

MIAC Student Athletic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2015
Macalester College

Attendees: Jaelyn Arndt, Steele Krause (AUG); Matt Conrad, Penny Foore (BU), Mitch Heflin, Amanda d'Almeda (CAR); Jordan Bolger, Domenic Fraboni (CON); Mary-Clare Couillard, Richard Jones (HU); Ethan Forney, Jessica Niedermayer (GAC); Lily Jilk, Risa Luther, Jordan Black-Mathews (MAC), Liz Hermes (CSB); Matthew McCormack (SJU); Ashton Weber, Sara Eisenhauer (SCU); Ruth Hesse, Ross Baker (STO); John Kirtleind, Thomas Williams (UST); Dan McKane, Kelsey Whaley (MIAC Offices)

1. Introductions and Welcome

Kelsey Whaley (MIAC Intern) welcomed the group. Introductions were made.

2. MIAC SAAC Overview

The MIAC mission statement was reviewed. "The MIAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) supports student-athletes by providing the communication of ideas and concerns between student-athletes and the MIAC within a structure that will promote active involvement. MIAC SAAC is also committed to engaging in campus and community service projects and to serving as positive role models for their peers and younger student-athletes."

Goals for 2015-16 were presented to the group:

- Address matters of student-athlete well being both on campus and in the conference
- Share best practices and provide opportunities for dialogue
- Promote community service opportunities (Special Olympics)

3. MIAC SAAC Officers

The group approved the following to serve as MIAC SAAC Officers for 2015-16: Chair – Ethan Forney (Gustavus), Co-Chair – Risa Luther (Macalester), Secretary – Steele Krause (Augsburg), and Treasurer – Matt McCormack (Saint John's University).

4. It's On Us Campaign

The MIAC will be launching an It's On Us campaign to help raise awareness regarding sexual assault. Student-athletes are visible members of campus that can help prevent sexual assault. The MIAC will launch a webpage dedicated to It's On Us, along with a press release, logo, PA announcement, and video. Each campus was given roughly 35 shirts to help promote the campaign. The MIAC will produce a video over the next two months to help promote. Campuses are encouraged to consider adopting the It's On Us campaign. It is noted that several campuses have participated with Its On Us, Green Dot, or developed similar campaigns (ie: Count On Gusties). A few campuses have brought in speakers, done messaging in public areas, and done bystander training. National SAAC will be distributing best practice document, video information, and a memo most likely in January.

5. NCAA National SAAC Update (Domenic Fraboni, National SAAC, Concordia)

Domenic discussed several items NCAA National SAAC is working on. He stressed the Special Olympic partnership and reporting involvement to the NCAA. Sportsmanship is a topic being discussed nationally. Several campuses have done sportsmanship messaging (SJU – reads sportsmanship statement requesting fans to cheer for their own team, GAC created Hill Crew offering 2 shirts for \$10 if sign a pledge to be positive, several suggested having a student-athlete read a statement and having the PA Announcer verbally state reminders if there are negative chants during a contest). National SAAC created a viewed named Power of the Student-Athlete, which details that the student voice matters. Last year a video was created titled 'You Can Play', which focuses on creating an accepting environment for everyone to participate.

6. MIAC Update (Dan McKane)

McKane highlighted new MIAC sport rules for 2015-16 and reviewed the MIAC Strategic Plan. Student-athletes will be provided opportunities to participate in strategic planning topics later this year. Matt Higgins in the MIAC office writes a weekly feature story, attempting to tell the great things our student-athletes are doing. If you have a good idea for a feature or would like to be a guest writer, contact Matt (mhiggins@miacathletics.com). The MIAC also will have a student-athlete spotlight on our website, details are still being finalized and SAAC members will be featured.

7. NCAA Update

McKane reviewed all 10 proposals that will be voted on during the 2016 NCAA Convention on January 16, 2016. Several questions were asked regarding electronic communication and football non-traditional season opportunity. We will celebrate Division III Week on April 4-10, 2016.

8. NCAA Wagering

McKane reviewed NCAA wagering (gambling) rules. Essentially, gambling occurs when something of value is risked and there is an opportunity to win a prize. Student-athletes that participate in gambling activities associated with collegiate sports or any NCAA Championship sport at the professional level will lose one year of eligibility. It is reminded that participation in fantasy sports companies' games, including FanDuel and DraftKings, is prohibited by NCAA rules.

9. Creating a welcoming environment for new team members (anti-hazing)

McKane discussed opportunities for anti-hazing, creating an environment that is welcoming to all. There was good discussion with the group as many institutions have been talking about ways to eliminate hazing.

10. SAAC Best Practices Sharing

Due to time constraints, best practices section was not addressed. We will plan to discuss items at our next meeting or could create a Google document to sharing information outside of meetings.

11. Special Olympics

Special Olympics staff (Devin, Jen, and Nick) updated the group on several campus opportunities to partner together. Project Unify is a new program. Other opportunities for volunteering include Polar Plunge, unified dance marathon (Nov. 21 at Mall of America), and hosting events on campus.

Campuses have planned the following events: BU – Kick ball tournament; CAR – Basketball clinic; CON – volunteering, clinics, halftime game, invited to Cobber Awards; GAC – host 3 events (flag football, basketball, swimming); MAC – Polar plunge, young athletes; CSB/SJU – Dance a thon, basketball; SCU – host event; STO – bead bag tournament; UST – host event.

12. SAAC Resources (Dan)

- NCAA Conference Grant: MIAC provides each institution SAAC with \$195 to be used for SAAC initiatives. Check will be sent within a month.
- Competing to Get a Job: A Student Athlete's Guide to Scoring a Job after College
 - <http://www.ncaa.org/static/champion/get-a-job/?division=d3#sthash.y4JNR4Q4.otjb0NfN.dpbs>
- SAAC Links
 - MIAC SAAC Website: <http://www.miacathletics.com/saac/index>
 - NCAA DIII SAAC Website: <http://www.ncaa.org/governance/committees/division-iii-saac>
 - NCAA SAAC Website: <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/ncaa-student-athlete-advisory-committees-saacs>
 - Getting in the Game: http://s3.amazonaws.com/ncaa/web_video/getinthegame/index.html?division=d3

13. Upcoming Meetings

- December 6, 2015 (1pm) via conference call
- February 7, 2016 (1pm) via conference call

14. Adjournment – 2:59 p.m.