

MINUTES OF THE
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Telephone conference

August 17, 2008

Those participating:

Shaun O'Bryant, United States Air Force Academy
Eugene Daniels, Colorado State University
Mackenzie White, University of New Mexico
Sherraine Pencil, San Diego State University
Kim Johnson, Texas Christian University
Mackenzie Neely, UNLV
David Schmitt, University of Wyoming
Marlon Edge, Mountain West Conference
Gary Walenga, Mountain West Conference

Those unable to participate: Jacoby Jacobsen, BYU; Joe Dale, University of Utah; Breda Bova, Joint Council Representative, University of New Mexico.

[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 conference call was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Mr. Walenga. Members were present as noted above.

1. Chair/Vice Chair. Ms. White was unanimously chosen as the Chair and Ms. Neely was unanimously chosen as the Vice-Chair.
2. 2008-09 Conference Call Schedule. The committee reviewed the 2008-09 conference call schedule. It was noted that if a member was not available for a conference call, he or she should notify the Conference office and find a substitute for the call.
3. SAAC Overview. Mr. Walenga and other returning SAAC members gave an overview of the committee for new committee members.
4. Fall In-Person Meeting. The committee was notified that the fall in-person meeting would occur the weekend of October 24-26, 2008. The members were also polled to see who could tentatively attend and encouraged to find a replacement as soon as possible if unable to attend. The committee was informed that travel forms would be sent out on September 2, 2008 and these would be due to the conference office by September 23, 2008.

5. NCAA Update. Ms. Pencil updated the group on proceedings with the NCAA. Specifically, the group was asked to address a tentative plan to require incoming freshman men's basketball student-athletes to begin taking courses in the summer prior to full-time enrollment. The group discussed the pros and cons and also indicated the potential impact on other sports. The consensus of the group was that this could have a positive impact. However, the group also stated concern over points of interest that could be difficult to predict the impact.
6. SAAC Contract/Pledge. The group was updated on the process of writing and creating the Mountain West Conference's own SAAC bylaws. Mr. Walenga indicated that he would setup Gmail accounts through Google to share and edit this document along with other documents for the committee members to construct and finalize in the next two months and at in-person meeting in October.
7. Institutional Fundraisers and Community Service Projects. The committee briefly discussed institutional fundraisers and community service projects. The group was encouraged to be proactive in planning for the fall semester.
8. Sportsmanship. Mr. Edge communicated the plans for the conference's evolving sportsmanship initiatives. The committee was shown specific letters written to key media figures on campus to help demonstrate the conference's initiatives to curb unsportsmanlike conduct at sporting events. Also, the committee was informed of the sportsmanship initiative piece "Values to Victory". The committee was informed that the program's design is to uncover the current cultural behaviors amongst the student-athletes on campus. From this research the program would then provide alternatives and measures to help introduce change to the sporting culture if necessary. The committee was urged to be agents for change as well as liaisons between the conference and the institutions for implementing this initiative. It was also noted that more details regarding this will be forthcoming on future conference calls.
9. 2008-09 MWC Blood Drive. The committee gave input to the idea of a logo contest to create a MWC SAAC logo to use in the MWC Blood Drive and for other SAAC activities. The consensus of the group was that this would be a worthwhile initiative. The committee was encouraged to find out if graphic design/art majors existed on campus and to find out if professors on-campus could make this part of their curriculum. Further, the committee was urged to seek other individuals that might have interest in such a contest. The committee was informed that a promotional video on the 2009 Blood Drive would be filmed during the in-person meeting in October. Last, a recommendation was made to the committee to consider holding the MWC Blood Drive during the same one or two week period to make it more of a conference wide event. The committee agreed to pursue these ideas and discuss further on future conference calls.
10. 2009 Pink Out. The committee was informed that the plans for a 2008 Pink Out, as discussed at the May in-person meeting, would be held back a year and a

recommendation would be sent to the Joint Council to review the merits and feasibility before committing to this conference-wide event. Mr. Walenga noted that he would create a draft of the marketing plan/proposal and place it in Google documents for committee members to comment on and edit before submission to the Joint Council. It was noted that this proposal must be completed before January in order for this event to occur in 2009.

11. MWC Facebook Page. The committee was encouraged to “add” Mr. Walenga as a friend on Facebook in order to join the MWC SAAC Facebook webpage.
12. Other. The committee was reminded about the NCAA internship and the potential benefits of participating in such an experience.
13. Adjournment. The conference call was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

GW:gw