

# MIAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2019

Video Conference



**Attendees:** Jacen Kimura, Booker Coplin (Augsburg); Kade Bannon, Dominique Dabu (Bethel); Oliver Jacobs, Talia Williams (Carleton); John Reiten (Concordia); Lawrence Hiquiana, Maggie Leininger (Gustavus); Jared Deultch, Kaeli Stayer (Hamline); Oriana Galasso, Jim Smith (Macalester); Lauren Herker, Sidney Schiffler (Saint Benedict); Molly McMahon (St. Catherine); Luke Zweber (Saint John's); Claire Patterson (Saint Mary's); Marcel Diggs (St. Olaf); Paige McLeod (St. Thomas); Dan McKane, BJ Pickard, Emily Carr (MIAC).

## 1. Introductions and Welcome (Emily Carr) (Meeting started 8:01 p.m.)

## 2. MIAC SAAC Overview

The MIAC mission statement and goals for the 2019-20 academic year were reviewed. MIAC SAAC will work to continue supporting student-athletes around the Conference in addition to supporting its relationship with Special Olympics.

## 3. MIAC SAAC Officers

The group approved Marcel Diggs (St. Olaf) as Chair and Molly McMahon (St. Catherine) as Co-Chair for 2019-20 MIAC SAAC Officers.

## 4. MIAC Updates (Dan McKane, BJ Pickard)

McKane provided a verbal update on MIAC membership and briefed the group on the conference's conduct policy and expectations for sportsmanship. A list of significant policy updates for 2019-20 was provided in the meeting materials. McKane credited student-athletes with helping to facilitate a change in the conference's non-traditional season policy. The conference has drafted a strategic plan intended to run from 2019-22. The plan will be voted on by the MIAC Presidents' Council in October. McKane reminded the group that each MIAC institution will receive a \$200 NCAA Grant for campus SAAC operations. The MIAC is planning its first-ever "Work in Sports" seminar for student-athletes interested in a career in athletics, tentatively planned for the end of March in the Twin Cities. MIAC Assistant Commissioner BJ Pickard provided a brief verbal update on the conference's centennial celebration. The MIAC is celebrating its 100-year anniversary throughout the 2019-20 academic year with daily website features and social media graphics in recognition of memorable individuals and moments in the conference over the last century. Pickard also shared an update on the recently re-launched MIAC website, requesting feedback from the group to help build the Student-Athlete Resource page with information relevant and worthwhile to current student-athletes.

## 5. NCAA Updates (Emily Carr)

Emily Carr, MIAC's representative on NCAA National SAAC, provided an update on National SAAC. Division III student-athletes are eligible to be placed in the NCAA transfer portal starting in mid-October. However, an institution is not required to place a student-athlete in the portal. Mental health continues to be a primary focus of campus and National SAAC. The MIAC institutions continue to be nationally recognized for participation in Special Olympics. National SAAC recently published a best practices guide on how to develop an effective campus SAAC. McKane briefed the group on the process for upcoming proposals at the 2020 NCAA Convention. Campus feedback on proposals will be sought in October.

## 6. Special Olympics Partnership with NCAA DIII and MIAC (Emily Carr)

Carr provided an update on initiatives with Special Olympics Minnesota. SO Minnesota encourages MIAC SAACs to work towards becoming "Champion Schools" and shared a series of volunteer opportunities with student-athletes. Unified and rivalry events continue to be excellent opportunities to engage with Special Olympics Minnesota. The group shared institutional plans for Special Olympics events in 2019-20, many of which included basketball, football, and bowling competitions. SAACs are encouraged to reach out to Devin Kaasa at Special Olympics Minnesota to help organize events.

## 7. Open Discussion

The group discussed ways to improve campus SAAC and shared plans and best practices for SAAC in the upcoming year. Carleton shared their efficient meetings consistently make their SAAC more effective. Concordia has worked with local social services, sending student-athletes into middle and high schools to discuss the transition to college life. Gustavus has worked with other campus organizations to collaborate on events and encourage better attendance and support. Hamline and Saint Mary's have both divided SAAC into departments and subcommittees to help ensure that all areas of focus are handled and represented. Macalester has engaged with faculty and staff to bring in speakers on such topics as mental health, multicultural life, and career development. Saint Benedict has put on a first-year athlete orientation to help ease first-year students into college life. St. Catherine hosts an inter-team competition to help all athletics programs on campus support each other. Saint John's continues to successfully fundraise for causes on campus and abroad. St. Olaf encourages participation on SAAC from student-athletes looking to make an impact on campus and promoted the positive experience provided by the NCAA Student Immersion Program. St. Thomas is working to cultivate campus identity through its Be Purple campaign. Augsburg is working with its Center for Wellness and Counseling to discuss mental health with student-athletes. Bethel has organized food drives for the children's hospital and student-athletes are working with a local elementary school to assist with recess supervision.

## 8. Adjourned – 8:54 p.m. (Next MIAC SAAC Meeting - Monday, February 10, 2020 at 8 p.m. via video conference.)

## **MIAC SAAC SHARING**

### **Special Olympics Campus Updates**

AUG – Rivalry game with HU. Recognize a Special Olympics week with hoops and hockey game attendance and halftime talk and autographs following. Active with Polar Plunge. Host unified intramural basketball league.

BU – Rivalry flag football and hoops. Host unified basketball. Helped with bowling event. Polar Plunge involvement.

CAR – Rivalry game with STO.

CON – Working with ND and MN SO. Bowling and halftime basketball events.

GAC – Flag fb and 3 more events hosting. Speak kindness campaign. May do unified or tailgate.

HU – Unified FB w/ AUG. Bean bag games. Unified hoops. Polar Plunge planning.

MAC – Young Athletes programs with SO. Rivalry game and unified basketball tournament.

CSB – Host league games and unified basketball support.

SCU – Volleyball team did SO event. Division III Week efforts with SO.

SJU – Rivalry game, basketball with SO.

SMU – Starting collaboration in area, possible coaching assistance.

STO – Rivalry game with CAR football. Game night. Ice skating. Bowling. Bags event.

UST – Every team works with SO. Hosted SO summer games.

### **Campus Sharing Updates**

AUG – Polar Plunge efforts. Mental health focus with campus counselors.

BU – Hosted football food drive (snacks for kids). Elementary school recess involvement.

CAR – Meet consistently and are active.

CON – Working with Lutheran high school students in area on transition to college.

GAC – Worked with other campus organizations to collaborate on events and encourage better attendance and support.

HU – Have two Presidents and several committee chairs. Host student-athlete BBQ.

MAC – Speakers across campus, mental health focus. Sharing of campuses resources for student-athletes effort.

CSB – First year student-athlete orientation (2<sup>nd</sup> year of event).

SCU – Wildcat Cup competition.

SJU – Ability to raise funds for causes (this year raised funds for hurricane relief).

SMU – Establishment of subcommittees.

STO – Accountability with members.

UST – Be Purple campaign to represent UST best way possible. Career development for resumes and job interviews.