

MINUTES OF THE
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hampton Inn & Suites
Colorado Springs, Colorado

October 25-26, 2008

Those participating:

Mike Kemp, United States Air Force Academy
Kyle Perry, Brigham Young University
Shannon Kohl, Colorado State University
Mackenzie White, University of New Mexico, Chair
Sherraine Pencil, San Diego State University
Otis McDaniel, TCU
Brittany Meade, UNLV
Leigh Walsh, University of Utah
Jay Petsch, University of Wyoming
Gary Walenga, Mountain West Conference
Marlon Edge, Mountain West Conference

Those unable to participate: Alyson Hagy, University of Wyoming, 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 approximately 8:05 a.m. by the chair, Ms. White. Members were present as noted above.

Saturday, October 25, 2008

1. Review of May 24-25, 2008 Minutes. The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of its May 24-25, 2008 in-person meeting as distributed.
2. Review of Mountain West Conference Governance Structure. The committee received an overview of the MWC governance structure, highlighting the roles of the faculty athletics representatives (FARs), senior woman administrators (SWAs) and athletic directors (ADs). The MWC SAAC reports to the Joint Council which consists of an FAR, SWA and AD from each institution. The committee also reviewed the roles of the Joint Council, the Joint Council

Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The committee was given a packet which contained a list of MWC Sports Committee liaisons, the chair of Board of Directors rotation, sport committees and other Conference rotation schedules. They were also encouraged to build relationships with administrators at the respective institutions.

3. MWC SAAC Handbook. The committee reviewed its 2008-09 goals. The committee divided into two groups and discussed the goals after which the two groups reconvened as one large group and reported on the discussions that took place in the smaller groups. The committee determined that combining the goals with the SAAC bylaws into a MWC SAAC Handbook would help to educate new members on the structure of the MWC SAAC. The committee brainstormed ideas for the structure of the Handbook and used other Conferences' Handbooks as a resource to facilitate discussion. It was determined that a draft of the Handbook would be shared with the group on the November conference call.

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.*

- Address sportsmanship with student-athletes as well as administrators, coaches, student-body and fans to create enhanced awareness of sportsmanship and ethics issues, develop a sense of responsibility among various constituencies and foster a positive environment at all athletic events.
- Improving the competition environment could lessen the number of sportsmanship incidents.
- Use press releases and other media mechanisms to promote the positive student-athlete image.

Goal No. 2: *To bridge the trust gap between student-athletes, coaches/administrators and institutional faculty.* The committee agreed that this should be an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Continue to nurture the relationships through face-to-face contact with the FARs, ADs, SWAs and other (e.g., faculty) institutional staff members.
- Create a mechanism on campus (e.g., "who to call" cards) that provides student-athletes and prospective student-athletes (during official visits) with information on who to call in certain situations.

Goal No. 3: *To improve student-athlete lives by raising awareness of welfare issues.* The committee agreed that this should be an ongoing goal and identified the following items that could assist student-athletes in achieving the goal.

- Focus on health issues (e.g., eating disorders, proper diet and alcohol awareness).
- Seek education on Title IX issues from institutional staff members (e.g. SWA's and compliance staff). Women's sports sometimes are portrayed negatively when men's

sports are discontinued and often it is blamed on Title IX. This tends to create friction between male and female athletes.

- More education should be conducted on pregnancy. It should be emphasized that a female student-athlete should not lose her athletic scholarship if she becomes pregnant.

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

- Attendance at various national leadership conference and meetings.
- Organizing and conducting service projects.

Goal No. 5: *Assisting institutional student-athlete advisory committees to become successful by improving the awareness and functionality of the institutional SAAC.*

- Create bylaws and define roles.
- Conduct a SAAC seminar to educate student-athletes about its purpose.
- Create a leadership class.
- Accept the personal responsibility of informing other student-athletes of the SAAC and its functions.
- During freshman/newcomer orientation conduct a session on the institutional SAAC.
- Make SAAC meetings open to anyone.

After discussion of the goals, the committee concluded they would like to continue to focusing on all of the goals. The committee made amended some of the action items that are recommended in order to reach the goals. Committee members will report on the progress made during future conference calls.

5. NCAA Legislative Cycle. The committee was informed of the new governance structure within the NCAA. Specifically, the committee learned about the Leadership Council and Legislative Council as well as the various cabinets and committees throughout the NCAA and where the SAAC fit into the NCAA structure.
6. Review of NCAA Legislation. The committee reviewed and commented on select NCAA legislative proposals. The comments and other feedback were provided to the MWC representative to the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

The meeting was recessed at 11:30 a.m.

7. Community Service Activity. Following lunch, the committee participated in a community service activity at Horace Mann Middle School in Colorado Springs. The committee conducted a sports clinic and provided mentoring for approximately 30-35 elementary school children.

Sunday, October 26, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by the chair, by Ms. White. Members were present as noted above.

8. Men's Basketball Academic Enhancement Group. The committee was informed of the tentative plan to force men's basketball student-athletes to attend summer school in order to improve the academic standing of the sport. The committee discussed the pros and cons of such a plan. Ms. Pencil stated that she would be updating the group on upcoming conference calls on the progress of this plan.
- 9a. MWC Rebuilding Lives Blood Drive. The committee reached a consensus to permit Colorado State to conduct the on campus blood drive in November due to scheduling difficulties in the early spring semester. The committee also reached a consensus to permit all institutions to conduct on campus blood drives between the months of November and February for the 2009-10 MWC Rebuilding Lives Blood Drive.
- 9b. Conference-Wide Pink Out. The committee was updated on the status of implementing the plans for the Pink Out. The committee was informed that the plans were presented at the Joint Council meetings in October to the Faculty Athletic Representatives. It was also noted that possible approval could be made in the next few months.
10. NCAA Items. The committee reviewed information on the NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship, NCAA Internship program, Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship, and NCAA Ethnic Minority and Women's Enhancement Programs' Postgraduate Scholarship for Careers in Athletics. It was noted that the NCAA internship application deadline was December 1, 2007.
11. Campus SAAC Activities. Each committee member shared a list of recent SAAC activities on their respective campuses. The committee also made a recommendation to create business cards for each MWC SAAC member. It was noted that this recommendation would be reviewed at the Conference office.
12. Meeting Recap. Ms. White reviewed items discussed throughout the meeting and encouraged committee members to implement new ideas on their campuses. The committee was thanked for their participation in the meeting.
13. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. Mountain Time.

#

GW:me