

MIAC SAAC Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2014 (Sunday) - 1:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Present: Kelsey Hlavac (AUG), Megan Kirchoff (BU), Danny Shields, Layne Teska (CAR), Domenic Fraboni, Michael Forston (CON), Pat Tracy, Rachelle Blashko (GAC), Rannon Arch (HU), Sam Imholte, Haley Chatelaine (CSB), Kristen Thelen (SMU), Nina Bukowski (SCU), Emma Crumley, Chris Paradise, Nora Forbes, Susie Jelinek (STO), Katie Maher (UST), Dan McKane, Matt Higgins, Megan Gaard (MIAC)

1. Welcome and Attendance

Megan Gaard (MIAC) welcomed everyone to the call and took attendance.

2. 2014 NCAA Convention Recap

Dan McKane (MIAC) gave an overview of NCAA legislative results from the NCAA Convention and feedback from the Recruiting Working Groups.

a) NCAA Legislation Results (**Supplement A**) –

- The proposal to use football helmets in the non-traditional season was pulled from the convention floor. Otherwise, all other proposals were approved.
- All full time coaches are now required to be certified in first aid, CPR, and AED use (Proposal 1 Part C).
- Street drug penalty has been reduced to loss of half a season.
- Ice hockey first practice and contest date have been modified along with required on-ice acclimatization.
- Eliminated ability to scout opponents during exhibition contests.

b) NCAA Recruiting Working Group - Division III has been reviewing recruiting rules for a number of years. We are examining rules for potential work/life balance issues. Most likely there will be a series of proposals addressing recruiting rules for the 2015 NCAA Convention. Potential recruiting rule changes being considered:

- Permit on campus evaluations/tryouts - MIAC SAAC member asked what the rationale was behind this proposal. McKane responded that coaches don't need to travel to high school games as much, it keeps coaches on campus and student-athletes can run through work outs rather than just visit.
- Create an official athletics commitment letter, similar to the National Letter of Intent. The goal would be to promote exposure of DIII athletics and help DIII athletes feel included.
- Earlier contact with prospects (ie: face to face off campus contact with juniors, rather than just seniors).

3. NCAA National SAAC Update

Domenic Fraboni (CON) attended the 2014 NCAA Convention in January as the MIAC SAAC representative. Fraboni described his experience with National SAAC at Convention and his opportunity to attend sessions, discuss legislation and work with Special Olympics.

a) Special Olympics (NCAA Convention Event and 3D's)

- 3D strategy: discover, develop, dedicate
- Fraboni encouraged members to build stronger partnership with Special Olympics by donating funds and time as well as developing consistent relationships.
- Fraboni suggested to work with Special Olympics in small ways as planning large events cannot always be pulled together (ex. Concordia helps out weekly at Special Olympics Basketball practice).

b) 360 Proof

- Program that tracks alcohol use on campuses and provides education about alcohol and its effects to student-athletes. Information will be provided about the money spent, calories consumed and habits formed from alcohol use as it compares to the national average.
- Gustavus is part of the pilot program.

4. MIAC Update (Supplement B)

McKane provided an update on the latest happenings in the MIAC. Last May the Presidents' Council commissioned a committee to review playoffs for equity among all sports in the MIAC, as soccer had a request to expand their playoffs. Over the last six months the conference governing bodies have had extensive discussion regarding playoff opportunities. The creation of a conference philosophy and model was brought forward by the committee. The recommendation is to have the playoff field made up of a maximum of 50 percent of sponsoring teams, rounding up for odd numbers (i.e. if 12 sponsor the sport, six may advance to the playoff. If 11 sponsor the sport, six may advance). In December the Presidents tabled the philosophy and model for further review, with plans to vote on it this May. A subcommittee of the original

playoff review committee has been formed to finalize the philosophy and model. The changes that will result if the model is passed are the addition of 2 men's and 2 women's soccer team and the reduction of 1 men's tennis team. The most controversial issue is how to treat baseball and softball with the double-elimination format. Sport could choose 6 team single-elimination or 4 team double-elimination. It was questioned by an MIAC SAAC member if all sports could be treated the same since they are different in nature.

5. **NCAA Wagering**

McKane gave a summary of NCAA rules that prohibit student-athletes from wagering on any sport that the NCAA sponsors. Gambling is defined as something of value going in and something potentially of value coming out. McKane explained it is not legal to place a wager or pay an entry fee for an opportunity to win a prize. If a student-athlete is caught gambling, they lose a year of eligibility. It is legal to enter a free contest as long as there is no entry fee but could have a prize.

6. **Special Olympics**

Gaard asked members to share recent involvement with Special Olympics or plans in place to partner with this group:

- AUG – Focus is on the Polar Plunge in Minneapolis; They are working on this with the fundraising committee.
- BU – No updates. Volleyball team helps with golf event in the fall.
- CAR – Works bowling, swimming and basketball events. Their goal is to expand Special Olympics involvement.
- CON – Volunteer at basketball games and practices. They invite Olympians to track meets and basketball games. Having a pancake breakfast on March 22 as fundraiser. Plan to recognize Special Olympics at "Golden Cobs"
- GAC – Planning to host basketball tournament, swimming and track meet.
- HU – Have had contact with Special Olympics. Involved in "Spread the Word to End the Word" (dehumanizing effects of the r-word). Planning a sports play program for kids in community.
- CSB – Working on a fundraiser and Zumbathon
- SMU – Have contacted Special Olympics representative to set up bowling event.
- SCU – Plan on volunteering at basketball event in Monticello.
- STO – Involved in Polar Plunges with a \$2,000 fundraising goal.
- UST – Works directly with Volunteer Club all year. Their focused on participating in a Polar Plunge.
- a) If you want to get involved, our Special Olympics Contact is Alyssa Siech - Alyssa.Siech@somn.org
- b) Reminder to **report involvement with Special Olympics to the NCAA:**
http://web1.ncaa.org/surveys/d3_special_olympics.html
- c) Also, **let Megan Gaard from MIAC Office know of Special Olympics involvement** - mgaard@miacathletics.com

7. **NCAA Division III Week - April 7-13, 2014**

Gaard reminded MIAC SAAC about NCAA Division III week, April 7-13, 2014. The NCAA will celebrate Division III week for the third year in a row. Gaard encouraged members to sponsor an event during this week to acknowledge and celebrate Division III athletics on campus. Each member is encouraged to bring this up at their next SAAC meeting to start planning.

- Concordia is planning a Golden Cob award show (like the ESPYs) to honor athletic and academic involvement and Special Olympics accomplishments. This event is open to all students.
- Gustavus is planning a Saturday Night Live with different sports stations that is open for all students. They also plan to have a guest speaker for motivation/inspiration on campus this spring.
- Hamline is planning a BBQ at softball/baseball game to recognize athletes.
- Previous MIAC involvement in Division III week: 2012: [Link](#) / 2013: [Link](#)

8. **MIAC Student-Athlete Leadership Conference**

Gaard gave an update on the MIAC Student-Athlete Leadership Conference scheduled for August 2-3, 2014 at Saint Mary's. The budget allows for 10 student-athletes to attend from each institution. The selection process of each student-athlete has been left up to each institution. If you are interested in applying, or feel strongly about how the student-athletes should be chosen to attend this event, speak with your Athletics Director. Topics that will be covered include goal setting and motivation, team chemistry, social media, sportsmanship, low ropes course, and more. See Megan Gaard from MIAC Office or your Athletic Director for more information.

9. **National Girls and Women in Sport Day Recap**

Gaard gave a recap from National Girls and Women in Sport Day event that took place on February 5, 2014 at the Minn. State Capitol in St. Paul. Each year, states across the nation celebrate girls and women's participation in athletics. Several advocates were recognized for their support of girls and women in sport. There was great representation from the MIAC. Check out their website for a recap of the event: www.ngwsd-mn.com/

10. Institutional SAAC Updates

Gaard asked MIAC SAAC members to share updates on their institution's SAAC including meeting discussions, events and best practices. Matt Higgins (MIAC) informed members that interviews done by MIAC SAAC members in the fall will be used in a branding video that will be released this spring highlighting MIAC Core Values. Gaard will send a link to other videos in her next email ([Quality Athletics](#) / [Respect & Sportsmanship](#)). Each institution gave an update on how things are going with their campus SAAC this year.

- St. Thomas: Focused on Code Purple – each team picks important event that pulls lots of fans.
- St. Olaf: Recently supported basketball team.
- St. Kate's: J-term was a slow time for WSAAC but the hockey team is getting support.
- St. Mary's: Got the whole school involved with a big game of Lightning at halftime of basketball
- St. Ben's: Shoe drive at SJU and CSB basketball games, volunteer at elementary schools for physical education classes, incorporate leadership development into SAAC meetings
- Hamline: New initiative for sports marketing club (athletes and non-athletes) promotes athletic events (social media) and set up sponsorships, SAAC members help create buzz. Launched during J-term and successful in bringing fans out
- Gustavus: Focused on Special Olympics and DIII week for this semester
- Concordia: Lots of involvement with Special Olympics, Golden Cobs is the biggest project (different committees to fund, contact, promote). Trying to get more athletes involved in events. Volunteer at gymnastics.
- Carleton: Expanded SAAC by bringing in more Sophomores and Juniors. Knight Games to promote sports games on campus which include games and food during half-times. Planning a Triathlon, Senior Banquet and Faculty vs. student baseball game
- Bethel: No update.
- Augsburg: Participated in a Polar Plunge. Planning a SAAC all-nighter paired with other campus program.

11. NCAA Career in Sports Forum

This event is open to students with an intended career in coaching or athletic administration. This seminar on June 5-8, 2014 in Indianapolis is a great professional development opportunity. It will provide best practices for working in the sports industry, networking and information on other relevant topics. The deadline to apply is March 27, 2014. Each institution can nominate up to 10 people. Ask for more information from your athletic administrators or the MIAC Office.

12. MIAC SAAC - Thank you

Gaard thanked MIAC SAAC members and Advisors for providing feedback and insight throughout the year and being a part of this group. As it was the final meeting of the year, Gaard encouraged members to contact the MIAC Office with any questions, comments, concerns or updates at any time. For those members planning to return to MIAC SAAC, more information will be distributed this fall. Next year's meeting dates 2014-15: Sept. 14, Dec. 7, Feb. 15.

Adjournment - 2:00 p.m.