

## **Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association Membership Meeting**

**Friday, June 8, 2007-- 2:30 p.m. EST**

**World Center Marriott Resort – Orlando, Florida**

President Pat Meiser began the meeting by welcoming everyone to Orlando and thanking them for their attendance. She encouraged further involvement and feedback from the association's membership to advance its independent purpose as well as its purpose with the FCS ADA in dealing with some very prominent issues, particularly around opportunities within the NCAA governance structure. She then referred to the January minutes and asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the minutes. With there being none, a motion was granted to approve the minutes.

Mr. Kavanagh proceeded with a membership and financial update. He reported that the association was in a healthy financial situation with \$73, 181 currently in the bank and told the group that it would be important to determine how best to use this money. He explained that it was important to continue to serve the membership and use the association's money to benefit its members.

Mr. Kavanagh continued by reporting the association's membership was at 89, which was equal to last years. Furthermore, he noted that all conference commissioners had been members this year, which was a vast improvement from the five whom had been on board the previous year.

Mr. Reed then provided a legislative review. He touched briefly on the governance restructuring process and the likelihood that the NCAA would move forward with that initiative. He also noted the recent vote regarding baseball's APR standing and efforts to improve this standing. He explained the four key issues with regard to this vote, which are: transfer residency, which requires transfer student-athletes to sit out; the fall certification process, which means that student-athletes will not have a mid-year opportunity to become eligible; the penalties associated with the APR that will force programs below the 925 mark to loose 10 percent of their practices and finally, the financial aid piece, which, according to Mr. Reed, is receiving some push-back from institutions.

Mr. Reed also discussed the Basketball Academic Reform Committee established by Dr. Brand. He felt that Division I-AAA was well represented on this committee and was looking forward to hearing what their recommendations will be. Mr. Reed explained that this fix will be more complicated than the baseball solution as the appropriate basketball legislation is already in place. Next year, an estimated 45 percent of programs will get hit with penalties and therefore, the basketball APR issue sis somewhat more complicated. He encouraged those in attendance to approach their commissioners with input regarding this issue.

Mr. Moore, a member of the governance restructuring sub-committee, explained that one of the committee's possible recommendations, among others, may be to make summer school mandatory. This recommendation, and most of the recommendations, will be easily implemented at larger institutions but will be more of a financial burden for smaller schools.

Mr. Reed urged those in attendance to pay particular attention to the White Case, which could parallel the restricted earnings case in terms of potential exposure. Because there exists some genuine concern that the White Case might cost the I-AAA membership some significant dollars down the road, Mr. Reed encouraged everyone involved to keep in contact with their commissioners and legal counsel on campus. Mr. Reed then asked Chuck Smrt to address the group.

Mr. Smrt from the Compliance Group offered an overview of several key compliance issues and the effect of these issues on Division I-AAA beginning with the Eligibility Center. The Make-up of the Eligibility Center is primarily enforcement and membership services, and as a result, the fall-outs from the Eligibility Center will be more scrutiny of initial-eligibility decisions and international amateurism issues.

Mr. Smrt applauded Dr. Brand's efforts with regard to the diploma mills. He felt there might be some short-term fall-out but that there will be significant long-term improvements as a result of Dr. Brand efforts. Mr. Smrt explained that although the Championship/Competition Cabinet plans to review the issue of male practice players in female sports this summer, he feels that the issue may be a dead one.

The next issue Mr. Smrt addressed was the issue of initial-eligibility certification after six semesters. He explained that both Dr. Brand and the Eligibility Center were strongly in favor of this issue and as a result, he felt it was likely this legislation would be put into place.

Mr. Smrt then referenced important legislation in 2007 including legislation regarding the summer prior to fall enrollment. He suggested that the athletics directors in attendance approach their compliance personnel and ask how they will be monitoring practice players and on-campus prospects prior to fall enrollment. He stressed the importance of knowing how these student-athletes were being monitored. Mr. Smrt closed his presentation by asking the group to forward any recommendations or thought that he might include in The Compliance Group's newsletter.

Ms. Levick asked Mr. Smrt if he had any insight on the newly established administrative position designed to help basketball student-athletes, in particular, with issues such as academics and life skills management? Mr. Smrt said that he would research the position for The Compliance Group's next newsletter. Mr. Lee thanked Mr. Smrt for the services that he provides to athletics programs and encouraged those in attendance to take advantage of these services.

Mr. Kavanagh then provided a report on the Nominating Committee. He explained the Colonial Conference is now a member of the FCS and that the Atlantic 10 Conference is now a I-AAA conference. Mr. Kavanagh received a commitment from Mr. DiJulia at Saint Joseph's University to be the Atlantic 10 association representative. Mr. Moore put forth a motion to approve this appointment. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The I-AAA scholar-athlete awards to honor non-football Division I student-athletes were then awarded and accepted on behalf of the institution's athletics directors in attendance. Mr. Cunningham presented the awards, noting an increase in this year's applications (both men and women) and an improvement in the pool of overall applicants. He stressed the difficulty in pairing down the awards and explained that a case could be made for 90 percent of the applicants. Needless to say, the recipients should be very honored. The winners honored at the meeting were as follows:

Justin Hare	Belmont University
Stephanie Hawk	Gonzaga University
Sean Mallon	Gonzaga University
Sabrina Nicole Gregory	University of North Carolina Charlotte
Nicole Piggot	Oakland University
Michael Haddix	Siena College
Kurt Attaway	University of Texas San Antonio
Martin Klines	University of Vermont
Jenna Marie Green	University of California Santa Barbara

The All Sports Trophy went to the University of California Santa Barbara and was accepted by Mr. Cunningham. The Gary Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by Mr. Moore and given to Mr. Byers. Mr. Byers thanked the selection committee, his wonderful staff and saluted everyone in the business.

Mr. Kavanagh encouraged future awards nominations and discussed future awards possibilities, smaller All-Sports trophy replicas and possible awards sponsorships. Mr. Kavanagh also explained committee nomination processes and announced a vacancy on the awards committee.

Ms. Meiser then thanked Mr. Manak and Mr. Kavanagh and passed the gavel to Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed thanked Ms. Meiser and Mr. Kavanagh and then presented Ms. Meiser with a gift as a token of the association's appreciation. He also thanked Mr. Manak and NACDA staff before singling out Mr. Cunningham to acknowledge his continued involvement and dedication to the association. Mr. Reed vowed to work to better serve the purpose of the organization and the needs of the membership. He stressed a need for further involvement, especially in issues surrounding men's basketball, and a need for improved commitment and diversity. Mr. Reed asked if there were any specific issues that the association would like to see immediately addressed.

Mr. Kavanagh thought that the issue of NCAA basketball tournament seeds was one that needed addressing. Ms. Levick thought that there needed to be a statement drafted by this group and submitted to the NIT addressing their recent cut-back in selected teams. Mr. Cunningham agreed to ask Mr. Shaheen to prepare a statement for the NIT and then email that statement to Mr. Kavanagh who could then send it out to the group .

Other issues mentioned were the issue of the APR as it applies to NCAA sports that are not fully funded as well as the idea of possible surveys, which could be sent out to the membership regarding financial contracts and salaries. It was thought that these surveys could be distributed with the help of NACDA and would be a great way to share information and communicate with the membership.

Mr. Reed then referenced the McLendon Minority Postgraduate Scholarship Committee. He told the group that they would all be receiving a correspondence from NACDA asking each intuition to contribute \$1,000 to be invested in this scholarship. He asked that everyone take a close look at this correspondence and consider becoming involved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m. EST.