

MIAC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2018

Video Conference



Present: Blake McCreavy (AUG); Penny Foore (BU); Max Lane (CAR); Emily Freidrich, Jason Montonye (CON); Kennedy Holwerda (GAC); Charlie Shervheim, Kiana Verdugo (HU); Maegan O'Herin, Sean Hayes (MAC); Megan Toninato, Sara Wennerstrand (CSB); Michelle Perri (SCU); Emily Carr, Sebastian Hyta (STO); Emily Thul (UST); Dan McKane, Lindsay Madryga (MIAC)

Absent: Saint John's; Saint Mary's

I. Call to Order - 1:01 p.m.

II. 2018 NCAA Convention Proposal Review

McKane reviewed the NCAA Convention Legislative Results noting there were proposals voted on at the Division III business session with all but one approved. The football preseason start date proposal did not pass. The National SAAC model will change, adding a partner conference representative to the make-up of the group. The stand-alone alumni contest exception was approved and will go into effect August 2018 for all sports except football. Both MIAC sponsored proposals passed with basketball having an allowance to start competition one week earlier and hockey allowed to start on-ice practice one week earlier with no change to the 19-week playing and practice season for either sport.

III. National SAAC Update

Madryga presented an update from the January 2018 National SAAC meeting. Initiatives National SAAC has worked on this year include Gameday the DIII Way focused on sportsmanship and are currently producing a mental health awareness video. Areas of emphasis moving forward include sports wagering, social justice on campus and better education of NCAA rules. Madryga noted Elissa Pheneger (North Central, UMAC) who has represented the MIAC and UMAC for the past two years on National SAAC has transitioned off of the committee and Kiana Verdugo from Hamline will replace her for one-academic year, beginning in April 2018.

IV. Special Olympics

Madryga reminded the group to continue reporting Special Olympics involvement to the NCAA via the online form.

For the third year, the MIAC has partnered with Special Olympics Minnesota to host a unified event during Division III week. This year's event will be Unified Bowling on Sunday, April 8 from 11am-1pm at Mall of America-GameWorks. Each institution will be asked to send two student-athletes and will be paired with two unified athletes with the winning team posting the lowest team average of two games. A [Google sheet](#) was shared with the group for volunteers to sign-up by Monday, April 2nd. More information will be sent to all MIAC SAAC representatives and advisors with additional details.

The group highlighted institutional involvement with Special Olympics:

- AUG - Unified basketball game vs. Hamline, Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign, Polar Plunge and planning a SO event at an upcoming softball game. Were asked to participate in a Special Olympics PSA video.
- BU - Hosting an upcoming unified basketball event with 12 schools, polar plunge and Spread the Word to End the Word campaign at recent hockey games and upcoming basketball games.
- CAR - Working with other student organizations on campus to host a Special Olympics unified basketball game each week on campus. Special Olympics event with St. Olaf was cancelled due to weather.
- CON - Hosted a beanbag tournament on campus and planning an upcoming unified basketball game on campus.
- GAC - Plan to host a swimming event at the aquatics center on campus during Division III week for Special Olympics unified athletes. Additionally, planning a unified basketball game.
- HU - Continued relationship with Augsburg to host unified basketball game. Requiring that each team forms an independent relationship with Special Olympics.
- MAC - Hosting a carnival on campus for Special Olympics unified athletes on April 8 following the unified bowling event.
- CSB - Each team has been encouraged to host their own Special Olympics specific project. Planning to host a soup-a-thon at an upcoming softball game this spring.
- SJU- Special Olympics event planned for January was cancelled due to weather. No current plan to reschedule.
- STO - Special Olympics event with Carleton was cancelled due to weather. Working on a Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign and bean bag tournament.
- UST - Planning a campus wide Special Olympics event for Division III week and participating in Polar Plunge with all UST student-athletes.

V. Future Meeting Plan

McKane stated that conference meeting structures were being reviewed. Currently SAAC meets three times per year (one in person, twice via conference call). He suggested the group consider meeting twice annually via phone/video conference (3rd Sunday in October and 2nd Sunday in February). There were mixed feelings from the group of eliminating the in-person meeting at the beginning of the year as that is a time for the group to engage with each other in one room and kick-start the year, while others expressed they were not ready to meet that early. Additional comments were made in favor of the video conference call as it has provided a way to attend the meeting without travel. The MIAC office will review the meeting structure with the Athletic Director Council at their March meeting for further input.

VI. Division III Week

Madryga announced Division III week will be April 2-8 and additional resources detailing ways to celebrate the event will be distributed later this month. Institutions were asked to share any items they have planned for celebrating Division III week.

- AUG - Campus-wide volleyball tournament.
- CAR - Why Division III? Campaign campus-wide.
- CSB - Faculty appreciation barbeque event.
- MAC - Faculty appreciate event at baseball.
- STO - Community involvement program at local elementary school physical education classes.

VII. Additional items

- MIAC Fall 2018 Internship announced: www.miacathletics.com/general/2017-18/releases/20180209fde94r
- NCAA Career in Sports Forum (May 31- June 3, 2018 Indianapolis, IN) - Further details can be found here: www.ncaa.org/about/resources/leadership-development/career-sports-forum

VIII. Adjourn - 1:43 p.m.