

MIAA STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 12, 2006

Overland Park Marriott
Overland Park, KS

Those in attendance were:

ESU: Ross Houglan and Courtney Reed
FHSU: Alex Eaton and Tyler Gonzales
MSSU: Rachael Bowen and Dustin Miller
MWSU: Alyssa Berg and Marian Broderick (chair)
NWMSU: Not Represented
PSU: Lora Lockhart and Eileen Treff
SBU: Chris Martinez
TSU: A.J. Barton and Danna Kelly
UCM: Brittanie Roldan and Jon Wegener
WU: Not represented

Also in attendance were Ralph McFillen, MIAA Commissioner, Natasha Oakes, MIAA Assistant to the Commissioner, Joanne Vaughan, SBU Assistant AD for Academics/SWA, Nate Davis, SBU Assistant AD for Marketing and John Culp, CMSU Program Development/Retention Coordinator.

Broderick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Welcome/Introductions

A. Broderick welcomed the group and asked them to introduce themselves to each other.

2. Previous Minutes

A. Broderick informed the committee the minutes are posted on the SAAC page of the MIAA website.

B. It Was Voted (Berg moved, Reed second)

“To approve the minutes of the April 2, 2006 meeting as posted on the website.”
(Passed by voice vote with no dissent.)”

3. Community Service Updates

A. Make-A-Wish Foundation

- a. Broderick reviewed the process of reporting funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation fundraiser. Each institution is to send their funds in a check or money order made payable to the MIAA. The MIAA will then send one large check to the NCAA in the spring. Institutions are encouraged to send their funds in as they receive them instead of waiting at the last minute.
- b. Last year, the Division II goal was \$100,000 and a little over \$118,000 was raised. This year's goal is once again set for \$100,000. Broderick and Oakes informed the group of the MIAA's efforts of less than \$2,000 compared to the Northeast-10 raising \$15, 747.82. Both expressed a desire to try to build upon the amount that was raised last year.

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- c. Schools shared ideas of projects they conduct to raise money for Make-A-Wish. Those projects included goodie bags for finals, teddy bear toss using little mascots, 50/50 drawings at basketball games and raffles.
- B. Canned Food Drive
 - a. Broderick discussed the conference's annual canned food/spare change drive, which takes place in the month of February. This is the only community service project in which the entire conference participates. The food/money raised goes back into each institution's respective communities to an organization of their choice. Last year a competition was added, in which MWSU was the winner.
- C. Other
 - a. Schools discussed other community service projects they conduct on their campuses. Those projects included Chains of Love, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Light the Park Christmas lighting, allowing a member of the community be a coach for one night, cell phone drops, reading to elementary students and donating toiletries to the battered women's shelter.
 - b. Broderick reminded representatives that the National SAAC representative can be useful in bringing exposure to institutions and encouraged everyone to take pictures when conducting community service projects.
 - c. The group also discussed the Community Engagement Initiative that is in the process of being implemented in Division II. This initiative would make it easier for Division II institutions to be able to participate in community service projects without violating recruiting legislation.

4. National SAAC Update

- A. Broderick informed the committee of the partnership between the NCAA and Habitat for Humanity. At the Fall Sports Festival, student-athletes will assist in building a home while down in Pensacola, FL. There was also a Habitat for Humanity project at the baseball championships last spring.
- B. Broderick asked the student-athletes if there were any teams or individuals attending the Fall Sports Festival. There will be a few cross country teams and individuals from various institutions competing and she asked those schools to get feedback on the student-athletes' experiences, so that she may take ideas back to National SAAC.
- C. Representatives from UCM and MSSU expressed concern with student-athletes participating in a Habitat for Humanity project the day before competition. Culp noted the day prior to competition is to be used for rest and wondered how long the shifts were. Broderick will follow-up with National SAAC and try to get this issue addressed.

5. Graduation Rates

- A. McFillen discussed the results of the new Academic Success Rate calculation by the NCAA for graduation rates. The reasoning behind establishing the ASR is the government does not take into account the number of student-athletes who are not on athletics aid, nor do they count athletes who transfer into an institution and graduate, both of which are helpful for Division II.

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- B. The results revealed that overall in Division II, a higher number of student-athletes graduated under the ASR than under the government graduation rates. The majority of MIAA schools graduated 70% or greater in both the men's and women's programs.
- C. McFillen commended the student-athletes and noted our schools are taking grasp of the theme student first, athlete second, acknowledging most will go pro in something other than sports.
- D. Culp expressed his appreciation to McFillen and commended him for the work he has done for the MIAA as well as the student-athletes.

[Note: McFillen left the meeting at 2:20 p.m.]

6. Legislation

- A. Broderick reviewed and explained a select number of the 23 legislative proposals for the 2007 NCAA Convention. The group discussed and voted on proposal numbers 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 20, 21 and 22. Of the eight proposals voted on, all were supported except numbers 13 and 21.
- B. Broderick will take all the legislative grids, tally the votes and will vote at the National SAAC meeting according to the results of each MIAA institution's vote.

7. Conference SAAC Reorganization

- A. The committee discussed whether or not there should be a co-chair for conference SAAC or a cabinet. Broderick and Oakes believed by establishing additional positions within the organization, it would provide more student-athletes the opportunity to have a leadership role.
- B. Martinez and Reed agreed this would be beneficial and agreed with the rationale behind. Reed recommended having a cabinet versus co-chairs, with the National SAAC representative serving within the cabinet.
- C. Culp suggested having male and female co-chairs. He also suggested having conference t-shirts that show each school's logo and introduced an idea he and Oakes discussed about having a Make-A-Wish Foundation project at the MIAA Postseason Basketball Tournament. He proposed conducting a spare change drive and having it as a competition between all the schools. Each school would have a container to put their change in and it would be tied into the mascots basketball game conducted at the tournament. The project would be called "Battle of the Mascots" and schools would show their school pride by trying to raise the most money. This project could also begin prior to the tournament and be facilitated on campus at home basketball games.
- D. It Was Voted
"To conduct the Battle of the Mascots to assist in raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation."
(Passed by voice vote with no dissent.)
- E. Areas the additional officers would oversee would include the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Battle of the Mascots, MIAA Leadership Seminar, Annual Canned Food Drive, meeting and agenda planning, SAAC Website, SAAC list serve and the strategic plan.
- F. Martinez suggested once the cabinet is functioning SAAC could produce a monthly newsletter to keep everyone informed on the latest campus SAAC news.

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- G. Roldan suggested having one chair, two vice chairs, a secretary and treasurer to assist with the different areas of responsibility mentioned, with the chair being the National SAAC representative.
- H. It Was Voted
“To establish a cabinet consisting of one chair, two vice chairs, a secretary and treasurer.”
- I. It was the consensus of the group to take this information back to the campus and give the SAAC members and opportunity to get involved. Therefore, selection for each office will take place at a later date.
- J. Eaton and Roldan, who were among the group of student-athletes recommended for National SAAC, volunteered to assist in any projects prior to the selection of officers.

8. Other Business

- A. Martinez, Eaton and Roldan were participants in the NCAA Action Academy, which was held in Kansas City, MO back in September. Each gave a personal account of their experience and what they took from the academy.
- B. Houglund had the opportunity to participate in the National Leadership Seminar held every year in Florida. He also shared his experience with the group.
- C. Oakes asked the committee for their thoughts on how important attendance at the conference SAAC meetings is to them. It was the group consensus there should be 100% attendance at all conference SAAC meetings.
- D. One suggestion given was to create a fine structure for institutions, with the first offense being a fine of \$50 and the second offense being a forfeiture of all conference grant funds. The money paid from fines would go to the conference’s Make-A-Wish fundraising dollars. The group agreed this might push some schools further away from getting involved and believed the problem was not with the student-athletes and they should not be punished.
- E. Another suggestion was to develop a letter expressing the committee’s concern and displaying why they believe SAAC is important. The letter would offer a more positive approach, offering help to any institutions who may need guidance in getting their campus SAAC functioning. The letter would be delivered at the Institutional Representatives meeting in January at the NCAA Convention.
- F. It Was Voted
“To develop a letter conveying the Conference SAAC’s position on the importance of SAAC, which will be read at the Institutional Representative’s meeting in January.”
(Passed by voice vote with no dissent.)
- G. Broderick will be responsible for drafting the letter to the IRs.
- H. The group expressed their appreciation to Broderick for her years of service to the MIAA SAAC as well as National SAAC.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

NO: 11/14/06