

MINUTES
MIAA STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 24, 2002

Embassy Suites Hotel, Overland Park, Kan.

Those in attendance were:

CMSU: Nicole Batliner & Paul Rorvig
ESU: John-David Harris, Janel McNeal (co-chair) & Sarah Wuertz
UMR: Not Represented
MSSC: Carissa Gould & Brian Lyons
MWSC: Amber Clutter & John Keahi Dano (co-chair)
NWMSU: Heidi Hoffert & John Sipes
PSU: Josh Shay & Katie Smith
SBU: Jesse Dziurawiec & Ashleigh Wendleton
TSU: Nolan White & Leah Zidon
WU: Not Represented

In addition, Joanne Vaughan, senior woman administrator at SBU, Elwyn Davis, faculty athletics representative at PSU, and Paul Engelmann, faculty athletics representative at CMSU, were present, along with Ralph McFillen, commissioner and Jennifer Foltz, intern.

The meeting was called to order by the co-chair, Janel McNeal, at 11:02 a.m.

1. Introductions/Opening Comments

a. Each person in attendance introduced him/herself, their respective school, year in school, sport, and favorite color. [Note: Blue was the overwhelming favorite color.]

2. Previous Minutes

a. It Was Voted:

“To approve the minutes of the April 14, 2002 meeting as distributed.”

3. Review of Policies and Procedures

a. McFillen explained the governing structure of the MIAA and the NCAA, as well as the policies and procedures of the MIAA SAAC.

b. He also discussed how the MIAA was fortunate to have two representatives (John Dano, MWSC and Janel McNeal, ESU) on the National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

4. Report on July Summit

a. Dano and McNeal attended the NCAA July Summit. McNeal reported on the activities of the summit. She said the Summit's purpose is to enable the National SAAC to meet with Management Council representatives and others to talk about issues.

b. Dano reported there is a proposal to have the National SAAC vote on every proposal. McFillen discussed the structure of the voting process and the controversy surrounding adding a SAAC vote.

5. Review of NCAA Legislation Grids

a. Engelmann, who is the MIAA representative on the Management Council and also is a member of the Legislation Committee, reviewed the following proposals with the group that will be acted upon at the upcoming NCAA convention.

Proposal No. (2-3) Institutional Control -- Self Study -- Compliance Review

McFillen reported that the MIAA has the largest number of self-reported secondary violations in Division II. This is positive for the conference.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 8-0

Proposal No. (2-9) Recruiting -- Camp or Clinic -- Employment of Prospective Student-Athlete

Amendment: This proposal would only apply to men's and women's basketball so that it limits the number of student-athletes it would affect.

Controversy: It may become expected of student-athletes and may be abused by coaches and lead to early practice. Student-athletes who sign the National Letter of Intent late do not receive this advantage.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 5-2, 1 sustained

Proposal No. (2-12) Hardship Waiver -- First Half of Playing Season

If passed, it would eliminate the "first half of season" requirement.

Controversy: It may give baseball (relief pitchers in particular) an advantage.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 8-0

Proposal No. (2-15) Eligibility -- Freshman Academic Requirements -- Core Curriculum Requirements

Was passed in Management Council, but was extremely controversial.

Controversy: Very small percentage do not meet the requirement.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 5-6, 1 sustained

Proposal No. (2-17) Satisfactory Progress Requirement -- Hours Earned Or Accepted for Degree Credit

Any courses taken by the student-athlete reflect "satisfactory progress."

Controversy: The student-athlete is discouraged from declaring a major.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 8-0

Proposal Number (2-18) Satisfactory Progress Requirements -- Fulfillment of Minimum Grade-Point Average Requirements

Controversy: Partial qualifiers have no GPA requirement.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 8-0

Proposal Number (2-21) Eligibility -- Satisfactory Progress Requirements -- Regulations for Administration of Satisfactory Progress

No discussion ensued.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 8-0

Proposal Number (2-29) Permissible Benefits -- Complimentary Admissions -- Conference Championships

Controversy: Some institutions have the money, and others do not.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 7-0, 1 sustained

Proposal Number (2-30) Playing and Practice Seasons -- Basketball -- Conference Challenge Tournament

It encourages interconference play that schools wouldn't do otherwise.

Controversy: Travel cost.

MIAA SAAC VOTE: 4-4

6. Conference Service Projects

[Note: Ray Gabel of Midwest Transplant Network joined this part of the meeting.]

a. Gabel handed out information on how to become an organ donor. He also discussed his experience as an organ recipient.

b. The Winter Food Drive is to be conducted at a home basketball game during the period of February 8-22, 2003. The goal this year is 15,000 lbs which has been reached the previous two years.

7. Model Conference SAAC Guide

a. Dano and McNeal explained that the SAAC Guide is a document on how to strengthen weak conferences. They will send out copies in the near future.

8. Sportsmanship

- a. McFillen presented a MIAA Sportsmanship Statement.
- b. He encouraged each member to review it at their campus SAAC meetings. The Sportsmanship Statement will be on the Spring agenda.

9. National SAAC Proposed Changes

- a. Dano and McNeal discussed the proposed changes with the group which would have three-year terms instead of two and not eligible for reappointment.
- b. Representatives would be allowed to serve beyond one year of eligibility if remaining active with SAAC. The start term date is July 1 and they will conduct new member orientation at July Summit.
- c. Also, it will eliminate legislation requiring one to be in a DII graduate school.

10. National Student Athlete Day

- a. McNeal reported that Sunday, April 6, 2003 will be National Student Athlete Day. She suggested that each institution tie in organ donation service project on this day.

11. Leadership Action Academy

- a. The Action Academy was developed so D-II student-athletes and administrators would have the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and become familiar with D-II issues.
- b. There are six geographic regions. The Midwest, in which the seven Missouri members are located, will be held February 21-23 in Indianapolis, Ind.

12. Campus Updates

- a. One representative from each school reported on different activities they have done in their respective SAACs. Some activities included: The Great American Smokeout, athletes went to area elementary schools educating kids about drug and tobacco use (PSU), Big Brother/Big Sister program and Athletes Can Educate (A.C.E.) Program (ESU), Christmas party at the Boys and Girls Club (MSSC), and ice cream social among campus SAAC members (TSU).

13. Spring Meeting

- a. The date for next year's meeting is April 27, 2003.

14. Travel Reimbursement

- a. Each representative that incurred travel costs is to return the travel reimbursement form to Commissioner.

15. Other Business

- a. ESU, MSSC, and MWSC reported that their school had a SAAC website. TSU has one under construction. The conference is in the process of creating its SAAC website. All members e-mail addresses will be listed. No one expressed opposition for this to occur.
- b. McFillen discussed the recent controversy surrounding the National Student- Athlete Bill of Rights. He reported that this bill of rights is focused to the Division I level, and MIAA student-athletes should disregard it.

16. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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