

**Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Lock Haven, PA – March 29-30, 2008
MINUTES**

Attendance: Ashley Brucker (Bloom), Christine Wason (Bloom); Chris Clark (Cal), Brittany Grigg (Cal), Bo Thompson (Chey), Ashley Grimm (Clar), Rich Eckert (Clar), Jimmy Evans (ESU), Alexa Detzi (ESU), Katie Fretz (ESU), Samantha Kuehner (Edin), Brandon Davidson (Edin), Kim Kowalski (IUP), A.J. Zimmer (LHU), Jenna Craig (Mill), Will Kane (Ship), Mandi Foltz (Ship), Dana Stewart (SRU), Jackie Palus (SRU), Mark Iwans (WCU), Rachel Gale (WCU), Steve Murray (PSAC), Carlin Chesick (PSAC), Lauren Packer (PSAC), Adam Andrasko (PSAC)

Informal Session: Prior to the formal meeting, the SAAC members participated in a self-evaluation of their leadership styles using the DiSC analysis. This program was facilitated by Steve Murray PSAC Commissioner. Additionally, the SAAC members, with the FARs, had a moving presentation by Sharon Taylor, athletic director at Lock Haven University and Title IX expert, about gender equity and the effects of Title IX in athletics.

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

PSAC Update: Steve Murray held a discussion about the three new institutions that will be joining the league next year. Gannon University and Mercyhurst College will be full members, while C.W. Post/Long Island University will join as an associate member in Field Hockey and Football. Webcasting of sporting contests through B2Networks was also highlighted. Scheduling and cross over contests counting in conference standings once again seems to be a controversial issue with the SAAC regarding missed class time and conference unity.

NCAA Update: Division II continues to be the only division to hold Sports Festivals for national championships. The next one coming up is this spring at Rice University in Houston, Texas. All spring sports except Baseball and Track and Field will participate. The University of Houston will hold a winter sports festival in Winter 2009. Regionalization realignment will begin in the fall of 2008. The CIAA and WVIAC will be in the PSAC's region.

Division II Update: The Strategic Positioning Platform was distributed to SAAC members as a brochure recently created by the conference office. Rich Eckert (Clarion) has been named the new PSAC representative on the NCAA SAAC replacing Jimmy Evans (East Stroudsburg).

NCAA Strategic Grant Program: A lengthy discussion was held about the use of the Division II Strategic Initiative Grants on each campus. The SAAC showed concern, particularly with their grant money (\$820). Most do not know how this money is being spent. They agreed they would go back on campus and ask their liaisons.

Sportsmanship: The Sportsmanship Initiatives have been developed and are well under way at each institution. A banner with the words "Portraying Sportsmanship At All Costs" is displayed at each venue. A pregame recitation read in person by a current student-athlete is being read before contests at each campus. The pregame sportsmanship ritual is being eliminated from the SAAC sportsmanship initiatives. It was determined this is just too difficult for sports with a large number of participants. Most sports already have something in place either before or after the contests. SAAC members at this meeting will vote for the nominees this spring for the NCAA Sportsmanship Award submitted by the conference office.

Conference SAAC Project – Make-A-Wish: Make-A-Wish continues to be the conference SAAC project. The Division II SAAC has adopted Make-A-Wish as a national program and conferences/institutions are encouraged to participate in some fundraising efforts. The deadline to submit money is June 15, 2008. Currently, only four institutions have donated. The SAAC agreed each school should be raising at least \$500-\$1,000.

Campus Issues Form:

1. **Hazing:** A booklet was handed out with extensive literature about the affects of hazing on college teams.
2. **Students vs. Student-Athletes:** SAAC discussed some of the pros and cons of being student-athletes. They believe they are held to a different standard because they are exposed more readily not only on campus but to the community as well.

Future Meeting Dates/Planning: The PSAC SAAC Fall meeting will take place Sunday, September 28, 2008 in Lock Haven.