

MINUTES OF THE
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mountain West Conference Office
Colorado Springs, Colorado

November 12-13, 2005

Those participating:

Kat Bushey, Air Force Academy
Katie Montgomery, Brigham Young University
Jennifer Gardner, Colorado State University
Kimilia Davis, University of New Mexico
Cassie Zebisch, San Diego State University
Gloriann Lopez, TCU
Deanna Appuglise, UNLV
Kristen Riffanacht, University of Utah
C.R. Davis, University of Wyoming
Lisa Danner, Mountain West Conference
Carolayne Henry, Mountain West Conference
Kelly Slater, Mountain West Conference

Those unable to participate: Breda Bova, University of New Mexico, Joint Council Representative.

[Note: These minutes reflect only actions (formal votes or “sense of meeting”). The only discussion included is that ordered by the chair or a member of the group; all salient discussion is included in the recording secretary’s notes on file in the Conference office.]

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis welcomed the members of the committee to Colorado Springs and made the necessary introductions. Members were present as noted above.

1. Review of May 21-22, 2005 Minutes. The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of its May 21-22 in-person meeting as distributed.
2. Review of Mountain West Conference Structure. Mr. Davis and Ms. Henry reviewed the MWC structure highlighting the roles of the Faculty Athletics Representatives, Senior Woman Administrators and Athletic Directors. The MWC SAAC reports to the Joint Council which consists of Faculty Athletic Representatives, Senior Woman Administrators and Athletics Directors. Building relationships with these individuals at each institutions can be beneficial. The committee also reviewed the roles of the Joint Council, the Joint Council Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Ms. Henry reminded the committee to use

those available at their institutions, particularly those in compliance, as each of them are helpful resources on a variety of issues and concerns.

The committee also reviewed the Mountain West Conference Sportsmanship Policy. The committee was reminded the Board of Directors and Joint Council has again placed an emphasis on sportsmanship within the league.

3. Review of Committee Goals. Ms. Davis and Ms. Henry reviewed the 2004-05 committee goals in detail with intent of updating them for 2005-06. The committee divided into small groups to further discuss the goals and then determine the best means of accomplishing the goals. Below is a description of each goal and thoughts on how to best achieve each goal.

a. ***2005-06 Goal No. 1: To facilitate a positive student-athlete image by promoting good sportsmanship and publicizing the accomplishments of student-athletes. This may include athletic and academic accomplishments as well as community service activities.***

- Encourage professors to participate in “a day in the life” of a student-athlete program.
- Invite the faculty athletic representative to SAAC meetings.
- Work with the campus newspaper on promoting positive student-athlete stories and activities. Invite the editor of the newspaper to SAAC meetings.
- Encourage student-athletes to support other student-athletes at competitions. Create a competition to see which team brings the most people to games.

b. ***2005-06 Goal No. 2: To bridge the trust gap between student-athletes and coaches/administrators.***

The committee identified several ways in which they can improve the trust gap between student-athletes and coaches/administrators

- Allow student-athletes to vote for their captains as opposed to coaches appointing captains.
- Encourage members of the athletic administration, specifically the athletic director, to attend SAAC meetings and competitions of all sports. In addition, start a social event for student-athletes and athletic administration to attend together.
- Start a leadership committee that includes both student-athletes and members of the athletic administration.

- Investigate the possibility of SAAC being recognized as a student organization as well as having a SAAC member serve on the student government.
- c. **2005-06 Goal No. 3:** *To improve student-athlete lives by raising awareness of welfare issues.*

The committee agreed certain welfare issues still need attention. The committee noted a meeting at the beginning of the academic year with all student-athletes in order to distribute information regarding particularly welfare issues and where to find help, would be beneficial. The committee felt the following issues need to continue to be stressed:

- Nutrition
- Alcohol
- Rest/Over-training
- Pressures on student-athletes
- Budgeting

The committee agreed seminars should be open to the entire student body, not just student-athletes.

- d. **2005-06 Goal No. 4:** *To inspire and develop student-athletes into leaders of character beyond athletics. This will positively impact their professional environment and community.*

In order to inspire and develop student-athletes into leaders of character the committee suggested the following:

- Encourage student-athletes to be involved in service activities. Involvement in the community helps build character and maturity for the future.
- Encourage coaching staffs to support student-athletes who would like to participate in community service activities.

After discussion of the goals, the committee concluded they would like to focus solely on working with the campus newspaper to positively promoting student-athletes. A focus will hopefully allow the committee to make some measurable progress with their goals this year. The committee divided into two groups to discuss the best means of working with their campus newspapers. The following suggestions were made:

- Educate newspaper editors.
- Create a public relations contact on each team or a representative on the SAAC.
- Conduct a media training class for student-athletes.
- Provide information directly to the editors – work with sports information staff.
- Send athletic department articles and release to newspaper.

The committee will report their progress on future conference calls. Additionally, the committee should bring a copy of their campus newspaper to the spring in-person meeting.

4. Mountain West Conference Championship Gifts. The committee reviewed a power point of possible championship gifts. The following gifts were preferred by the committee:
 - Blankets (fleece, gray).
 - Sweatsuits, warm-ups or hooded sweatshirt (charcoal gray).
 - Backpacks (black, various compartments).
 - Folding chair (with just a cup holder).
 - Travel pillow/neck support.
 - Robes (with MWC logo).
 - Toiletry bag (in conjunction with robe).

Ms. Slater appreciated the feedback from the committee. It was noted a four year gift rotation will need to be developed at the spring in-person meeting. Actual samples of the gifts will be available at that time.

The meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m.

5. Community Service Activity. The committee participated in a community service activity at Edison Elementary School in Colorado Springs. The committee put on a sports clinic for approximately 50 elementary school children.

Sunday, November 13, 2005.

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m., by Mr. Davis. Members were present as noted above.

6. NCAA Legislation. The committee reviewed various NCAA legislation on a variety of topics including amateurism, eligibility, financial aid and playing and practice seasons. Below are the committee comments on specific proposals.

- Proposal No. 2005-65 General Regulations – Amateur Status if Professional in Another Sport: **Support**.
- Proposal No. 2005-68 Promotional Activities – Permissible – Educational Products Related to Sport Skill Instruction: **Support**.
- Proposal No. 2005-53 Full-Time Enrollment – Graduate Program: **Support – maintains consistency**.
- Proposal No. 2005-82 One Time Transfer Exception – S-A Not Recruited by Original Four-Year Institution: **Support**.
- Proposal No. 2005-108 Seasons of Competition – Division I-A and I-AA Football: **Oppose**.
- Proposal No. 2005-109 Transfer – One-time Transfer Exception – D-I-AA Football: **Oppose**.
- Proposal No. 2005-44 Terms and Conditions of Awarding Institutional Financial Aid – Renewals and Non Renewals – Institutional Obligation: **Support – the time frame is helpful to student-athletes**.
- Proposal No. 2005-125 General Playing Seasons Regulations – Required Day Off – Basketball Exceptions: **Oppose**.
- Proposal No. 2005-115 Financial Aid – Counters – Maximum Equivalency Limits – Women’s Swimming and Diving: **Support**.

Ms. Davis requested the committee email her with any additional feedback on NCAA legislation so she can present it to the NCAA Division I SAAC.

7. NCAA Division I SAAC Update. Ms. Davis provided an update on activities of the NCAA Division I SAAC. The committee is currently focused on NCAA legislative proposals and requests feedback from all institutional SAACs. Ms. Davis requested specific feedback on NCAA proposals 2005-101, 2005-75, 2005-14, 2005-16, 2005-25 and 2005-26. The committee agreed to discuss the proposals at their next institutional SAAC meeting.

8. MWC SAAC Service Project. The committee discussed the possibility of a blood drive as a Conference-wide community service project. It was the consensus of the committee that a blood drive would be a great project particularly in light of Hurricane Katrina. The committee asked for clarification on the responsibilities of each institutional SAAC. Ms. Danner provided details of what needs to be completed noting that the SAAC's responsibility is to promote the blood drive, not run the blood drive (which is the blood bank's responsibility). It was requested the committee send ideas for the name of the blood drive by Friday, November 18.

The committee discussed two possible ways of counting the collected blood. The first option is to count the number of total pints and the second option is to count the number of donors. It was the consensus of the committee to count the total number of collected pints. Therefore, the institution that collects the most pints will be declared the "winner" of the service project. Ms. Bushey noted the committee will need to compare the number of pints collected against the student body population to allow smaller institutions to compete with larger institutions.

The committee agreed each institution should have their blood drive on a date in January or February. Staff requested a date for each institution be finalized prior to mid-December.

Staff will work with Midwest Trophy to develop a traveling community service activity trophy. The trophy will be presented to the winner of the blood drive during the Mountain MWC Basketball Championships in March at the Pepsi Center.

The committee discussed various ways of promoting the blood drive and came up with the following ideas:

- Campus newspaper.
- Flyers.
- Public address announcements.
- Emails/Listservs.
- In conjunction with student government, Greek system.
- University and athletic website.
- At competitions.
- Mailer.

9. SAAC Exchange Program. The committee requested Ms. Appuglise consult with her institutional SAAC regarding further details about the SAAC Exchange Program. The committee will discuss the potential exchange program again at the spring in-person meeting.
10. NCAA Items. The committee reviewed applications for the NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship and NCAA Internship. Ms. Henry indicated both are great opportunities for graduating student-athletes.

Ms. Danner reviewed the application for an alcohol awareness grant from the NCAA. The committee was encouraged to review the application and contact her with any questions.

The committee was provided an update on the NCAA Home Team Project. Currently, the Home Team Project is not available in the MWC area. Ms. Danner will update the committee if there are any changes.

11. Campus SAAC Activities. Each committee member shared a list of recent SAAC activities at their respective institutions:

Air Force

- The Air Force Academy student-athletes participate in community service activities with individual teams.
- Working on home football game spirit.

BYU

- Y games.
- Buff Don't Puff.
- Cosmos Halloween party.
- SAAC retreat.
- Fireside.

Colorado State

- Reading to elementary schools.
- Food drive with autograph signing.

New Mexico

- Halloween costume judging.
- "Read to your Child" program.
- Awards banquet.

San Diego State

- Breast cancer walk.
- Adopt a family for holidays.
- Gift wrapping party.
- Junior Seau Foundation.
- Awards banquet.
- Recess/mentoring.

TCU

- "Pink Out" game for breast cancer awareness.
- Super frog challenge.
- Toy drive.

- Banquet.
- Purple-up games.

UNLV

- Wellness road show.
- Thanksgiving baskets.
- Breast cancer awareness day.
- Rebelling against violence.

Utah

- Team Lincoln – reading at Lincoln Elementary.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- Athlete Halloween party.

Wyoming

- Reading and donating books.
- Raised money for Christmas party to buy children gifts.
- Friday night fever – student-athlete social.

12. Meeting Recap. Mr. Davis reviewed items discussed at the meeting throughout the weekend and encouraged committee members to implement new ideas on their campuses. The committee was reminded to work on the blood drive and campus newspaper projects as well as provided feedback to Ms. Davis regarding the requesting NCAA legislative proposals.

13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. MT.

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