

MIAA STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 15, 2007

Overland Park Marriott
Overland Park, KS

Those in attendance were:

UCM: Paul Banister and Stephanie Cook

ESU: Justin Wieser

FHSU: Jamie Kuehl

MSSU: Amanda Littlefield and Dustin Miller

MWSU: Jill Johnson, Jacob Schoonover and Marian Broderick (acting chair)

NWMSU: Andy Peterson and Sarah Trowbridge

PSU: Not Represented

SBU: Not Represented

TSU: John Dimberger and Katie Fowler

WU: Not represented

Also in attendance were Ralph McFillen, MIAA Commissioner, Natasha Oakes, MIAA Assistant to the Commissioner and John Culp, UCM Program Development/Retention Coordinator.

Broderick called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

1. Welcome/Introductions

- A. Broderick welcomed the group and asked them to introduce themselves to each other. She explained to the group their chair, Brittanie Roldan of UCM, had a track meet that was rescheduled to Sunday and was unable to attend the meeting.
- B. Oakes informed the group Chris Martinez of SBU emailed her on Friday night that due to weather and scheduling issues for baseball, he would not be able to make the meeting.

2. Previous Minutes

- A. Broderick informed the committee the minutes are posted on the SAAC page of the MIAA website.
- B. It Was Voted (MWSU moved, MSSU second)
"To approve the minutes of the November 12, 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. The deadline for submitting funds to the conference office is May 15, 2007.
 - b. Schools shared ideas of projects they conducted to raise money for Make-A-Wish. Those projects included goodie bags for finals, spare change drives, kids' night out, sacking groceries at a local grocer, karaoke night and 50/50 drawings at basketball games and raffles.

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B. Canned Food Drive

- a. Broderick discussed the conference's annual canned food/spare change drive, which takes place in the month of February. The food/money raised goes back into each institution's respective communities to an organization of their choice.
- b. Oakes reported during the month of February, 19,456.40 pounds were raised by the conference to support each institution's community. This figure includes monetary donations. This was the leagues best effort to-date and Oakes congratulated the group on a job well done. [Note: There is an article regarding discussing the canned food drive on www.themiaa.com under MIAA SAAC.]
- c. MWSU won the competition and pizza party for an upcoming SAAC meeting with their efforts of raising \$915, which is equivalent to 7,320 pounds.

4. National SAAC Update

- A. Broderick informed the committee Roldan would most likely have a conference call with National SAAC sometime this month if she has not already and a report should be given in the future.
- B. The group discussed the Conference Grant Impact Form, which evaluates the impact of the \$500 grant each institutions SAAC receives at the beginning of the year. Broderick had committee members submit a list of the things their SAAC uses the money for.

5. School Updates

- A. Each school went around and discussed other projects their organization is currently working on.
 - a. UCM has implemented the email-mentoring program, which is an idea they received from MWSU. They had 24 elementary school students that were paired up with student-athletes, dancers or cheer squad members. [Note: UCM presented McFillen with a SAAC certificate in appreciation for his service to the MIAA SAAC.]
 - b. ESU is planning a Senior Citizen Prom for the end of this month.
 - c. FHSU is currently working on their 5k run that will be held on April 28. All entry fees and donations will go directly to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. SAAC tried to get a flier placed in the local and on-campus papers to advertise sports that do not receive as much exposure; however there was a lack of support by the papers and the liaison.
 - d. MSSU implemented Pride Nights to try to increase pride on campus. They also had a coaches-versus-coaches basketball game and are working on a picnic at the beginning of the year for freshman and an end of the year celebration after their awards banquet.
 - e. MWSU did an "Our Team, Our House" promotion and had gold shirts with the dates of home games printed on the back and everyone would wear their gold shirts to those games. They went bowling for National Student-Athlete Day and had 50 to 60 participants.

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- f. NWMSU held challenges between the various sports teams at their SAAC meetings. The challenges included juggling, free throw contests, Twister and Northwest Athlete Trivia. The group is working towards increasing their relationship with HyVee, who partnered with them on their Make-A-Wish Foundation project. They are also interested in starting the email-mentoring program.
- g. TSU is planning an athletes' formal, which has not been done for two years. This year's theme is "Truman's Next Top Model." The student body passed a \$50 fee to be used for athletics, in which SAAC played an important role in achieving the vote.

6. Conference SAAC Reorganization

- A. Broderick reviewed the new structure of SAAC the committee voted and approved in the fall. There will be two vice chairs, a secretary and a treasurer. The vice chairs would assist in scheduling the meetings, community service projects and the MIAA Leadership Seminar. The secretary would be responsible for the meeting minutes and the treasurer would be responsible for receiving input for the conference grant impact form.
- B. Since Roldan was not present, as well as three of the member schools, the deciding of officers was tabled until the fall meeting. However, some members expressed interested in serving as officers; Banister for vice chair, Littlefield for secretary, Johnson for vice chair or treasurer. It was also noted Alex Eaton of FHSU and Caitlin Tull of SBU have also expressed interest in serving on conference SAAC.

7. Other Business

A. MIAA Leadership Seminar

- a. Oakes explained to the group what the MIAA Leadership Seminar was and when it will be held again. It was not held this academic year due to the NCAA Action Academy being in our region this past fall. The next scheduled seminar will be Spring 2008 and everyone was encouraged to attend if they have not already. More information regarding the seminar will be released at a later date.

B. Community Engagement

- a. McFillen discussed the community engagement initiative that Division II has adopted and informed the group of the session that will be held next month for athletics directors and conference commissioners. The athletics directors from FHSU and TSU are scheduled to attend this session, which will be held in Denver, CO. The purpose of the initiative is to increase the relationship between the institution and its surrounding community.

C. Sportsmanship Award

- a. McFillen informed the committee of the NCAA Sportsmanship Award. This is a relatively new award the NCAA established as a means to acknowledge student-athletes that exhibit outstanding sportsmanship. In the past, the MIAA has nominated its tennis sportsmanship award winner, as tennis is the only sport in the league that has a sportsmanship award. However, he thought it would be good to see the conference SAAC take the responsibility of naming candidates for the NCAA Sportsmanship Award.

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- b. It was suggested each school SAAC develop a sportsmanship award on campus that would be awarded at the end of the year. The institution's winners would then advance to the pool of candidates for the conference nominee for the NCAA Sportsmanship Award, which would be voted upon at the spring SAAC meeting.

D. Attendance

- a. McFillen asked the groups opinion on asking SAAC advisors to come to the meetings. He suggested having at least two advisors at the meetings, rotating the schools alphabetically.
- b. Discussion ensued and it was noted if this process was adopted, it would take up to two years for some liaisons to even get to a meeting. Other suggestions were to have all Kansas schools liaisons at one meeting and all Missouri schools liaisons at another; or recommend that all liaisons have to attend one SAAC meeting per year.
- c. The group felt this would increase support of SAAC and help those SAACs that are struggling on campus because it takes support from the top down in order for this organization to be effective.
- d. The group also discussed the issue of attendance at SAAC meetings by student-athletes. They believed if a school could not take the time to come to the conference SAAC meetings, they should not be able to receive the grant money for SAAC and that \$500 should be divided among the rest of the campus SAACs. It was also suggested if a school only comes to one meeting, then they only receive half of their grant money.
- e. It Was Voted (UCM moved, MWSU second)
“If a school is not represented by at least one student-athlete at the two annual MIAA SAAC meetings each year, that institution will forfeit its SAAC conference grant money for the next academic year.”
(Passed by voice vote with no dissent.)
- f. It Was Voted (MWSU moved, FHSU second)
“To have each school's SAAC liaison attend one of the two annual meetings.”
(Passed by voice vote with no dissent.)

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

NO: 4/16/07