

# MIAC Student Athletic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2022

## Video Conference

Attendees: Jivana Nagpal, Yuv Kataria (CAR); Sophia Robinson, Kip Jenson (CON); Andrew Hoppe, Renata Hernandez (GAC); Emma Moe, Braeden Bourne (HU); Peyton Starks, Charlie Bonham (MAC); CeCe Miller, Sophia Jonas (CSB); Lauren Skar (SCU); Max Doom, Matt Anderson (SJT); Brandon Merfeld, Liam Boyle (SMU); Tim Rizzo, Bailey VanderWilde (STO); Grace Hadlich, Rilee Dawson (CSS); Dan McKane, BJ Pickard, Emma Nelson (MIAC Staff). No representatives from Augsburg and Bethel.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

### 2. MIAC SAAC Overview

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

Emma Moe (HU) and Liam Boyle (SMU) were selected as MIAC SAAC Co-Chairs for the 2022-23 academic year.

### 5. MIAC Updates

Updates were provided regarding the MIAC Strategic Plan, which is in its final year with key areas of focus on sportsmanship, awards/honors, DEI, philosophy, and health & safety. The MIAC COVID-19 Competition Plan requires each campus to have a safety plan and allows for conference contests to be rescheduled.

### 6. NCAA Updates

A summary of the NCAA D3 National SAAC meeting from July 2022 was shared. Talia Williams (Carleton) term on National SAAC ends in January 2023. There will be an opportunity for a MIAC student-athlete to serve as an Associate Member on NCAA D3 SAAC, with nominations anticipated this winter. The NCAA provides opportunities for 40 diverse student-athletes to attend the NCAA Convention in January, via a nomination process through the NCAA. The NCAA recently adopted a new Constitution and also allows for student-athletes to benefit from their Name Image Likeness (NIL). The MIAC has provided each campus with a \$200 NCAA grant to assist with SAAC operations. There are several impactful proposals set for the 2023 NCAA Convention in January. In the next month, a communication will be sent to solicit the student-athlete voice regarding the proposals.

### 7. Special Olympics Partnership with NCAA DIII and MIAC

Resources were provided for the NCAA D3 initiative that partners Division III with Special Olympics. Campuses are encouraged to consider options opportunities to partner with Special Olympics which include: 1) Volunteering at SO events, 2) Campuses host a SO event, 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 Minnesota contact for Special Olympics is Zak Armstrong ([zak.armstrong@somn.org](mailto:zak.armstrong@somn.org) / 763-270-7173).

### 8. Initiatives

The MIAC has arranged for several educational initiatives this academic year.

- Energy Management for Students (Premier Sports Psychology) - Sept. 29, 8pm (video)
- DEI (Dr. Greenfield) - Oct. 13, 10am-2:30pm at Bethel (in-person)
- All-In Voting - Bipartisan effort to encourage voting.
- Work in Sports - Spring 2023 seminar
- Student-Athlete Career Spotlight - Social media focus on student-athletes internships and jobs.

### 9. Open Discussion

The group engaged in an open discussion, sharing SAAC campus initiatives, highlighting successes and challenges, and Special Olympics involvement. A summary of highlights shared is included on the second page.

### 10. Adjourned – 8:45 p.m.

**Next MIAC SAAC Meeting** - Monday, February 6, 2023 via video conference.

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

### **Carleton**

- Student-athlete gathering events.
- Special Olympic partnerships.
- Community triathlon support.
- Sexual violence prevention advisory committee.
- Be the Match (blood and bone marrow).

### **Concordia**

- DEI initiatives.
- Volunteering.
- Game attendance.
- Cobber kids.
- Out of the Darkness (mental health support).

### **Gustavus**

- Drives: shoes, clothes, food, toys.
- Social media takeovers.
- Halftime community games for youth.

### **Hamline**

- Student-athlete Talks.
- Special Olympic partnerships.
- Hidden Opponent (mental health awareness).

### **Macalester**

- Kofi Cup challenge for teams.

### **Saint Benedict**

- Special Olympic partnerships in St. Cloud.
- Bennie Buddies partnership with committee children.

### **St. Catherine**

- Special Olympic partnerships (polar plunge).
- All-In Voting.
- Mental Health efforts (green ribbon games).

### **Saint John's**

- One Love (sexual assault awareness).
- DEI initiatives.
- Kids Fighting Hunger food drive.
- Community Committee.
- Special Olympic partnerships.

### **Saint Mary's**

- Stoles for student-athletes graduating.
- Gear Drive to donate to area communities.
- Visit elementary schools to assist with recess.

### **St. Olaf**

- Sister Teams Partnerships.
- Special Olympic partnerships (spike ball, unified bowling).

### **St. Scholastica**

- Sport nutritionist and psychologist meeting with each team.
- Student-athlete BBQ gathering.
- Special Olympic partnerships.