

# MIAC SAAC Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2021

## Video Conference

Attendees: Colleen Enrico (AUG - Advisor); Mackenzie Novak, Odera Onwualu (BU); Natalie Lafferty (CAR); Lawrence Hiquiana (GAC); Maria Lewis, Jarick Rieffer (HU); Anya Paulson (MAC); Maddie Schmitz, Zoe Culshaw-Klein (CSB); Molly McMahon (SCU); Luke Zweber, Chris Backes (SJU); Abby Grismer, Doug Byers (STO); Kaia Porter (UST); Dan McKane, BJ Pickard, Emily Carr (MIAC)

### 1. Called to Order: 8:00 p.m.

### 2. MIAC and NCAA Updates

McKane updated student-athletes on several changes in the NCAA and in the MIAC. He noted that participation in athletics this year, provided a student is eligible, would not trigger use of a season at any point this academic year. He added that there is a strong likelihood that NCAA Championships for spring sports will occur. The MIAC recently announced changes to its masking policy, allowing for some flexibility to compete unmasked, with some potential for the Minnesota Department of Health to change its policy in the near future. McKane noted that spectators for outdoor sports potentially are allowed, yet institutional autonomy will dictate spectator policies on each campus.

### 3. MIAC Professional Development Recap for 2020-21

- a. The MIAC sponsored several opportunities for member professional development virtually this academic year. A summary of offerings include: a. Town Hall on Race and Social Justice (October 27, 2020); b. MIAC Votes Campaign (Late September 2020 - Election Day 2020); c. MIAC Thankstagram (November 17 - November 25, 2020); d. LGBTQ+ OneTeam Programming (January 28, 2021); e. One Love Workshop (February 8, 2021); f. DIII Week SAAC Spotlight (April 5 - April 9, 2021).
- b. Students liked the professional development offerings this year and would like to see options in the future. Group finds opportunities at MIAC SAAC level very beneficial as a way to test things they might want to bring to their own campuses. Interested in continued discussions on race/diversity, financial literacy (investing), using athletic experience in job interviews and applications.

### 4. National Anthem

Staff thanked SAAC for their input on reshaping revised national anthem pre-game statements. Several options were provided to the membership, with institutional options to recraft a revised statement for use.

### 5. Institutional Sharing

- a. AUG: SAAC efforts have been a challenge this year (Zoom burnout).
- b. BU: Sponsored movie night.
- c. CAR: Started 'Speak Up Saturdays'. Found it a challenge not to have all teams represented during campus SAAC meetings. Worked with a career center to put on networking events with alums. Thinking of beginning a first year athlete orientation.
- d. GAC: Sponsored educational activism. Breaking down stigma that student-athletes don't care. Working on EcoChallenge initiative that focuses on sustainable living (competition amongst campuses).
- e. HU: Sponsored clothing drive and a cooking show (food resource).
- f. MAC: OneTeam training opportunities, inclusive policies focus, positive interactions.
- g. CSB: Sponsored kickball tournament, thanksgiving food drive, and D3 week activities.
- h. SCU: Working with YWCA on monthly conversations, honored athletic trainers, D3 week activities.
- i. SJU: SAAC efforts have been a challenge this year. Were able to do some things virtually which was a positive.
- j. STO: Divided SAAC board into four subcommittees and met individually via Zoom. Special Olympics virtual hangouts. Social media subcommittee. Oles Against Inequality (OAI) which started with football students.
- k. UST: Diversity and inclusion efforts, implemented anti-racism efforts supported through professors. Find it difficult to reach entire student-athlete body with communications (several expressed this challenge).

### 6. Additional Items

- a. COVID Year Challenges: This year offered campus SAACs opportunities to try new programming, often out of necessity. Many ended up enjoying fresh ideas, and found new programming they will continue in the future.
- b. Special Olympics: Several campuses are working with Special Olympics in virtual opportunities.
- c. Campus SAAC Selection: Several members expressed frustration with campus SAAC selections. Many felt that serving on SAAC is an honor, so there should be an application process and a desire to serve. When a coach simply appoints a student from a team, often times that individual is not as engaged.

### 7. Adjournment: 8:41 p.m.