

**MIAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee**  
**Winter/Spring Report - February 2011**  
**(report replaces snowed out February 20, 2011 meeting)**

**1. Special Olympics**

At the 2011 NCAA Convention, the Division III National SAAC formally announced its partnership with Special Olympics, the largest sports organization in the country. National SAAC believes the partnership with Special Olympics is a good fit because of the hands-on interaction and physical activity that Special Olympics' programs promote. This partnership continues to fulfill the student-athlete citizenship component that is already a part of institutional SAAC programs. National SAAC believes that channeling outreach efforts into working with Special Olympics organizations will allow for education, learning and growth by both Special Olympics athletes and Division III student-athletes alike.

The MIAC conference office staff met with Special Olympics Minnesota in mid January. Special Olympics Minnesota serves over 6,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities in 17 Olympic-type sports across the state of Minnesota. Special Olympics Minnesota hosts over 150 area competitions, six regional competitions and five annual statewide competitions. Volunteering opportunities with Special Olympics are available in the following areas: event management and day-of-event volunteering, coaching, officiating, athlete mentoring, merchandise sales, photography and medical support staff. The Special Olympics representatives stressed the need for volunteers as area and regional competitions.

Special Olympics hosts several Polar Plunge fundraisers across the state annually. There are several events left this year. If your institution is interested in participating, please visit [www.plungemn.org](http://www.plungemn.org) to learn more and register.

We encourage each institution to get involved with their local Special Olympics chapter to learn about volunteer opportunities for the remainder of this academic year and next fall. To find contact information and local events in your area, please visit the Areas and Delegations page of the Special Olympics website at [www.specialolympicsminnesota.org/Areas\\_Delegations.php](http://www.specialolympicsminnesota.org/Areas_Delegations.php).

At the Fall 2011 meeting, Special Olympics representatives and athletes will address conference SAAC members about the Special Olympics organization and volunteer opportunities.

**2. NCAA National SAAC Update**

Marie Godwin will provide a written National SAAC report to the MIAC next week. The MIAC would like to thank Marie for her NCAA and MIAC service and the valuable information she has provided us over the past few years while serving on national SAAC.

**3. MIAC and NCAA Update**

MIAC – The MIAC ADs meet on March 8. Recent discussion at administrator level focused on a strategic plan for the conference containing outreach & identity, resources, event atmosphere, and academic success & balance.

NCAA Legislation – The 2011 NCAA Convention and legislation is highlighted in an attachment provided with this communication. (see additional attachment)

Non-Traditional Season (NTS) student-athlete (SA) Survey - Several sports that have a NTS have requested either more practice opportunities or a contest. FARs agreed to survey SAs so they would have input. Currently we have received a fantastic response rate while collecting some valuable information. If the survey is deemed successful, it could translate to administrators endorsing additional SA surveys in the future so we allow for the student voice to be heard.

NCAA Internship Grant - The MIAC has applied for the NCAA Division III Ethnic Minority & Women's internship grant. The grant would allow the conference to hire one intern for two years. We will be informed by May if we are chosen. If not, we will be offering a semester long internship for the fall, which would be announced in May.

**4. MIAC Community Service Projects**

Rebuilding Together Twin Cities – Spring 2011 Project – This is a great opportunity to take part in a service project and give back to those that aren't as fortunate. In the past we have done sheet rock, paint, carpet removal, and general clean-up. Over the next month we will distribute more information including sign-up materials. Please try and find a few people from your campus to take part on Saturday, April 30. There will be morning and afternoon shifts available. Location will be announced as the date approaches.

## **5. 2011 MIAC Leadership Conference**

The inaugural MIAC Student-Athlete Leadership Conference will be held at Saint Mary's University in Winona, Minn. August 5-7, 2011. The goal of the conference is to educate student-athletes about leadership and a variety of issues in collegiate athletics, as well as allow student-athletes to interact with administrators and student-athletes from other conference institutions.

The selection process of participants will begin following the March 8 Athletic Directors meeting. At that meeting, administrators will discuss best practices for selecting participants and receive forms to be sent to selected participants. Each institution will be allowed to send ten student-athletes. Each institution is encouraged to send participants varying in year, sport, gender (for multiple-gender institutions) and leadership experience. Incoming freshmen and transfer students are not allowed to participate in the conference due to NCAA rules.

MIAC SAAC members are encouraged to talk to their administrators if you have ideas about the selection process, are interested in participating or want to be a facilitator for the conference.

## **6. NCAA Bylaws – Wagering (gambling) Update**

Please remind your fellow student-athletes of NCAA rules regarding gambling. Student-athletes could lose eligibility if they are found to have gambled on collegiate or professional sports. The MIAC has put together the NCAA bylaws and educational information pertaining to gambling. It is a good idea to communicate the gambling restrictions to student-athletes during this time of year. ([see additional attachment](#))