

MIAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee Winter 2012 Meeting

Sunday, December 2, 2012 – 1:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Present: Mary Hildestad, Eric Dooley and Kelly Anderson Diercks (AUG), Megan Matson (BU), Danny Shields (CAR), Dominic Fraboni (CON), Tim Miller, Meagan Wanecke (GAC), Kathryn Gaydos (CSB), Casey Benford and Leeana Manthe (HU), Erin Stenseth (SMU), Alli Witt (SCU), Susie Kelinek, Emma Crumley, Kelsey Bean, Nora Forbes (STO), Dan McKane, Matt Higgins, Afton Goebel (MIAC), Kelli Hamilton (National SAAC)

I. Call to order: 1:02 p.m. (Matt Higgins)

Afton took attendance and explained the conference call. She asked for the contact information of those that were not at the first MIAC meeting.

II. NCAA National SAAC Update (Kelli Hamilton)

Kelli discussed the national SAAC meeting in November, talked about the legislation using the feedback MIAC SAAC members gave and recommended to get to know Faculty Athletic Representative better. Two ideas were presented to improve relations: more honesty from the student athletes (i.e. departure times), and if the student is struggling to come to the FAR with a problem and a solution. Kelli encouraged working with SID to see them more than just a person who does stats – maybe come to them with a story idea. Dan reported that FARs want additional engagement and to know what works with FAR. He suggested inviting them to a meeting to figure out how the student-athlete FAR relationship can work better. Kelli reported that the Special Olympic made a lot of money but wanted to highlight over 240,000 hours of student athlete volunteer hours. St. Catherine was nominated for DIII spotlight poll for Special Olympics involvement during the month of November. Kelli outlined DIII Week which is April 8th-14th. It is on the internet now with an app on iPhone. For men's basketball, DI, DII, and DIII championships are all at the same place at the same time in honor of 75th anniversary. NCAA is looking at this main hub for other sports national championships.

III. 2013 NCAA Convention Legislative Proposal Updates

Dan introduced several of the proposals with the voting taking place in January. There is a Q&A on each proposal that will be sent out this week as well as a set of videos regarding the proposals and their effects. There will be an electronic vote for the proposals. Dan discussed the following proposals:

- **(#3) Post Graduate Scholarship** - Conferences can allow post graduate scholarships after they have exhausted their eligibility. There is not a limit on the dollar amount at this point. NCAA allows a \$7500 stipend. This proposal will be to allow for it, it is not currently in effect. Questions about the proposal: Where will the money come from? Is this against the DIII goals? There was an overall apprehension towards this.
- **(#4) Sickle Cell Trait Testing** - Dan outlined the proposal and explained it briefly. National SAAC is unanimously in support of this per Kelli. The proposal was rejected last year but they rewrote the proposal to make it easier on the institutions. This year, athletes can practice while awaiting the test results but treated as if having this trait. Question was asked: how easy is this to get tested? Dan reported there is an option to sign a waiver form and opt out of the testing but institution must provide additional information. Asked if this will cost more to the student athlete, Dan reported potentially 50-50 split players and institution. NCAA attempting to pass a grant (\$500) to fund this, but not sure if it will be an ongoing grant. Testing could be covered under athlete's insurance.
- **(#9) Social Media Proposal** - Dan outlined the proposal to allow coaches to have any electronic conversation with prospects. Kelli reported the national SAAC was in opposition, albeit with a close vote, because it encroaches on the student-athlete personal life and it is unprofessional. There is a focus on social media but it includes all electronic messages. MIAC generally in support because of more opportunities for student-athletes to be recruited. Social media is evolving and we should as well. There is an option to not participate in this, as students don't have to respond. Specify that it is private communication. Augsburg was split on the issue because of unprofessionalism but DI and DII have the option. Concordia is in support, because it is not an issue for DI or DII athletes. Kelli reports the national SAAC just allowed texting, so may they feel like privacy is getting breached further.
- **(#12) Prospective Student-Athlete Fundraisers** - Dan outlined the proposal and brought up the opposing arguments. Kelli reported that the national SAAC unanimously supported the proposal, highlighting that the deposit must be made first before they can fundraise for an institution. Concerns were that students could deposit at more than one institution and may have to fundraise at several places. St. Ben's confirms that it is an optional opportunity so the multiple enrollments issue is not a problem. Dan asked if there were any other proposals that brought up questions from the members with no response. Dan again brought up the online poll. Question was asked if this vote was an individual vote or representative of our school which Dan reported it was member's discretion. Dan promoted having Athletic Administrators on each campus know where their SAAC stands on each of the 13 NCAA Convention Legislative Proposals. All proposals will be voted on by institutions at the NCAA Convention Jan. 16-19, 2013.

IV. Special Olympics

Afton discussed the Special Olympics activity so far. Augsburg helped with a very successful bowling event at Treasure Island, and will discuss future events at next SAAC meeting. Carleton has not done anything yet, but will be doing the polar plunge and are

trying to have more events this spring. Concordia has not done anything yet but will be participating in pancake breakfasts and may help as special Olympic coaches for different sports. Gustavus has not done anything yet but will be doing a polar plunge and hosting Special Olympics in the spring. Hamline has not done anything yet and is focused more on organizing SAAC better, all sports teams are encouraged to get involved with S.O - softball has participated in a polar plunge. St. Ben's reported no events so far, every Monday the institution works with S.O. athletes to fundraise, they will also have a large fundraiser in the spring. St. Mary's will participate in a polar plunge in the winter and a kid's camp in the spring. St. Kate's has already had bowling event and will be doing spring games for track and field. St. Olaf has not had anything yet but SAAC board will be doing prior lake polar plunge. Afton highlighted a few events on the MIAC page and recognized Jay Pederson as the volunteer supervisor for Special Olympics. Afton asked members to let MIAC office know when their institution has been involved with S.O. to promote online and to report all involvement to the NCAA via DIII website.

V. National SAAC Representative from MIAC

Dan announced that it is the MIACs turn to represent the MIAC and UMAC for the National SAAC. Kelli talked about her experience, and has enjoyed being a part of it. There are 3 meetings a year, one in July, November, and January. The July meeting is to learn about the committee and what it does. The workload is up to the member as there are a lot of readings you should do but not strictly enforced. Kelli described it as an excellent learning experience. Danny from Carleton, Dominic from Concordia, and Lee from Hamline expressed interest and everyone was promoted to talk to SAAC Advisors and ADs apply for it.

VI. MIAC and NCAA Update

Dan brought up the proposal to eliminate 4 women's conference basketball games, this will allow for 4 additional non conference games to be played, will not be playing every MIAC team twice. Three games a week is too much, better access to national tournaments would be beneficial to trim down to 18 conference games. Question asked were: can they play conference teams anyways? Where would they find extra teams to play? Soccer proposal to have 5 playoff teams will be voted on by Presidents-passed by ADs. Dan reported that each institution recently got \$190 grant for SAAC costs. Dan reported there has been some talk about an incidence review committee and asked what the MIAC SAAC's thoughts were. No strong viewpoint were reported. Dan describes a MIAC emphasis on integration: do athletics follow each campus' ideals and beliefs? Kelli reported that the UMAC discussed integration last year and MIAC schools will get a grant to fund activities to promote integration. Afton will be starting a new video project for the MIAC website. She will be interviewing Student-Athletes, Coaches, and Athletic Administrators for feature stories that will be posted on the MIAC website starting in January.

VII. MIAC Challenge Update

Matt reported that the MIAC Challenge Cup is still in progress with discussions about how to account for the information as well as organization issues.

VIII. National Girls and Women in Sport Day

Kelly Anderson Diercks (Augsburg Assistant AD) introduced National Girls and Women day to honor 4 merit honor award winners and the Minnesota Lynx team will be at the event. Breaking Barriers awards are still accepting nominations and SAAC members were encouraged to nominate people for this. The event will be Feb. 6 at noon at the State Capitol. Attendance from Student-Athletes is encouraged.

IX. DIII week

Afton brought up DIII week and asked if anyone had started making plans, none had. She referenced a link to a website with different events and ideas. SAAC members were encouraged to start meeting about this now- it will be discussed more during February meeting.

X. NCAA Student- Athlete Leadership Forum

The forum took place in Dallas, Texas November 1-4. Many institutions had Student- Athletes attend and they were asked to share their experience. Danny from Carleton had a great time at the forum, he described it as very fun and he learned a lot, made a lot of contacts from school all over the country that he still keeps in contact with. Casey from Hamline expressed similar sentiments. Each institution can be represented every 3 years. Student-Athletes are encouraged to attend as it is something they can greatly benefit from.

XI. Upcoming SAAC Meeting

Afton concluded the meeting and asked for any questions or comments about the conference calls rather than meeting in person. Concordia appreciated the conference call so they were able to attend. Augsburg liked having a meeting to get to know each other first and then liked the conference call. St. Olaf liked conference call as well for traveling issues and discussing individually with each other. Hamline was okay with conference call but preferred in person meetings. St. Ben's agrees with Augsburg. The MIAC office will discuss what they believe is best for SAAC going forward and will relay that information to the rest of the group.

XII. Adjourned: 2:16 p.m.