

MIAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Spring 2012 Meeting
Sunday, February 19, 2012 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
University of St. Thomas –Anderson Athletic Complex (Room 302)

Present: Charise Kendrick (Bethel), Hannah Knickerbocker (Concordia), Bethany Hine, Alec Grimm (Hamline), Patrick Piepkorn, Sara Eisenhauer (Macalester), Chelsie Sobieck (Saint Benedict), Deanne Schmidt, Katie McDonald (St. Olaf), Fritz Waldvogel, Traci Pastoors (St. Thomas), Kelli Hamilton (National SAAC Rep.), Dan McKane, Matt Higgins, Natalie Arians (MIAC)

Not represented: Augsburg, Carleton, Gustavus, St. Catherine, Saint John's, Saint Mary's

I. Call to Order and Introductions – 1:05 p.m.

II. Motivation and Leadership Speaker

Johnny Tauer, St. Thomas Head Men's Basketball Coach and Psychology Professor, presented to the group regarding leadership. Tauer, who has a PhD in social psychology, has conducted research on how competition, cooperation and goal setting affect motivation. Tauer presented regarding motivation and leadership as it pertains to athletics, specifically how leaders are formed, and the necessity of leaders working together. Tauer discussed the negatives and positives associated with conformity among leaders and the importance of trust within a team. Three types of communication were presented – verbal, non-verbal and paralinguistic. Members collaborated for an exercise in which they utilized each form of communication independent of the other forms. Tauer discussed the process in building leaders as it relates to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs by stating that first a person needs to feel safe and develop trust. Once this happens, teammates can truly care about others and be passionate about their team.

III. Creating a resume that highlights the student-athlete experience

Chelsie Sobieck presented information from a resume workshop on the Saint Benedict campus that was geared toward student-athletes. Sobieck discussed the importance of prioritizing experiences based on relevance to your objective and how to translate athletic involvement to a professional career by stressing important skills such as time management, dedication, being a team player, resolving conflicts and managing communication. The group was reminded to focus on practical skills learned from being an athlete that may help in a specific career. Sobieck also suggested an online portfolio such as efoliominnesota.com. Matt Higgins provided additional recommendations for resumes and interviews. Higgins stated the importance of including relevant experience, and using active verbs on a resume while tailoring your resume to each job offer. Higgins recommended analyzing and addressing all weaknesses relating to a specific position and being prepared to discuss them in an interview. He also reminded the group to be professional at all times during an interview and to be prepared to discuss yourself, education, and work experience, not your personal life.

IV. NCAA National SAAC

Kelli Hamilton (U of M – Morris), our national SAAC representative, provided an update regarding SAAC initiatives. Hamilton stated that National SAAC is encouraging student-athletes to build relationships with their Sports Information Directors. The group was reminded that Division III week will take place in April and of the continued partnership with Special Olympics. The group was updated regarding important Convention Legislation. Hamilton stated the Sickle Cell legislation was referred to the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports for further review. The group was informed that the text messaging legislation passed and coaches are now allowed to use text messaging in the recruiting process and that the use of social media is still prohibited as this legislation was withdrawn from the convention floor.

V. MIAC and NCAA Governance Update

Dan McKane provided an update regarding important MIAC and NCAA items of note.

- A. Non-Traditional Season.** The group was informed that the MIAC legislation to increase the number of non-traditional season practice dates failed at the presidential level.
- B. Hudl.** The group was informed that the MIAC has entered into a film exchange and editing agreement with Hudl and that all sports now have the option to have access to film exchange and editing.
- C. NCAA Sports Wagering Rules.** A reminder was given regarding NCAA sports wagering rules that prohibit student-athletes and staff from wagering on any sport that the NCAA sponsors by placing a wager or paying an entry fee for an opportunity to win a prize.
- D. Strategic Plan.** Matt Higgins provided an update regarding the MIAC value statement and stated that the Identity Committee valued the input from the MIAC SAAC members.

VI. Division III Week

Natalie Arians provided details about the first ever NCAA Division III week stating the week is scheduled for April 9-15. The goal of the week is to call attention to the activities and accomplishments of student-athletes by scheduling public events during the week on every Division III campus. The NCAA is encouraging each institution to highlight academics, athletics or co-curricular or extra-curricular

engagement during the week. The group was informed that signage and promotional materials will be sent to each Division III institution in early March. Arians provided examples of ways to partake in the week: take time during a game to acknowledge student-athlete academic achievements, have a faculty member serve as a guest coach for practice or competition, youth sports clinic or competition, recognize athletic accomplishments during a game, community-service activity, or partner with Special Olympics during the week.

VII. Best Practice Discussion

The group shared institutional SAAC activities, plans and ideas.

- A. Highlight a new SAAC initiative on your campus.** The initiatives shared were a shoe drive, support a sport, red carpet event, Special Olympics pancake breakfast, career night, student-athlete appreciation day, networking with alumni event
- B. Update regarding your main institutional SAAC project this year.** The projects shared were an athletic awards banquet, ice cream social, polar plunge, athletic formal, and volunteering at the Special Olympics Spring Games
- C. Discuss one challenging item with SAAC this year.** A number of members shared their challenges with lack of attendance, lack of support from athletic administration, lack of support from coaches, lack of accountability to attend meetings and events and lack of funding as issues facing institutional SAACs. Other members suggested having a SAAC representative attend athletic staff meetings and reaching out to athletic directors seeking their support as ways to attempt to strengthen SAAC on campus.
- D. Share Special Olympics involvement.** The group shared the activities they have already taken part in or plan to take part in with Special Olympics. The activities stated were the Spring Games, polar plunge, having a couch for seating at home games and taking donations for Special Olympics, a pancake breakfast, athletic formal and regional basketball.

VIII. MIAC SAAC 2012-2013

Natalie Arians shared some best practice suggestions for improving the MIAC and institutional SAACs and asked the group for additional suggestions. The group was reminded that one underclassman and one upperclassman should be MIAC SAAC representatives as this offers consistency to the conference SAAC and may help strengthen institutional SAACs. It was suggested that SAAC Advisors attend institutional SAAC meetings and that Compliance Officers be invited to attend institutional SAAC meetings where NCAA legislation is discussed.

IX. Special Olympics

An update was provided regarding the Division III/Special Olympics partnership and the group was reminded of reporting methods to the MIAC office and NCAA. Arians informed the group that the Special Olympics Spring Games will be held at the University of St. Thomas March 23-25 and that 600 volunteers are needed. The idea of incorporating the Special Olympics partnership at MIAC pre-determined site Championships was suggested and the SAAC members were supportive of the idea and suggested potentially incorporating an event for Special Olympics athletes.

X. College Leadership Seminar – Dr. Michael Dunphy

Michael Dunphy will be presenting on March 21, 2012 at Macalester College from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on situational leadership, alcohol, gender equity and diversity. MIAC SAAC members are invited to attend and an email invitation will be sent following the meeting.

XI. Adjournment – 3:02 p.m.