

MIAC Student Athletic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2023

Video Conference

Attendees: Sydney Rydel, Torrie Rehder (AUG); Autumn Earney, Spencer Kring (BU); Piper Dean, Kai Oishi (CAR); Kaia Lill, Jerica Frieze (CON); Taona Mhwandagara, Sydney Hauger (GAC); Braedan Bourne (HU); Justin Potts (MAC); N/A (CSB); Erin Loterbauer, Greta Schimnowski (SCU); Luke Budzyn, Max Doom (SJU); Maya Wachter, Allie Urlaub (SMU); Travis Miller, Bailey VanderWilde (STO); Grace Hadlich, Lizzie Northquest (CSS); Dan McKane, BJ Pickard, Jax Collins (MIAC Staff). Institutional SAAC Advisors: Michelle McAteer (AUG), Jessica Cherry (CSS).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting began at 8:01 p.m. with introductions.

2. MIAC SAAC Overview

The MIAC and MIAC SAAC mission statements were provided in meeting materials.

3. MIAC Updates

Updates were provided regarding the MIAC Strategic Plan, Infectious Illness Policy, and the new [MIAC Sports Network](#). The MIAC membership agreed to two year trials matching NCAA D3 Playing & Practice Seasons and Eligibility.

4. MIAC SAAC Goals for 2023-24

Goals for the year: 1) Community Service - Special Olympics, 2) DEI - NCAA Diversity and Inclusion Social Media Campaign, and 3) Professional Development. Additional topics include celebration of D3 50th Anniversary, MIAC will consider student video collaboration.

5. MIAC SAAC Officers

Grace Hadlich (St. Scholastica) and Kaia Lill (Concordia) selected as MIAC SAAC Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2023-24 academic year.

6. NCAA Updates

A summary of the NCAA D3 National SAAC meeting from July 2023 was shared. Grace Hadlich (St. Scholastica) began term on National SAAC as Associate Member. The NCAA provides opportunities for 40 diverse student-athletes to attend the NCAA Convention in January, via a nomination process through the NCAA. The MIAC has provided each campus with a \$200 NCAA grant to assist with SAAC operations. There are four proposals set for the 2024 NCAA Convention in January. In the next month, a communication will be sent to solicit the student-athlete voice regarding the proposals. Hadlich participated in a congressional engagement in August and will draft a letter on behalf of MIAC SAAC on the topic, share with SAAC members for input, and hopefully have a letter to share with congress in the next month.

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 / 763-270-7173).

8. SAAC Resources

Resources were provided for local and national items.

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 – 8:53 p.m.

Next MIAC SAAC Meeting - Monday, February 5, 2024 via video conference.

MIAC SAAC - Open Sharing – Campus Initiatives:

Augsburg

- Special Olympics Polar Plunge and fundraising.

Bethel

- BUILD program and potential Special Olympics interaction.
- Special Olympics Ambassadors.

Concordia

- Celebrating 50th Anniversary recognizing campus membership with NCAA.
- Special Olympics game with JV prior to varsity match.

Gustavus

- Special Olympics with basketball teams.

Hamline

- Special Olympics swim event.
- Special Olympics Polar Plunge.
- Piper Cup (double points for Special Olympics involvement).

Macalester

- Alumni interaction with students for networking.
- Special Olympics young athletes teaching physical ability.

St. Olaf

- Ole Pride focused on campus cooperation and contest attendance. Point system partnered with student government.
- Special Olympics Polar Plunge.
- Special Olympics Unified bowling and each sports team plans an event in the offseason.

St. Scholastica

- Celebrating 50th Anniversary.
- Diversity & Inclusion campaign.
- Adaptive physical education partnership with Special Olympics at a contest.