

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Lock Haven, PA – September 28, 2008

Attendance: Ashley Brucker (Bloom), Colleen Kegerreis (Bloom), Ashley Moore (Cal), Frank Ehrensberger (Cal), Gregory Parker (Clar), Rich Eckert (Clar), Alexa Detzi (ESU), Janel Cleffi (ESU), Derek Sapp (Edin), Brandon Davidson (Edin), Liz Tepsic (IUP), Maddy Outman (IUP), Chris Howie (Kutztown), Shawn Santo (Kutztown), A.J. Zimmer (LHU), Katie Akins (Man), Clarissa Correll (Mans), Jenna Craig (Mill), Will Kane (Ship), Mandi Foltz (Ship), Lisa Belcastro (SRU), Jen Venet (SRU), Zac Tassone (WCU), Steve Murray, Carlin Chesick (PSAC).

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March, 2008 PSAC SAAC meeting were reviewed and approved.

PSAC Update: Commissioner Murray discussed the conference expansion issue. Scheduling will be very flexible the next couple of years. Additionally, raising transportation costs and the budget cuts were also topics for discussion.

Division II SAAC Update: Our new rep is Rich Eckert, a swimmer from Clarion. Rich updated us on Make-A-Wish. The PSAC raised \$14,000 for Make-A-Wish and Division II rose over \$200,000. The PSAC had 13 of 14 institutions participate in our annual fundraiser. Additionally, game environment and the need for future officials were discussed.

Key Division II Proposed Legislative Proposals: A discussion was held concerning some of the new legislative proposals that could pass in January at the NCAA Convention that would go into effect next year. A few were discussed that would potentially affect student-athletes the most, hardship waiver calculations that would benefit injured or sick student-athletes, documented coach's misunderstanding that would penalize the student-athlete for two contests for each contest he or she participated in, and vacation period strength and conditioning workout programs designed by strength and conditioning personnel. Additionally, the issue of the first contest for Basketball was also brought up and again the SAAC has been against this proposal, stating facility issues and a longer than necessary season for Basketball athletes.

Strategic Planning: The PSAC & SAAC Sportsmanship award was put into motion developing instructions and criteria. Pending approval from the Athletic Administrators, the SAAC will put this into motion during the 2008-2009 academic year. The winner(s) of the PSAC Sportsmanship award will then be submitted to the NCAA for the national sportsmanship award in June. The banners displaying the acronym Portraying Sportsmanship At all Costs will include a SAAC logo for future purchases. Also, it was determined the pre-game ritual between teams prior to athletic events would be removed from the sportsmanship strategic plan because of the difficulty it poses during certain athletic events. Additionally, the student-athlete recitation was trimmed down to make it more informal.

NCAA Strategic Grant Program: The SAAC reviewed the PSAC's proposed use of the Division II Strategic Initiative Grants; particularly the sub-grants provided to campus SAACs (\$600) and academic support (\$4,000). The SAAC members were informed how the NCAA issues grants and what steps are taken by their institutions athletic departments.

Conference SAAC Project and Make-A-Wish: SAAC members had a short discussion about the Make-A-Wish campaign. This will be the only fundraiser the SAAC will participate in for the year. SAAC members agreed each institution would try to raise \$1000 with full conference participation.

Saturday/Sunday play: SAAC members are not in agreement with this issue. Student-athletes have tremendous time constraints and enjoy knowing Sunday is traditionally a rest and homework day.

Facebook/MySpace: SAAC members again discussed these particular websites and their concern for the amount of information student-athletes were making available on their private websites, particularly involving alcohol. This has been and will continue to be an issue at meetings. The PSAC will create its own PSAC SAAC facebook page in order to share information between SAAC members during the year.

Topics for Spring Meeting: SAAC members were informed that Diversity was the intended topic for the Spring Meeting. All were in agreement this would be beneficial. The SAAC members were also interested in Mock Interviews as a possible alternative or future meeting topic option.

Campus Issues Form:

1. **Videoconference/Teleconference:** SAAC members discussed making the Fall meeting a video or teleconference.

Future Meeting Dates/Planning: The PSAC SAAC Spring meeting will take place Saturday & Sunday, March 21/22, 2009 in Lock Haven.