

MIAC Student Athletic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2016

Conference Call

Present: Rachel France (Augsburg); Maddie Fauth, Penny Foore (Bethel); Charles Slocum (Carleton); Jake Schmitz (Gustavus); Keenan Jones, Mary Clare Coulliard (Hamline); Macy Kelly, Sara Winnerstrand (St. Benedict); Abby Conzemius, Mary Jane Voss (St. Catherine); Megan Skelly (St. Olaf); Thomas William (St. Thomas); Sheridan Blanford, Matt Higgins, Dan McKane (MIAC)

- I. **Call to Order: 1:01 p.m. (Sheridan Blanford)**
- II. **NCAA Convention Proposal Review (Dan McKane)**

McKane discussed the nine proposals that will be voted on at the NCAA Convention in January. The group will discuss proposal results after the convention on their February 5th conference call.
- III. **National SAAC Update (Elissa Pheneger, National SAAC, North Central - report given by Megan Skelly, MIAC SAAC Chair)**

Elissa Pheneger, National SAAC representative was not able to attend the call. Megan Skelly, MIAC SAAC chair gave National SAAC report from November meetings. The three main areas highlighted were game environment, mental health and well-being of student athletes and academic misconduct. Game environment: National SAAC is working on drafting a letter to the parents/guardians of student-athletes asking them for their cooperation in creating a positive game environment. Mental health and well-being of student-athletes: National SAAC is looking into partnering with other already established organizations in this area, creating a video to raise awareness with student-athlete testimonies and using the Sports Science Institute as a resource.

 - a. The NCAA Sports Science Institute (SSI) has just released an online Mental Health Education Modules for student-athletes, coaches, and FAR's. The link for the modules is: www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/supporting-student-athlete-mental-wellness.
- IV. **MIAC Leadership Conference – August 5-6, 2017, Saint Mary's University (Sheridan Blanford)**

The third Leadership Conference will be held Aug. 5-6, 2017, at Saint Mary's. There will be a lot of cross-institutional interaction early in the event so those relationships can be built earlier. Some new topical areas will include a DISC assessment, effective communication strategies, and diversity and inclusion.
- V. **MIAC/UMAC Spring Speaker Series – March 31, 2017, Macalester College (Sheridan Blanford)**

The MIAC is partnering with UMAC to put on the annual Spring Speaker Series at Macalester College on March 31, 2017. The main topical area's will focus on mental health and well-being. The event is open to administrators, coaches, athletic trainers and student-athletes (priority SAAC members).
- VI. **Special Olympics (Sheridan Blanford and Matt Higgins)**
 - a. Blanford iterated the importance of reporting Special Olympic involvement to the conference and to the NCAA. NCAA reporting website: www.web1.ncaa.org/surveys/d3_special_olympics.html. She also encouraged group to utilize the Minnesota Special Olympics Volunteer page: www.specialolympicsminnesota.org/get1involved/become1a1volunteer if they need volunteering ideas for their campuses. Higgins shared that the MIAC will be putting on the Unified Basketball Tournament again in the spring, Sunday April 9, 2017 at Macalester College. Last year, this event was the first conference wide tournament in the nation. He encouraged at least 8 schools to participate in the event as participants or event management volunteers. Augsburg, Carleton, Gustavus, Hamline, Macalester, St. Benedict, St. Catherine, St. John's, St. Olaf and St. Thomas showed interested in attending/helping with the event. He will follow up with more information via email within the next couple of months. Blanford will be attending the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools Annual Conference on February 7-10, 2017 in South Carolina. She will attend informational sessions to bring back to larger group to improve Special Olympics involvement. Institutions shared their SAAC involvement during the fall and plans for involvement in the spring.
 - i. Augsburg – Holding Special Olympics week on campus. Bethel – Held kickball tournament in fall and spread the word to end the word campaign. Planning basketball tournament in the spring. Carleton – Planning to participate in the MIAC unified basketball tournament. Gustavus – Held fall football tournament. Planning spring basketball tournament and track & field day. Hamline – Held unified football against Augsburg this fall. Planning unified bowling party and unified basketball and softball. Saint Benedict – Collected SO buckets at games for donations. Planning unified event with SJU this spring. St. Catherine – Held bowling this fall. Saint John's – Planning spring unified event with CSB this spring. Considering banquet in spring. St. Olaf – Hosting regional basketball tournament in spring and beanbag tournament. St. Thomas – Planning individual team participation.
- VII. **MIAC Strategic Plan Update (Dan McKane and Megan Skelly)**

Megan Skelly, MIAC SAAC Chair, shared her experience with five of the strategic planning committees. She was impressed with how the conference is constantly finding ways to highlight student-athlete academic success and the DIG Equality series. McKane shared updates from two of the eight strategic subcommittees. Academic Focus Subcommittee: The committee is endorsing honoring the team with the highest GPA per sport. Concept would be to collect GPAs in early summer and honor teams mid-summer, that had the highest institutional cumulative GPA (all student-athletes that used a season of eligibility would be included in the data set). Student-athletes supported this concept and shared examples that are similar to this award, already being done on their campuses. Identity and Branding

Subcommittee: The main focus is a redesign of the MIAC logo. The MIAC is beginning the logo design and rebranding process. MIAC staff is meeting with designers and firms in the coming month. Student-athletes also gave input on the MIAC's social media platform and suggested improving the MIAC app. to make it more interactive (similar to the A-Club, Augsburg's athletic department's app).

VIII. MIAC AD/FAR Meeting Update (Dan McKane)

McKane highlighted a few items from recent meetings with MIAC Athletic Directors and Faculty Athletic Representatives. The Graduate Eligibility proposal was failed by the AD's. The men and women's golf championship will be split for the 2017 due to a course change. Men's and women's soccer travel roster has been increased to match the NCAA rule at 24. The MIAC will send out a study, through the FAR's, to student-athletes who participate in non-traditional seasons to inquire about increasing the number of practices.

IX. Division III Week

The NCAA will celebrate Division III Week on April 3-9, 2017.

X. SAAC Visit Review (Sheridan Blanford)

Blanford has been meeting with each individual SAAC group on campus, visiting seven campuses thus far. This allows her to learn the goals and challenges of each SAAC group and further establish a connection with the conference. For the February meeting, she will ask institutions that she has visited to open up about some of the positive initiatives and projects that they are using on their campuses.

XI. Upcoming SAAC Meeting

February 5, 2017 – 1:00pm via Conference Call

XII. Adjourned: 1:59 p.m.