roles on campuses, including how to influence change.

**IV. MIAC SAAC Nominations and Officer Vote** (McKane)

McKane highlighted SAAC positions and duties: chair, co-chair, secretary, treasurer. 2010-11 MIAC- SAAC officers - Chair: Jennifer Pulscher (AUG); Co-Chair: Katie Lambert (CSB); Treasurer: Rick Wolke (AUG); Secretary: Brandon Kasper (SJU).

**V. NCAA National SAAC Update** (Marie Godwin)

Godwin explained her role as national SAAC representative for the MIAC/UMAC. She is in her third and final year of her term, and next year the representative will come from the UMAC. Godwin takes concerns from institutional/conference level SAAC to the national level. Division III is only division that has students sit on the management council.

Godwin provided an update on topics discussed at the July national SAAC meeting. Drug education and the drug testing pilot in Division III was discussed and the national SAAC position is not to mandate drug testing throughout the year but to provide resources for testing and education. Transgender athletes were discussed; more information will be available on this topic this year. Sports wagering in Division III was discussed, and SAAC discussed doing outreach to high schools about ethical practices concerning sports wagering. McKane added that there is heightened concussion awareness throughout the NCAA this year.

**VI. MIAC Update** (Matt Higgins, McKane, Sara Eisenhauer)

Higgins gave an overview of some new items on the MIAC web site and the MIAC new ventures into social media. He encouraged SAAC members to connect to the conference through social networking sites and to promote with their teams and schools. McKane said he will be sending a weekly SAAC email to all members providing updates on items going on in the conference and NCAA. Eisenhauer discussed the SAAC portion of the MIAC website and asked SAAC members to contact her with feedback for improvements.

**VII. MIAC Community Service Projects** (McKane, Eisenhauer, Higgins)

McKane reported that the MIAC will no longer do Toys for Teens as a conference, but individual campuses can if they choose. The MIAC will still participate with Rebuilding Together Twin Cities for a spring project. New this year, MIAC institutions are asked to partner with Special Olympics, per NCAA request. The MIAC has made contact with the local Special Olympics chapter and will distribute contact information for each school in the near future. Each institution will be asked to develop a plan to work with Special Olympics. Godwin stated the NCAA will provide additional information- by February.

Higgins spoke on an idea about service opportunities for campus SAAC groups at the local Ronald McDonald house. Additional information will be provided about this opportunity later this fall.

**VIII. NCAA Update** (McKane)

McKane discussed 2011 NCAA Convention proposals. McKane will follow-up with an e-mail in October requesting each campus SAAC group to provide feedback on each proposal to Godwin. Godwin said national SAAC will decide its stances on these issues in November, so she encouraged the MIAC SAAC to formulate and share opinions prior to the December MIAC SAAC meeting.

Highlights of select proposals for 2011 NCAA Convention:

- **Fundraising:** Individuals can use fundraising money they raise for individual team-related expenses. Godwin said national SAAC is split and sees pros and cons. Copley voiced a concern about different students' financial situations and how it may make fundraising easier or more difficult for certain students.

- **Triathlons:** This rule would allow individuals that participate in triathlons to collect prize money to cover their actual and necessary expenses for the event (travel, etc.).

- **Strength and Conditioning:** McKane explained the proposal and the MIAC's rationale for sponsoring it. A few were opposed to this change because of the similarity to the Division I model. Others were in favor because of the benefit to off-season training. McKane asked for an unofficial show of hands in favor or opposed to the proposal (70% in favor, 30% against).

- **Expansion of official team parties for postseason NCAA travel:** The proposal would allow for an institution to take all team members with for NCAA championship events, but the institution would need to pay for any extra students beyond the current limits. Wolke said that not all teams may be able to afford this, but he sees nothing wrong with it competitively. Bidleman talked about the size of football rosters and how it would hamper their budget. He also said it may affect the team aspect. Theisen said it would be a benefit for basketball because of the smaller team size. Godwin said the national SAAC is in favor but administrators were not because of inequities.

The Division III identity and branding campaign, such as the new website and credit for new branding materials, was discussed. McKane gave a report on the MIAC's NCAA grant and how it helps operate SAAC at the conference and institutional level. Each MIAC institutions will receive \$175 towards SAAC use (travel to MIAC meeting, meetings, etc.).

McKane discussed various resources that are available to help SAAC, such as the NCAA "Getting in the Game" website and the SAAC tab with a video and other resources ([www.ncaagetinthegame.org](http://www.ncaagetinthegame.org)). There is also a SAAC- page on the NCAA Web site. McKane encouraged everyone to sign up for NCAA News Direct to receive daily emails about the top stories in the NCAA.

#### **IX. MIAC Leadership Conference** (McKane, Eisenhower)

The MIAC will sponsor a leadership conference for student-athletes August 5-7, 2011 hosted Saint Mary's. The conference is developing an informational packet to distribute to campuses by January 2011. The plan is to have 10 student-athletes attend from each institution. The conference is developing speaker topics throughout the fall. Suggestions from the group included- finding creative ways to break down barriers on campuses (integration) and a session discussing ways to deal with different personalities. McKane asked that SAAC members e-mail him if they think of other suggestions for topics.

McKane asked for ideas concerning the selection process for attendees. Kasper said team leaders and captains would be best since they could immediately benefit. Godwin said she agreed with team leaders, but hoped younger students would be included since they will be on campus longer.

#### **X. MIAC Strategic Plan** (McKane)

McKane highlighted areas of the MIAC strategic plan draft including branding, game atmosphere, and academic success and balance.

#### **XI. SAAC Best Practices**

Group discussion was held and a handout was distributed with some SAAC ideas. SCU discussed ways to get athletic support on campus like Wildcat Wednesdays. AUG holds a breast cancer awareness event and the money goes to cancer research and teams also show their support by wearing pink. In addition, they have pack the stands at games. UST holds an- all-athlete dinner/dance. Money raised is donated to a local charity. HU will focus on one or two big events such as a can drive for solar ovens sent to Africa. They also plan Code Red events to increase support at games. CSB is working with sustainability on its campus. Examples included reusing items like warm-ups and paper. MAC will have a food drive, hoops for hunger and dig pink.

McKane encouraged SAAC groups to do one or two things really well. He also encouraged them to work with their SAAC advisors, ADs, FARs, and other professionals on campus for ideas, support, etc. Eisenhower encouraged institutional SAAC groups to meet in more of a discussion group (rather than a typical classroom setting). Godwin said she used hot topics to get people talking at meetings, and she offered to help with ideas of things going on at a national level.

#### **XII. Upcoming SAAC meeting dates**

Dec. 5, 2010 (1 p.m.) and Feb. 20, 2011 (1 p.m.), both on the St. Catherine campus.

#### **XIII. MIAC SAAC picture and interviews**

Group photo was taken and student-athletes were interviewed on video for use on the MIAC website.

Adjourned 2:42 p.m.