

**MINUTES**  
**MIAA STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

April 27, 2003

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Overland Park, Kan.

Those in attendance were:

CMSU: Nicole Batliner & Paul Rorvig

ESU: Curtis Grote, Janel McNeal (co-chair), & Jessica Stambaugh

UMR: Not Represented

MSSC: Brian Lyons & Lindsay Mason

MWSC: Marian Broderick & Randy Hughes

NWMSU: Joni Pusateri

PSU: Josh Shay

SBU: Jesse Dziurawiec & Ashley King

TSU: Nolan White & Leah Zidon

WU: Katie Brandt & Erin Underwood

In addition, Joanne Vaughan, senior woman administrator at SBU, Elwyn Davis, faculty athletics representative at PSU and Brad Noller, assistant sports information director at WU, were present, along with Ralph McFillen, commissioner and Jennifer Foltz, intern.

The meeting was called to order by the co-chair, Janel McNeal, at 11:03 a.m.

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

- a. Each person introduced him/herself, their respective school, year in school, and sport.
- b. A count was taken of existing SAAC members and those who were substitutes.
- c. McFillen explained the governing structure of the MIAA and the NCAA, as well as the policies and procedures of the MIAA SAAC.

**2. Previous Minutes**

- a. McNeal reviewed the minutes of the fall meeting with the group.
- b. It Was Voted:  
"To approve the minutes of the November 24, 2002 meeting as distributed."

**3. Review of 2002-03 Conference-Wide Community Service Projects**

- a. McFillen passed out a press release regarding the MIAA SAAC canned food drive. He reported that the conference brought in more than 12,000 pounds worth of donations to charities.
- b. Discussion ensued on changing the community service project. Lyons indicated that the community of Joplin expect the food drive every winter and would like to keep the food drive. Shay said the food drive has gotten better each year and the conference should keep up the momentum for future years.
- c. It was the consensus of the group to continue the food drive as the conference-wide community service project. The food drive will take place at a home basketball game during the month of February.
- d. Some schools reported they did not partake in the organ donor community service project last year. They felt it was a hard thing to sell and an uncomfortable issue to discuss. Suggestions were made to coordinate the organ donation with a blood drive by another organization on campus. Some thought the individuals who donate blood may also be interested in organ donation.

e. It Was Voted:

“To continue the organ donation for 2003 as the fall community service project. Each school determines how they structure the organ donation, with the option to tie it in with another campus organization that may be conducting a blood drive.”

#### **4. National Student-Athlete Day (April 6, 2003)**

a. Each school reported on individual campus activities for the National Student-Athlete Day. Activities included: High school athletes shadowed university athletes, a mini clinic for elementary students (ESU), and displayed posters around campus (SBU). Few schools participated in National Student-Athlete Day and McFillen said each athletics director receives a mailing from the NCAA with suggestions for this day.

#### **5. NCAA National SAAC Update**

a. McNeal, MIAA National SAAC representative, reported on recent legislation proposals. She said the members of the national SAAC are no longer pursuing a vote at the National Convention, however they want their position on each proposal documented.

b. She also advised that each conference receives a SAAC grant. Many representatives were not aware of how the grant was being spent.

c. McNeal will be sending out the legislative grids to all SAAC members and would appreciate feedback on all proposals. She suggested putting the grid on the MIAA SAAC web site this fall.

#### **6. NCAA Leadership Action Academy Report**

a. The NCAA Leadership Action Academy was developed so D-II student-athletes would have the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and become familiar with D-II issues. Two academies are held per year.

b. The Midwest region, which the seven Missouri members are located, held its academy February 21-23 in Indianapolis, Ind. Several schools attended and reported on their experience. Broderick said the experience was extremely beneficial and it allowed her to interact with other people.

#### **7. MIAA Web Site Update**

a. McFillen reported the agenda and minutes are currently on the MIAA SAAC web site which can be found at [www.themiaa.com](http://www.themiaa.com). He said each SAAC members' name, along with their e-mail address, will be posted so that other student-athletes may contact them.

b. TSU reported their new SAAC web site is up and ready for viewing. ESU and MWSC have SAAC web sites as well.

#### **8. Sportsmanship**

a. Commissioner McFillen presented a sportsmanship statement and noted the number of different times “sportsmanship” is used within the conference's policies and procedures. He stated the conference is considering adopting a MIAA Sportsmanship Statement in the near future.

b. Discussion ensued about making the sportsmanship statement more generalized so that all sports are covered. Davis said there are different standards on how you behave at certain sporting events and what is acceptable sportsmanship conduct during one sport may not be acceptable at another.

c. McFillen said they would revisit the contents of the sportsmanship statement in the fall.

d. It Was Voted:

“That a sportsmanship statement be read over the public address system prior to the start of all conference competition.”

## **9. Gift Ideas for Fall Meeting**

a. Members suggested, fleece pullovers, short polo shirts, or hooded sweat shirts with the MIAA logo, as SAAC gifts.

## **10. Funding from NCAA**

a. McFillen reported that the NCAA will be giving \$10,000 to the conference for SAAC. Each MIAA institution will receive a portion of the grant while the rest will be used towards travel reimbursement for conference SAAC meetings in Kansas City, gifts, etc.

b. The NCAA will also be giving the conference an Academic Support grant. Each conference institution will receive \$4,000. Guidelines will be set by the conference as to how it will be used (summer school, continuing education, mentors).

c. In addition, the conference will receive \$20,000 for the 2004-2005 school year for Student-Athlete Assistance. It has not yet been determined how this money will be distributed.

## **11. Midwest Transplant Network**

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

a. Gabel handed out information on how to be an organ donor and expressed the importance of getting the word out. He said 80,000 people are currently on organ waiting lists.

b. Gabel discussed the different options he will assist with at each school. He will travel to any school and help set up information booths at games, pass out brochures, create logos on donor cards, make public address announcements, etc. He can be reached at [rgabel@mwod.org](mailto:rgabel@mwod.org).

c. Gabel and his wife are both donor recipients who will participate in the 2003 US Transplant Games this summer.

## **12. Future Meeting Dates**

a. The fall meeting is always the third Sunday in November. This fall's meeting will be on November 16, 2003 in Kansas City, site to be determined.

b. The spring meeting is the first Sunday after Easter. April 18, 2004 will be the meeting date held in Kansas City, site to be determined.

## **13. Other Business**

a. McNeal requested each institution give campus updates of activities they have done at their respective SAACs. Activities included: food drive competition (PSU), day care, Christmas party at The Boys and Girls Club (MSSC), t-shirts, created newsletters, Women in Sports Day, Athletes Can Educate (A.C.E.) program (ESU), raised money for the Children's Miracle Network, winterized houses in the community (WU), sold "Chains of Love" and did Adopt-A-Family at Christmas, created a "Choices" program to help reduce drunk driving (MWSC), went bowling, did karaoke, reading program with elementary students, and had an Athletes' Formal Dance (TSU).

b. McFillen reported how honored he was to be associated with a conference who's student-athletes graduation rates were among the highest in the nation. The MIAA student-athlete graduation rate is 60% and every school in the conference has a higher graduation rate than that of it's student body.

## **14. Adjournment**

a. The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

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JKF: 04/28/2003