

Faculty Athletics Representatives Meeting Minutes
Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 2009
Lock Haven University
Lock Haven, PA

Participants: Dr. Robert C. Ziegenfus, Chair (Kutztown); Dr. Robert Maris (Mansfield); Dr. Kevin Roth (Clarion); Dr. William Biddington (California); Dr. Kurt Fuellhart (Shippensburg); Dr. Janet Manspeaker (Cheyney); Dr. Paul Ballat (Lock Haven); Dr. Richard A. Glenn (Millersville); Professor Susan Gushie (Mercyhurst)

Agenda Items and Discussion:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Announcements
 - a. Regional Rules Seminars, May 11-15 in Atlanta; June 1-5 in Anaheim
 - b. PSAC Board of Directors, May 19, 2009
 - c. FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium, San Diego, CA November 13-15, 2008
 - d. NCAA Convention, Washington, DC, January 14-17, 2009
3. Conference Issues with Mr. Steve Murray
 - a. Spring 2009 PSAC Sports Schedule and Implications for Future Years – Baseball has had few problems to date. Softball has moved to a three division format rather smoothly - - is this the future for baseball? Lacrosse plays fewer contests so the weather is less problematic. In the Fall of 2009, volleyball moves to divisional play on Friday/Saturday with a travel partner as in basketball crossovers. This change should remove most Tuesday games unless institutions choose to play non-league games. The major unknown in any future scheduling is the proposed reduction of 10% (or more) in the number of contests in DII. Substantial, and perhaps surprising, changes may be made to Bylaw 17. This topic seems to have traction at all levels of the NCAA governance structure. Therefore, PSAC athletic administrators have formed a committee to discuss the implications of modifications to the conference regular season and championship schedules.
 - b. PSAC Pre-Game Recitation – There seems to be only modest commitment to this requirement for all league games. Mr. Murray volunteered to discuss this issue with the athletic directors. He did note that one solution to the problem of finding student-athlete volunteers is the procedure in the South Atlantic Conference wherein the reading is by one player from each of the opposing teams.
 - c. Sportsmanship Initiative (Game Environment) – Mr. Murray indicated that the league had few problems in this area to date this academic year. Perhaps a small part of the reason may be that the league has emphasized the topic. Last Fall, the Conference SAAC established the Sportsmanship Award wherein each campus can nominate and one will be selected as the Conference winner to become the PSAC nominee for the DII award.

- d. Community Engagement Initiative – Mr. Murray congratulated Kutztown University for winning the first DII award for its initiative entitled “Paint the Town Gold.” He reminded everyone that the focus of an initiative does not have to be an athletic event. Also, it may be a vehicle by which several teams can work together instead of 20 teams trying to develop 20 activities.
 - e. PSAC Budget and NCAA Requirements. Mr. Murray distributed documents that identified the PSAC Strategic Initiative Grant Usage and how the league members are using their SAAC Enhancement and Academic Support Enhancement funds. It appears that the PSAC allocations are in alignment with the DII Strategic Plan. More focus on diversity and inclusion will need to be a part of future funding priorities. The DII reporting requirements are becoming more specific for fiscal accounting of NCAA funds.
4. Conflict Avoidance Scheduling – Dr. Maris provided an update on the continuing effort to establish a policy at Mansfield. He stated that a proposal is moving through the administration rather than the Faculty Senate where it had been voted down twice. Professor Gushie reported that Mercyhurst students are told what times to take classes and their advisor can change a schedule if needed. Dr. Manspeaker indicated that at Cheyney freshmen receive assistance in initial scheduling. Dr. Glenn felt that Millersville adopted a policy, after initial rejection in the 1990s, because professors recognized that it was an advantage for them as it minimizes make-up assignments and tests. Dr. Fuellhart described the Shippensburg policy as team-specific rather than across the board. He did pose a critical question that has been part of the discussion at a number of institutions. Namely, what assurance do faculty have that a student-athlete will not miss beyond a certain number of classes in any one course? No consensus emerged although Dr. Ballet reminded the group that at Lock Haven student-athlete schedule approval is in the hands of the Provost. The Provost’s rule is that the maximum number of absences for any one student-athlete is equivalent to the number of times the class meets each week. Time did not permit a full and comprehensive discussion of this point so the topic will be on the agenda for the Fall 2009 meeting.
5. PSAC Policy for Absences for Athletes? No further discussion beyond that held at the Fall 2008 meeting.
6. FAR Web Presence on PSAC Site – Time did not permit discussion of this topic.
7. Extended Discussion topics – There was no time for any discussion about FAR duties and compensation/released time.
8. Recommendations for Advisory Council – None.