

MINUTES OF THE
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mountain West Conference Office
Colorado Springs, Colorado

May 21-22, 2005

Those participating:

Ryan Fitzgerald, Air Force Academy
Katie Montgomery, Brigham Young University
Jennifer Gardner, Colorado State University
Alicia Lacovara, University of New Mexico
Rachael Vrooman, San Diego State University
Ashley Davis, TCU
Michelle Suszek, UNLV
Spencer Toone, University of Utah
Matt Brunk, University of Wyoming
Anthony Archbald, 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 Ms. Davis. Ms. Davis welcomed the members of the committee to Colorado Springs and made the necessary introductions. Members were present as noted above.

1. Review of April 28, 2005 Minutes. The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of its April 28, 2005 conference call as distributed.
2. Review of Mountain West Conference Structure. Ms. Davis and Ms. Henry reviewed the MWC structure with specific attention paid to the roles of the Faculty Athletics Representatives, Senior Woman Administrators and Athletic Directors. The MWC SAAC reports to the Joint Council which is made up of Faculty Athletic Representatives, Senior Woman Administrators and Athletics Directors, thus getting to know these people at individual institutions can be helpful. 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 discussed the emphasis the Joint Council and Board of Directors has placed on sportsmanship. The committee reviewed various acts of unsportsmanlike conduct from the 2004-05 academic year. It was noted a more in-depth discussion of sportsmanship is slated for later in the meeting.

Ms. Henry noted the Joint Council will begin reviewing the Mountain West Conference governance structure this spring and will continue to do so through the fall. The committee will be updated on any progress or changes as necessary.

3. Review of Committee Goals. Ms. Davis and Ms. Henry reviewed the 2004-05 committee goals in detail. The committee divided into small groups to further discuss the 2004-05 goals and to 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. ***2004-05 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.***

- Promote student-athlete accomplishments, community service, etc via the school newspaper. Possibly create an athlete of the week award.
- Encourage the institutional administration to crack down on those who act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Encourage student-athletes to support other student-athletes on campus by attending their competitions.
- Create a sportsmanship award that carries more prestige.
- Find common bonds between students and student-athletes in order to encourage the support of the entire student body.
- Get the coaches involved.
- Set an example for good sportsmanship to teammates and coaches.

- b. ***2004-05 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 the competitions of all sports. In addition, start a social for student-athletes in which the athletic administration attends as well.
 - 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 and well as having a member serve on the student government.
- c. *2004-05 Goal No. 3: To improve student-athlete lives by raising awareness of welfare issues.*

The committee agreed certain welfare issues still need attention. It was also noted that 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:

- Sports psychology
- Sleep awareness
- Alcohol use/date rape
- Sexual Harassment
- Self-defense
- Awareness of resources
- Stress
- Eating disorders

- d. **2004-05 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.
- NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

The committee was requested to provide ideas on how to be active with the goals and not become stagnant as a committee. Ideas and suggestions will be discussed in further detail in the fall but the following suggestions were made:

- Meet with coaches and encourage improved communication
- Coordinate a competition to encourage participation – University of Wyoming has a competition and each team is able to earn points through earning good grades, athletic achievements and community service. A trophy is awarded at the end of the year to the team with the most points.
- Food and clothing drive during Thanksgiving holiday.

4. Mountain West Conference Championship Gifts. The committee was asked to provide ideas for future championship gifts as 2005-06 is the last year of the established four-year rotation. The committee provided the following suggestions:

- Blankets
- Sweatsuits or warm-ups
- Backpacks
- Shoe bags
- Athletic watches
- Fleece pullover
- Digital camera
- Rolling luggage bag
- Bathrobe
- Embroidered towel set

Ms. Slater noted the committee will look at various gift samples at the fall in-person meeting in order to start developing a new championship gift rotation.

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, May 22, 2005.

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

6. NCAA Legislation. The committee reviewed and discussed the following NCAA legislation:

Proposal No. 2004-4

HOURS EARNED OR ACCEPTED FOR DEGREE CREDIT – SIX HOUR REQUIREMENT

Intent: A student-athlete in his or her final academic year (final two semesters) of his or her designated degree program may use credits acceptable toward any of the institution's degree programs to satisfy the six-hour requirement.

Emphasis placed on final academic year of designated degree program.

Proposal No. 2004-5

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AND STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Intent: A student-athlete shall not be required to complete six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term of full-time enrollment during any term or terms of enrollment in a cooperative education program or an institutionally approved study-abroad program.

Proposal No. 2004-14

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID – PRIOR TO INITIAL FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT – SPORTS OTHER THAN BASKETBALL

Intent: In sports other than basketball, to permit institutions to provide athletically related financial aid to qualified prospective student-athletes during the summer immediately prior to initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution.

Proposal No. 2004-17

ELIGIBILITY FOR POSTSEASON COMPETITION – BETWEEN TERMS

Intent: An institution shall certify that a student-athlete, in his or her final season of competition in the applicable sport, has satisfactorily completed six-semester or six-quarter hours of academic credit the preceding regular academic term to be eligible to compete in postseason competition occurring between regular terms.

Proposal No. 2004-21

MAXIMUM TEAM LIMITS – SELECTED WOMEN'S SPORTS

Intent: To increase the maximum grant-in-aid limitations in women's gymnastics from 12 to 14, in women's volleyball from 12 to 13, in women's cross country/track and field from 18 to 20 and in women's soccer from 12 to 14.

Proposal No. 2004-28

BENEFITS, GIFTS AND SERVICES –COACHING CAREER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Intent: To permit an institution to provide actual and necessary expenses to allow student-athletes who have completed their seasons of competition and who are within one year of exhausting their eligibility to attend the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's "So You Want to be a Coach" educational program.

Emphasis: Legislation only permitted for WBA's above mentioned coaching program.

Proposal No. 2004-30

MID-YEAR ENROLLEES – EXPENSES FOR POSTSEASON BOWL GAMES – DIVISION I-A FOOTBALL

Intent: In Division I-A football, to prohibit an institution from providing expenses to a midyear enrollee for participation in postseason bowl games and related activities.

Proposal No. 2004-31

FIVE-DAY ACCLIMATIZATION PERIOD – WALK-THROUGHS – DIVISIONS I-A AND I-AA FOOTBALL

Intent: In football, to permit an institution to conduct one one-hour walk-through per day during the five-day acclimatization period, provided protective equipment (e.g., helmets, shoulder pads) is not worn, equipment related to football (e.g., footballs, blocking sleds) is not used and conditioning activities do not occur.

Proposal No. 2004-36

ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – DURATION OF INELEGIBILITY

Intent: A student-athlete's breach of drug-testing protocol (e.g., no-show, tampering with a sample) shall result in the same penalties as a positive test for a nonstreet drug.

Proposal No. 2004-38

PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS - COACHING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE PLAYING SEASON

Intent: Permit an institutional coaching staff member in any sport to engage in coaching activities with a student-athlete from that institution who participates Olympic, Pan American, World Championships, World Cup and World University games qualifying competition.

Proposal No. 2004-45

PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS - BASKETBALL - ON-COURT PRACTICE

Intent: In basketball, to specify that an institution may not commence on-court preseason basketball practice sessions prior to 7 p.m. on the Friday nearest October 15.

Proposal No. 2004-58

EXEMPTED GOVERNMENT GRANTS – UNITED STATES MILITARY ANNUITY PAY

Intent: To exempt the United States Military Annuitant Pay and other family member service related death benefits from a student-athlete's individual limit.

Proposal No. 2004-61

PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS – SUMMER PRACTICE – FACILITY FEES

Intent: To permit an institution to pay fees associated with the use of institutional practice and competition facilities by student-athletes engaged in voluntary athletically related activities in his or her sport during the summer.

Proposal No. 2004-66-B

SWIMMING AND DIVING – OUT OF SEASON ACTIVITIES

Intent: In swimming and diving, to specify that outside the playing season, a student-athlete may be involved in in-pool conditioning activities and swimming-specific equipment may be used.

Proposal No. 2004-72

NUMBER OF CONTESTS – DIVISIONS I-A FOOTBALL

Intent: In Division I-A football, to permit an institution to annually compete in 12 regular-season contests.

Proposal No. 2004-78

RECRUITING – CONTACTS – OFFICIAL VISITS

Intent: To permit all institutional staff member to contact a prospect within 30 miles of campus during the prospect's official visit.

Emphasis: Now teachers can meet prospects at off-campus restaurant during official visit.

Proposal No. 2004-84

APPAREL FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE OR TEAM TRAVEL

Intent: To permit an institution to provide one shirt bearing the institution's logo per academic year to each student-athlete to be used for team travel or other events at which he or she is representing the institution.

Proposal No. 2004-85

APPAREL FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE OR TEAM TRAVEL

Intent: To permit a conference office to pay the costs of a student-athlete's spouse, parents or legal guardians to attend a conference academic awards presentation.

Proposal No. 2004-93

OFFICIAL VISITS – AIR TRANSPORTATION

Intent: An institution that provides air transportation to a prospect to and from an official visit must use commercial transportation at coach-class airfare with no upgrades.

Proposal No. 2004-94

OFFICIAL VISITS – CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION

Intent: An institution that transports a prospect (and those accompanying the prospect) around campus during an official visit must use an institutional vehicle normally used to transport prospective students while visiting the institution's campus; further, to permit coaching staff members or student hosts to use personal vehicles to transport a prospect (and those accompanying the prospect) around campus during an official visit.

Question regarding the permissibility of using carts during prospect's official visit. Need to clarify.

Proposal No. 2004-95

OFFICIAL VISITS – MEALS AND LODGING

Intent: During an official visit, an institution must house a prospect (and the prospect's parents or legal guardians) in standard lodging that does not include special accessories (e.g., jacuzzis, suites) that are not available generally to all guests residing at the establishment and must provide standard meals comparable to meals provided to student-athletes during the academic year; further, to specify that an institution also may provide a prospect (and the prospect's parents or legal guardians) a reasonable snack (e.g., pizza, hamburger) in addition to the three meals.

Proposal No. 2004-97

OFFICIAL VISITS – PERSONALIZED RECRUITING AIDS

Intent: To prohibit an institution from arranging miscellaneous, personalized recruiting aids (e.g., personalized jerseys, personalized audio/video scoreboard presentations) and from engaging in any game-day simulations during a prospect's official or unofficial visit.

Proposal No. 2004-109

PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS - COACHING ACTIVITIES – OUTSIDE COMPETITION

Intent: To permit a coaching staff member in sports that allow individual-workout sessions in the summer to engage in coaching activities with a student-athlete from that institution who is participating in established national championship events or Olympic, Pan American, World Cup and World University games qualifying competition during an academic year in which a student-athlete is eligible to represent an institution in athletics competition (or in the following summer).

Proposal No. 2004-112-D

SEASONS OF COMPETITION – PRESEASON EXHIBITION CONTESTS OR INFORMAL PRACTICE SCRIMMAGES

Intent: In all sports, to specify that during the student-athlete's initial year of enrollment at the certifying institution, participation in preseason exhibition contests or informal practice scrimmages shall not result in the loss of a season of competition.

Proposal No. 2004-115-B

COUNTABLE ATHLETICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES – MEN'S BASKETBALL

Intent: In men's basketball, to specify that a student-athlete is permitted to engage in a maximum of eight hours of countable athletically related activities per week outside of the playing season during the academic year, with not more than two of those hours devoted to individual or team skill related instruction. In addition, to eliminate the limitations on the number of student-athletes involved in such activities at any one time. Finally, to specify that all athletically related activities outside the playing season are prohibited one week prior to the beginning of the examination period through the conclusion of each student-athlete's final exams.

Proposal No. 2004-133-B

OUT-OF SEASON PRACTICE ACTIVITIES - SKILL INSTRUCTION – WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Intent: In women's basketball, to permit the permissible eight hours of out-of-season practice to include conditioning, weight training or skill instruction of which not more than four hours per week may be spent on individual skill instruction.

Emphasis: Women's bball can now have 4 hours of skill instruction

Proposal No. 2004-145

OUT-OF SEASON PRACTICE ACTIVITIES - SKILL INSTRUCTION – WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Intent: In women's basketball, to permit more than four student-athletes to engage in skill-related instruction outside of the playing season with their coach(es) at any one time.

Emphasis: Women's bball can now have 4 hours of skill instruction with no limitations on the number of participants.

Proposal No. 2004-148

POSITIVE DRUG TEST – NON-NCAA ATHLETICS ORGANIZATION

Intent: A student-athlete under a drug-testing suspension from a national or international sports governing body that has adopted the World Anti-Doping Agency code shall not be eligible for intercollegiate competition for the duration of the suspension.

Proposal No. 2005-1

AWARDS – RECONITION BY PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR OR STATE LEGISLATIVE BODY

Intent: To permit the U.S. Olympic Committee to provide actual and necessary expenses when a team (or its senior student-athletes) is accorded special recognition by the President of the United States or by the governor or legislative body of the state in which the member institution is located.

Proposal No. 2005-4

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES – COMMERCIAL FILMS

Intent: Eliminate the prohibition on using footage of an institution's intercollegiate contest or event or individual performance of a student-athlete in a commercial film.

Proposal No. 2005-5

INSTITUTIONAL, CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL OR NON-PROFIT PROMOTIONS – MILEAGE RESTRICTIONS

Intent: To permit a student-athlete to receive actual and necessary expenses to participate in a permissible promotional activity, regardless of the location of the activity.

Proposal No. 2005-6

INSTITUTIONAL, CHARITABLE, EDUCATIONAL OR NON-PROFIT PROMOTIONS – MILEAGE RESTRICTIONS

Intent: To eliminate regulations regarding a student-athlete's employment on a commission basis.

Proposal No. 2005-7

CAMPS AND CLINICS – STUDENT-ATHLETE EMPLOYMENT

Intent: To eliminate the percent requirement on the coaching and officiating duties of a student-athlete employed in a sports camp or clinic.

Ms. Maurer joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

7. SAAC/MWC Service Project. Ms. Maurer addressed the idea of a MWC SAAC service project, specifically in conjunction with CSTV's Fields and Dreams Foundation. Ms. Maurer provided a history of the foundation as well as described the possible reading, mentoring and sports equipment programs that the committee could participate in. The committee agreed to make a proposal to their institutional SAAC in addition to their administrators. It was suggested that any Fields and Dreams Foundation activities could piggy back on any current community service projects. Ms. Maurer will follow-up with the committee in the fall regarding feedback from their institutions.
8. MWC Championship Merchandise. The committee was asked for feedback regarding championships merchandise. The committee provided the following suggestions:
 - Different colors year to year
 - Drawstring bags
 - Sweatpants
 - Athletic pants
 - Tank tops – new styles
 - Long sleeve t-shirts
 - Generic MWC items
 - Trucker hats
9. Sportsmanship Initiative. The committee reviewed a video of numerous unsportsmanlike acts from 2004-05 MWC competitions. The committee was shocked to see the number and type of acts committed by student-athletes from their own institutions. The committee then reviewed the MWC Sportsmanship Initiative and agreed to discuss the importance of sportsmanship at their first fall meeting.

10. Division I SAAC Representative. It was requested that anyone interested in being the Mountain West Conference representative on the Division I SAAC, contact Ms. Henry for application details.
11. SAAC Exchange Program. The Joint Council reviewed the committee's request to support legislation for a SAAC exchange program. Prior to drafting and supporting legislation, the Joint Council is requesting additional information regarding cost, selection, itineraries and frequency. The committee agreed to discuss a SAAC exchange program with their institutional SAACs and provide feedback on the aforementioned items requested from the Joint Council.
12. Student-Athlete Welfare Questionnaire. UNLV SAAC created a student-athlete welfare questionnaire (22 questions) and compiled the results. The found the results regarding gender equity and cultural and ethnic diversity to be particularly compelling. Ms. Suszek encouraged other committee members to look at creating and distributing a survey on their campuses and it has proved helpful in determining where the successes and failures have been at UNLV.
13. Campus SAAC Activities. Each committee member shared a list of recent SAAC activities at their respective institutions:
 - Air Force Academy
 - The Air Force Academy student-athletes participate in community service activities with individual teams.
 - Brigham Young University
 - Y awards.
 - Colorado State University
 - Ramride.
 - University of New Mexico
 - Collection and donation of items to women's association.
 - Clothing drive.
 - San Diego State University
 - Shop with a Jock has over 90 student-athletes participating.
 - SAAC awards banquet.
 - TCU
 - New student-athlete orientation.
 - End of the year banquet – highlight tape and awards.
 - Toy drive.

UNLV

- SAAC against violence.
- Gift baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Utah

- Habitat for Humanity.
- Joint community service project with BYU.
- Student-athletes are selling Utah wristbands to raise money for a vaccination program in the Philippines.

Wyoming

- Senior banquet
- Reading at elementary schools once per week.
- Always-a-Cowboy run (to benefit cross country runners who were killed during September 2001).

14. Meeting Recap. Ms. Davis reviewed items discussed at the meeting throughout the weekend and encouraged committee members to implement new ideas on their campuses. She also encouraged members to contact Ms. Henry if they are interested in being the Mountain West Conference representative on the NCAA Division I SAAC.

15. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. MT.

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