

# MIAC Student Athlete Advisory Committee February Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2020

Video Conference

**Attendees:** Jacen Kimura (AUG); Odera Onwualu (BU); Talia Williams (CAR); Karsen Granning, Kalli Baarstad (CON); Maggie Leininger, Lawrence Hiquiana (GAC); Jared Deutch, Kaeli Stayer (HU); Jim Smith (MAC); Maddie Schmitz (CSB); Molly McMahon (SCU); Luke Zweber (SJU); Zachary Bracken (SMU); Marcel Diggs (STO); Jack Nasby (UST); Dan McKane, BJ Pickard, Emily Carr (MIAC)

1. **Welcome and Introductions (Emily Carr):** 8:00 p.m.

2. **MIAC Updates**

MIAC Commissioner Dan McKane provided an overview of the conference's expectation on sportsmanship and highlighted the new MIAC strategic plan. Assistant Commissioner BJ Pickard noted the success of the conference's centennial celebration. Carr provided an overview of the MIAC Work in Sports Seminar and reminded the group of the student-athlete resource page.

3. **NCAA Updates**

Carr provided an overview of NCAA opportunities for student-athletes, including the Student-Athlete Leadership Forum and the Career in Sports Forum. McKane thanked the group for their feedback on NCAA Convention legislation, which ultimately helped shape members' views of the proposals. Carr announced Talia Williams (Carleton, Volleyball, Sophomore) as the new NCAA DIII SAAC Associate Member representing the MIAC.

4. **MIAC Special Olympics Partnership**

Carr highlighted the strong relationship between MIAC schools and Special Olympics Minnesota. The group was encouraged to report their Special Olympics events to the NCAA for better tracking. The group shared on-campus Special Olympics events, which included rivalry basketball games, bean bag toss tournaments, volleyball and softball games, and Polar Plunge activities. Many schools plan on hosting Special Olympics events during DIII week.

5. **Open Discussion**

The group shared items happening in their institutional SAACs (outside of Special Olympics involvement).

6. **Other Items**

Members discussed graduation cords for student-athletes. St. Catherine just started recognizing athletic cords for graduation. The National College Athlete Honor Society honors the combination of athletic and academic success, including the opportunity to purchase cords.

7. **Action Items**

- a) Hamline representative Jared Deutch requested students to participate in HU T&F SA Jessie Junemann's study on student-athlete injury and mental health. The hope is to bring the survey to each campus SAAC. The link to the survey is [www.surveymonkey.com/r/HamlineUBA](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HamlineUBA)
- b) Carr also called for the group to report their Special Olympics activities to the NCAA. The link to do so is: [www.ncaa.org/about/division-iii-conference-or-campus-special-olympics-report-form](http://www.ncaa.org/about/division-iii-conference-or-campus-special-olympics-report-form)

8. **Adjournment:** 8:48 p.m.

## Campus Sharing Updates

AUG – Hosted a SAAC panel with local HS students.

BU – Lots of Special Olympics involvement, working with University of Northwestern.

CAR – Working on end of year banquet for SA's. Planning their annual triathlon with the Northfield community.

CON – Planning end of year banquet. Focusing on mental health. Advertising athletics event outside of dining hall with music.

GAC – Working on "Little Gusties" event for kids in St. Peter. Trying to get cords for graduating student-athletes.

HU – Emphasizing diversity and inclusion initiatives. Focusing on fundraising.

MAC – Looking into SA mentorship program. Hosting a spring social event for athletes.

CSB – Second annual first-year student-athlete orientation. Focusing on DIII week events.

SCU – Initiative to connect athletes across campus.

SJU – Kids fighting hunger event.

SMU – Green bandana project for mental health. Raised money for cancer research with Love your Melon hats.

STO – Host "Ole Pride" events to support other sports, use of punch cards. Creation of sister and brother teams to host events.

UST – Looking at reorganizing and restructuring SAAC board.