

# MIAC Student Athletic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021

## Video Conference

Attendees: Kayla Hanson, Abby Bollig (AUG); Chace Gadapee (BU); Kristin Miyagi, Cayten Gardner (CAR); Brock Montgomery, Sophia Robinson (CON); Josie Carlson, Zach Jakes (GAC); Avery Nelson, Aoife Zamacona (HU); Claire Wilson, Victor Wright (MAC); Zoe Culshaw-Klein, Cecelia Miller (CSB); Bry Leverentz, Kaitlyn Blair (SCU); Matt Anderson, Ethan Huber (SJU); Carson Sheridan, Brandon Merfeld (SMU); Tim Rizzo, Anna Newby (STO); Haley Rohwer, Mack Nelson Jr. (CSS); Talia Williams (National SAAC/Carleton); Dan McKane, BJ Pickard, Dylan Zimmerman, Gretchen Mellies, Jacob Clark (MIAC Staff).

### 1. Welcome and Introductions (Dan McKane)

Meeting began at 8:00 p.m. with introductions.

### 2. MIAC SAAC Overview

Both of the MIAC and MIAC SAAC mission statements were provided in meeting materials.

### 3. MIAC SAAC Goals for 2021-22

Goals for the year: 1) Sharing of Best Practices, 2) Advocacy, 3) Support, and 4) Student-Athlete Voice.

### 4. MIAC SAAC Officers

Due to the meeting set-up and COVID impact, McKane recommended not selecting officers this year and treat every member of MIAC SAAC as leaders.

### 5. MIAC Updates (Dan McKane)

McKane provided updates on MIAC membership and welcomed St. Scholastica as a new member of the conference. Continued strategic planning efforts may involve options for student-athlete input in several important areas of campus, conference, and national topics. The MIAC has COVID-19 guidelines for fall sports, with continued discussions for winter sports by administrators.

### 6. NCAA Updates (Dan McKane, Talia Williams)

Talia Williams (NCAA National D3 SAAC from Carleton) provided national updates. National SAAC formed working groups focused on Special Olympics, Mental and Physical Health, and Diversity and Inclusion. SAAC is supporting a social media campaign focused on mental health this academic year. McKane highlighted significant NCAA items that include the Constitution Review and Name Image Likeness.

### 7. Special Olympics Partnership with NCAA DIII and MIAC (Dan McKane)

McKane provided resource links for the NCAA D3 initiative that partners Division III with Special Olympics. McKane will send an email with Special Olympics Minnesota details. Possible opportunities to partner with Special Olympics include: 1) Spring group volunteering at SO events, 2) Campuses host a small event in spring, 3) Unified rivalries with other schools, 4) Polar Plunge (also have mobile polar plunge option for campuses), 5) SO is open to other events and ideas. The new Minnesota contact for Special Olympics is Zak Armstrong ([zak.armstrong@somn.org](mailto:zak.armstrong@somn.org) / 763-270-7173). Institutions shared potential planning efforts in the areas of rivalry events with other schools, polar plunge team challenge, middle school tournament, and bowling championship.

### 8. Initiatives (BJ Pickard)

Pickard provided an update on the successful initiative last year with All-In Voting. Institutions are invited to participate every year, with the conference likely supporting involvement every other year. There is interest from the WIAC to develop a challenge between conferences. More planning and discussions will occur to develop potential opportunities. Last year MIAC SAAC leaders participated in social justice town hall, voting encouragement, and Special Olympics initiatives.

### 9. Open Discussion

The group engaged in a half hour of open discussion, sharing SAAC campus initiatives, highlighting successes and challenges, and impact of COVID-19. A summary of highlights shared is included on the second page.

### 10. Adjourned – 8:58 p.m.

### 11. Upcoming MIAC SAAC Meeting

The next MIAC SAAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2020 via video conference.

## **MIAC SAAC - Open Sharing – Campus Initiatives:**

### **Augsburg**

- Dunk Tank (Dunk Your Coach for Charity)
- Main Goal This Year: Volunteer Work (Tutoring w/ Middle & High Schools)
- Pen Pals w/ Elders
- Unified Basketball Game with Hamline

### **Bethel**

- Salvation Army: Xmas Presents / Meals
- Athletes Supporting Athletes: Pick One Game For Each Team & Pack The Stands
- Unified Basketball Game with Northwestern
- Special Olympics Tournament: Middle Schoolers

### **Carleton**

- Mental Health Initiatives
- Special Olympics partnership

### **Concordia**

- Social Justice
- Athletes Supporting Athletes
- Mental Health, Wellness & Nutrition
- Special Olympics partnership

### **Gustavus**

- Advocacy with Student-Athletes on Campus

### **Hamline**

- SAAC Talent Show (Concordia St. Paul Example)
- Piper Cup: Incentive For Teams to Support Other Teams
- Educational Workshops (i.e.: Resume building)

### **Macalester**

- Revamping Kofi Cup: Athletes Supporting Athletes
- Buddy's Chapter

### **Saint Benedict**

- First Year Seminars for Student-Athletes
- Building Community Relations

### **St. Catherine**

- Engaging With Campus Outside of Athletics
- Wildcat Cup: Athletes Supporting Athletes
- Mental Health Awareness (Hidden Opponent)
- Polar Plunge Competition

### **Saint John's**

- Special Olympics in Spring: Hosting Olympiad
- Special Olympic Participants: Outreach To Group Homes to Ensure Participation

### **Saint Mary's**

- 5,000 Hours of Community Service Done By All Teams

### **St. Olaf**

- Competition Amongst Teams to Support Others
- Spike Ball Tournament
- Community Service
- Oles Against Inequality

### **St. Scholastica**

- Mental Health (Green Bandana Project - Resources For Help)
- Essential Partnership w/ Pediatric Oncology Unit - Each Team "Adopts A Kid"
- Writing: Thank You Letters For Volunteer Events