

MIAC Student Athletic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2017
University of St. Thomas

Attendees: Blake McCreavy, Lauren Jennings (AUG); Dawson Brown, Jasmin Bretoi, Miranda Robinson (BU); Jona Plevin (CAR); Kelsey Thomas, Kennedy Holwerda (GAC); Kiana Verdugo, Charlie Shervheim, Nolan Schoonveld (HU); Sean Hayes, Tyana Loiselle (MAC); Sara Wennerstrand, Megan Toninato (CSB); Claire Woebke, Michelle Perri (SCU); Mike Reilly, Ethan Larson (SJU); Emily Carr, Ellie Bergstrand, Sebastian Hyta (STO); Tiana Molitor, Cullen Willox (UST); Elissa Pheneger (NCAA SAAC Rep – North Central); Dan McKane, BJ Pickard, Lindsay Madryga (MIAC)

1. Introductions and Welcome – 1 p.m.

Lindsay Madryga welcomed the group. Introductions were made.

2. MIAC SAAC Overview

The MIAC SAAC 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.”

The MIAC has three meetings per year, the first meeting is in-person followed by two conference calls.

Goals for 2017-18 were presented and agreed to by the group:

- Maximize on leadership opportunities that MIAC SAAC provides
- Allow for the student-athlete voice to be heard by coaches and administrators

3. MIAC SAAC Officers

The group approved the following to serve as MIAC SAAC Officers for 2017-18: Chair – Emily Carr (St. Olaf); Co-Chair – Charlie Shervheim (Hamline); Recorder – Sean Hayes (Macalester).

4. NCAA National SAAC Update (Elissa Pheneger, National SAAC, North Central)

Pheneger discussed her roll on National SAAC and detailed several initiatives at the national level. She attends quarterly meetings at the national office and talked about her experience. She highlighted that SAAC helps build communication and leadership skills. She informed the group that there is a student-athlete engagement subcommittee featuring three members from each NCAA Division to provide a student-athlete voice to top-level NCAA governance. She thanked the student-athletes for working with Special Olympics and encouraged students to report their campuses Special Olympics activities in order to provide tracking to both Special Olympics and the NCAA for accurate participation numbers and funds raised.

At the National SAAC level, the NCAA’s Sport Science Institute will focus heavily on sexual violence and awareness this year. There is a sexual violence toolkit available online. A game environment toolkit is also being developed to improve sportsmanship initiatives on campus. Mental health issues continue to be a key focus, and a video is in development to highlight awareness and encourage student-athletes to feel comfortable getting help. Three MIAC representatives are candidates to succeed Pheneger as a National SAAC rep when the spot swaps from UMAC to MIAC next year.

5. MIAC Update (Dan McKane MIAC Executive Director and BJ Pickard, MIAC Assistant Executive Director)

McKane highlighted new conference rules for the academic year. He discussed the governance structure and process, and stated Presidents have the ultimate authority in the MIAC. A proposal from a coaches group would work its way through Athletic Directors, Faculty Athletic Representatives, and Presidents. The group discussed the new non-traditional season rule, wherein student-athletes are allotted 48 or 30 hours over 16 total practice dates during their non-traditional season timeframes for athletically-related activities. McKane outlined the various venue changes for 2017-18 championships, including cross country, baseball and golf. He also encouraged student-athletes to inquire about joining strategic planning sub-committees.

Pickard introduced the new MIAC logo and discussed the various elements that went into its creation. He also briefed the group on the Conference’s updated website and social media strategy, and encouraged student-athletes to reach out with any additional ideas for improvement.

6. NCAA Update

McKane reviewed nine proposals that will be voted on during the 2018 NCAA Convention in January. The MIAC is proposing potential rule changes for basketball and hockey that would move up the first permissible game date for basketball and first on-ice

practice date for hockey. Division III Week will be held in the spring of 2018 (April 2-8). McKane also noted that every school will get \$200 to work with SAAC through an NCAA conference grant.

7. MIAC Leadership Conference

Madryga recapped the MIAC's Leadership Conference in August. She highlighted feedback the MIAC received from student-athletes in attendance. A majority of student-athlete attendees noted that communication and understanding personal motivation styles were key takeaways from the weekend. Student-athletes requested additional programming in the future related to conflict management and professional development post-graduation.

12. SAAC Best Practices Sharing

The group discussed institutional SAAC plans, goals and challenges for the upcoming year, and shared best practices for conducting campus SAAC meetings and initiatives.

- AUG – noted their SAAC ice cream social and shared concept of combining mental health with sport psychology.
- BU – discussed various ongoing initiatives, including the Polar Plunge and a Special Olympics awareness campaign to End the R-Word.
- CAR – created mental health resource cards for student-athletes and discussed a sexual violence awareness campaign.
- CSB – discussed initiatives to improve female leadership.
- GAC – shared concept of SAAC ice cream social and Special Olympics initiatives.
- HU – noted the successful Special Olympics rivalry series with Augsburg and discussed the Piper Cup to encourage attendance at other sporting events around campus.
- MAC – talked about the Kofi Cup to encourage student-athlete involvement around campus and shared concept of captain office hours.
- SCU – shared focal point of SAAC this year is promoting athletes around campus.
- SJU – noted the success of the Kids Fighting Hunger campaign and ongoing Special Olympics initiatives.
- STO – talked about Ole Pride events for each sport and discussed the importance of working with music programs on campus to cross-promote and support.
- UST – noted concept of pairing sports to increase attendance on game days, as well as mental health and sexual violence awareness initiatives.

Madryga shared the MIAC's plan for a Student-Athlete Resource hub on the Conference website and invited SAAC reps to review the page and offer feedback. MIAC Student-Athlete Resource Hub – <http://miacathletics.com/about/saresources>

13. Special Olympics

Devin Kaasa and Michele Bardwell from Special Olympics Minnesota discussed highlights with Division III. Kaasa reiterated the importance of recording information when working with Special Olympics so they can keep track for their grants. The link can be found here: NCAA Special Olympics Reporting Page - www.ncaa.org/about/division-iii-conference-or-campus-special-olympics-report-form In 2016, Minnesota colleges organized 29 different Special Olympics events feature 750 Special Olympians and 800 student-athletes. The goal is to reach 1,000 on each side. Kaasa noted the various awareness campaigns put on by MIAC schools and encouraged non-participating schools to get involved so the MIAC can gain "Champion Conference" status. Bardwell also encouraged student-athletes to volunteer beyond team-sponsored events, as Special Olympics has a variety of upcoming opportunities for volunteerism.

14. Group Photo & Adjournment – 2:43 p.m.

Upcoming MIAC SAAC Meetings

- December 3, 2017 (1 p.m.) via conference call
- February 11, 2018 (1 p.m.) via conference call