

MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)

Wyndham Baltimore - Inner Harbor
Baltimore, Maryland

July 15 -18, 2004

Participants:

Andrew Baldwin, Nazareth College
Brady Barke, Webster University
Julia Brown, Rosemont College
Josh Centor, Brandeis College
Brad Coffey, Amherst College
Kelly Cyr, St. Joseph's College (Maine)
Joshua Espinosa, Buena Vista University
Jaime Fluker, Carthage College, chair
Sarah Forbus, Denison University
Christina Gipson, Methodist College
Jami Goldman, California State University, Hayward
John Harper, Bridgewater State College
Sarah Labowitz, Grinnell College
Angela Lattanzio, Washington & Jefferson College
Natalie Lyons, Bridgewater State College
Tim Maddox, Cabrini College
Dave Masilunas, Pennsylvania State University, Behrend
Heather Mathis, Maryville College
Adam Mohr, Pacific University (Oregon)
Tanya Nesbitt, Smith College
Erika Proko, Washington & Lee University
Martin Quinn, Colorado College
Timothy Rausch, DePauw University
Mitch Redig, Marian College (Wisconsin)
Joyce Wong, Eastern Connecticut State University
Mark Bedics, NCAA
Tim Clark, NCAA
Susan Peal, NCAA

Bridget Belgiovine, NCAA; Leah Nilsson, NCAA; Suzanne Coffey, Bates College; Kati Huber, NCAA; and Katie Willett, Bates College were in attendance for portions of the meeting.

[Note: While certain items on the committee's agenda were acted on by the committee or by one or more subcommittees at various times throughout the meeting, all final actions within a given topic are combined in these minutes for convenience of reference. Also, these minutes reflect only actions (formal votes or "sense of meeting") in accordance with the established policy governing minutes of all NCAA entities.]

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, July 15, by the chair, Ms. Fluker. All members were noted as above.

1. Welcome and Announcements. Ms. Fluker welcomed the committee and reviewed the meeting schedule.
2. Committee Roster. The committee reviewed the roster and updated contact information.
3. Review of Minutes from April 22, 2004, Conference Call. The committee approved the minutes from the April 22, 2004, conference call.
4. Review Management Council/Presidents Council Joint report. Ms. Forbus reviewed the April Joint Management Council/Presidents Council report and highlighted issues related to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
5. Project Team Reports. The committee received oral reports from project team chairs.

The committee noted the following actions:

- Determined that it is not necessary for the joint SAAC to meet three times a year and would like for the meeting to include an educational component, an update from each Division and a committee driven agenda.
- Eliminated the Division III Community Service project team and determined the Joint Administrative Team will assume the responsibility of community service.

- Changed the name of the Conference SAAC project team to the Conference/Independent SAAC project team.
- Determined the committee will recognize successful conference SAACs in the quarterly Division III Newsletter through a spotlight article. The story will feature 'best practices' and other quality initiatives by conference SAACs.
- Eliminated the playing and practice seasons project team and the convention planning project team. Since the committee has representation on both the Management Council's Convention Planning Subcommittee and the Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee, the representative will report on activities from these subcommittees.

The following committee members were appointed to project teams:

- Joint SAAC Administrative team. Brad Coffey.
- SAAC Conference/Independent project team. Kelly Cyr, Heather Mathis, Natalie Lyons and Angela Lattanzio
- Legislation project team. Josh Centor and Christina Gipson.
- Regional Leadership project team. Brady Barke.
- SAAC Web Site project team. Tanya Nesbitt and Christina Gipson, chair.

The committee also recommended that conferences develop a SAAC Web page through resources allocated through the Conference Technology and SAAC strategic initiative funds. The development of a SAAC Web page will enhance communication among student-athletes within a conference. The Web page also will serve as a vehicle to post information from the National SAAC.

6. Conference, Partner Conference and Independents Reports. The committee discussed the allocation of funding from the SAAC budget to attend conference meetings. It was decided that members should use the partner conference meeting funds for both attendance at conference and partner conference meetings. It was also discussed that the following conferences - Little East Conference, Skyline Conference, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, do not appear to have functioning conference SAACs and that the committee will work with the conferences to improve communication with those student-athletes.

7. Committee Reports.
 - a. Division III committees.
 - (1) Financial Aid and Awards Committee. The committee received an oral report.

 - (2) Interpretations and Legislation Committee. The committee received an oral report. The committee reviewed the initial legislative recommendations from the NCAA Student-Athlete Welfare Rules Analysis Task Force. The task force developed numerous legislative recommendations that may be considered 'less controversial' in nature. The committee will forward its feedback to the task force.

 - (3) Championships Committee. The committee received an oral report. The committee discussed the concept of a Division III national championships festival as requested by the Division III Championships Committee. The committee noted that the championships festival would create interaction among student-athletes from various schools and add amenities (e.g., Internet access, video games and a student-athlete lounge). The committee had concerns about the possible lack of attendance, the negative interaction between student-athletes and the loss of focus on a single championship. The committee suggested that the Championship Committee first explore adding the aforementioned amenities to the existing national championship format.

The committee discussed the impact of NCAA Bylaw 31.1.3.2.3, which states that preference should be given to on-campus sites in selecting venues for championships, as requested by the Division III Championships Committee. The committee noted the higher seeded team should have the priority of hosting regardless of access or availability of an on-campus facility. The committee also noted that the higher seeded institution should have the opportunity to secure alternative local off-campus community facilities and/or college/university facilities to host a championship when a campus facility is not available or may not meet specifications. Further, the committee felt there should be some consideration of a mileage limitation for the location of the off-campus facility.

- (4) Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee. The committee received an oral.

b. Association-Wide Committees.

- (1) Olympic Sports Liaison Committee. The committee received an oral report. The committee discussed the issue regarding the participation of international student-athletes, as requested by the NCAA Olympic Sports Liaison Committee (OSLC). The committee believes the concerns raised by the OSLC primarily impact Divisions I and II institutions due to the availability of athletics scholarships. The committee discussed the benefits of participating with international student-athletes, noting specifically that it offers a significant cultural experience.
- (2) Minority-Opportunities and Interests Committee. The committee received an oral report.
- (3) Committee on Women's Athletics. The committee received an oral report. The committee recommended the inclusion of a Division III and Association-wide student-athlete session as a program component of the NCAA Title IX seminar. The committee noted the success of including student-athletes on the panel at previous NCAA Title IX seminars. The committee noted that, although the seminar format had changed, it remains beneficial to hear the student-athlete voice on Title IX issues.

- (4) Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport. The committee received an oral report.
- (5) Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct Committee. The committee received an oral report.

8. Division III Issues.

- Regional Leadership Update. The committee discussed the format and content of the regional leadership conference in preparation for the upcoming Division III Student-Athlete Regional Leadership Conferences to be held October 15-17 in Pittsburgh and January 21-23, 2005, in Indianapolis. The committee reviewed a slightly new format that includes an option for participants, depending on their familiarity of a campus SAAC, to choose between a beginner session (formation and structure of SAAC) and advanced session (self analysis; improving your existing SAAC). The committee recommended the addition of two new Division III Issues Forums: gambling and promoting the Division III identity. The committee also recommended a SAAC session that would cover the integration of athletics on a Division III campus. Further, it was recommended that student-athletes participating in the Future of Division III–Phase II virtual focus groups attend the conference.

9. Association-Wide Issues.

- a. Sport Committee Update. Mr. Rausch and Ms. Lyons gave an oral report on their role with sport committees.
- b. Leadership Conference Follow-up. Mr. Clark gave an oral report on the Leadership Conference held May 30–June 4, 2004 in Orlando, Florida.

- c. Gambling Task Force Update. The committee was updated on the work to date by the NCAA Gambling Task Force and offered feedback to the SAAC member serving on the task force. The committee noted a need for more education in Division III. The committee had concerns that student-athletes with gambling problems are not informed nor have access to receive the needed support. More priority should be placed on assisting student-athletes instead of the loss of eligibility for involvement in gambling activities.
10. Convention Planning. The committee reviewed the tentative schedule for the 2005 Convention. The committee recommended that SAAC contact the chairpersons for Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, the Division III Commissioners Association and National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators Association to include a SAAC member at their Convention meetings to explain the important role of a campus and conference SAAC.
11. SAAC Nominations - Association-wide, Division III Committees and SAAC Chair. The committee appointed the following members to serve on Division III and Association-wide committees.
- Championships Committee. Angela Lattanzio, Washington & Jefferson College.
 - Olympic Sports Liaison Committee. Brady Barke, Webster University.
 - Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct Committee. Kelly Cyr, St. Joseph's College (Maine).
 - Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee. Christina Gipson, Methodist College.
12. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee – September Vacancies. Ms. Peal updated the committee regarding the new committee member appointments with terms beginning September 2004. The current SAAC members of the partner conference will be assigned to mentor the new members.

13. SAAC Executive Subcommittee. The committee appointed Andrew Baldwin, Nazareth College, as chair of the committee. His term of service will begin September 1, 2004. The committee appointed Tanya Nesbitt, Smith College, as vice chair of the committee. Her term of service will begin September 1, 2004.

14. Partner Conference– Student-Athlete Link. The committee discussed the concept of a student-athlete link with their partner conferences in order to increase communication and the involvement of their partner conferences. The committee determined it will establish e-mail accounts for all conferences in the conference partnership program for more efficient communication with the student-athletes. The SAAC Web site project team was assigned the task of setting up the email accounts.

15. Strategic Plan.
 - a. Association-Wide. Ms. Belgiovine reviewed the Association-wide strategic plan.

 - b. Division III Strategic Planning Priorities and Implementation 2004-2006. Ms. Belgiovine discussed the 2004-06 Division III strategic-planning priorities and implementation. In goal three, the committee recommended an additional outcome objective to ensure the division achieves stronger involvement of student-athletes in decision-making and CEO interaction. In goal five, the committee noted that SAAC should assist with implementation and work to identify strategies to enhance involvement and interaction between CEOs and student-athletes. The committee recommended an additional implementation initiative: to create key Division III messages to enhance the understanding and promotion of the division. The committee noted the addition of an initiative, a session at the regional leadership conference to focus on the promotion and identity of Division III. The committee determined the additional outcome objectives and initiatives will ensure the student-athlete voice is integrated in the division's strategic-planning priorities.

 - c. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee reviewed the incorporation of the SAAC operational plan objectives with the Division III strategic planning priorities.

16. Legislative Issues.

- a. Legislative Activity Calendar. Ms. Nilsson reviewed the legislative timeline with the committee.
- b. 2005 Convention Membership Sponsored Proposals. Ms. Nilsson reviewed the membership sponsored proposals.
- c. 2005 Convention Presidents Council Sponsored Proposals. Ms. Nilsson reviewed the Presidents Council sponsored proposals.
- d. Permission to Contact Self-Release. The committee supported the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee's recommendation to sponsor a modification of wording of 2004 NCAA Convention Proposal No. 59 to indicate that contact based on the self-release must remain private unless and until the student-athlete decides to transfer to another institution. Once the student-athlete decides to transfer, the institution to which he or she will transfer must notify the student-athlete's current institution of the contact within seven days of the decision to transfer.

17. SAAC Reunion – Past, Present and Future of Division III and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee held its first SAAC reunion. Former committee members from 1997-2004 were in attendance to discuss the Future of Division III-Phase II; the "student first" philosophy; and SAAC highlight and accomplishments since 1997.

18. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by the chair, Ms. Fluker at 3:35 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday, July 18. The committee concluded its activities with the SAAC/Management Council roundtable discussions and reception on Sunday evening. Discussion topics included academic performance, cultural integration, sportsmanship and conference autonomy.

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