

Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Lock Haven, PA – September 30, 2007

Attendance: Ashley Brucker (Bloom), Christine Wason (Bloom), Torie Cunningham (Bloom); Christopher Clark (Cal), Brittany Bureau (Cal), Ashley Grimm (Clar), Rich Eckert (Clar), Andy Heimbach (ESU), Katie Fretz (ESU), Derek Sapp (Edin), Brandon Davidson (Edin), Ken Evans (IUP), Erin Waters (Kutztown), Shane Martin (Kutztown), Inga Kurgonaite (LHU), Evelyn Wynn (LHU), Andrew Butler (Mill), Maria Polyak (Mill), Will Kane (Ship), Mandi Foltz (Ship), Anastasia Urbanik (SRU), Jen Venet (SRU), Mark Iwans (WCU), Becca MacNeill (WCU), Steve Murray, Carlin Chesick (PSAC).

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March, 2007 PSAC SAAC meeting were reviewed and approved.

PSAC Update: Commissioner Murray discussed the conference expansion issue. A lengthy discussion was held concerning the SAAC's involvement. Overall, it was viewed as an opportunity for increased competition within the league. A scheduling handout was distributed to show the impact on each sport.

Division II SAAC Update: Jimmy Evans, the PSAC SAAC rep will need to be replaced on the Division II National SAAC and a slate of candidates was turned into Commissioner Murray for consideration. The NCAA Division II Leadership Academy will be held in the northeast region from February 15-17, 2008, in Philadelphia, PA. The conference office staff encouraged all schools to participate in this fun yet educational experience. In Jimmy's National SAAC report, he developed a list of goals for the upcoming year. Some goals included assisting struggling campus SAACs with ways to strengthen meetings, increased communication among student-athletes and FAR's, and continue to edit and update our conference's strategic plan.

Key Division II Proposed Legislative Proposals: A discussion was held concerning some new legislative proposals that should pass in January that will go into affect next year. A few were discussed that would potentially affect student-athletes the most. Among those were electronically transmitted correspondence (Text Messaging, Instant Messenger) would be prohibited to a prospective student-athlete except when an NLI is signed with an institution, male practice players on women's teams and skill instruction outside of playing seasons in small groups. For a majority, SAAC agreed all of the legislation was worthy of consideration.

Strategic Planning: A major portion of the meeting focused on the Division II key attribute of sportsmanship and the PSAC SAAC's response to developing statements and banners in association with the Division II SAAC. Three of the five goals brought forward from SAAC have now gone into affect. The banners displaying the acronym Portraying Sportsmanship At all Costs were purchased at the beginning of the school year and should be placed in all athletic venues at each institution. The recitation was developed and should be read before each contest by a student-athlete. This objective also ties into the pre-game ritual between teams prior to athletic events.

The objectives highlighted for implementation in 2007-08 include:

- 1. Development and recitation of a new student-athlete statement on sportsmanship, read in person by a current student-athlete, prior to each contest. This will start in the Fall of 2007.**
- 2. Development, purchase and display of Sportsmanship Banners at PSAC athletic venues. Banners were sent to be on display in the Fall of 2007.**
- 3. Creation of a list serve in order to facilitate communication between PSAC SAAC representatives starting immediately.**
- 4. Initiate process to develop a pre-game sportsmanship ritual between opposing teams prior to each athletic event.**
- 5. Begin development and creation of a Sportsmanship Award for implementation in Fall 2007.**

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 (\$820) 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. The SAAC supported the continued use of the grants in the methods handed out in the supplement. The SAAC agreed at its last meeting to distribute the remaining money from the Organ Donor Awareness Day into the SAAC grant.

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.

Hazing Information: A handout was distributed about hazing and the affects it has on sports teams and individuals. SAAC members were encouraged to return to their campus SAAC's with this information.

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 an issue at previous meetings. All members were once again encouraged to let their campus SAACs know how these particular websites could impact their college experience. A PowerPoint presentation was handed out with case examples.

Campus Issues Form:

1. **Swimming Qualifiers:** Clarion student-athletes led a discussion about the number of swimmers qualifying for championships and how many swimmers are allowed to participate.

Future Meeting Dates/Planning: The PSAC SAAC Spring meeting will take place Saturday & Sunday, March 29/30, 2007 in Lock Haven.