

Minutes – PSAC Faculty Athletics Representatives Spring Meeting
March 25-26, 2017

Those present for the FAR meeting were: Bill Biddington – Cal, Sue Gushie – Mercyhurst, Larry Jesky – Seton Hill, Rich Lane – Clarion, Jason Lanter – Kutztown, Joanne Leight – Slippery Rock, Rob Maris – Mansfield, Shawn Munford – ESU, Jim Racchini – IUP, Jody Russell – Lock Haven, Kory Stauffer – Gannon, Craig Stevens – WCU, Ray Wrabley – UPitt-Johnston and Steve Murray – PSAC commissioner.

Saturday, March 25th

Lunch was available from noon to 1:00 pm.

After lunch there was a presentation on Student-athlete mental health and well-being given by Dave Yukelson, Ph.D. Director of Sport Psychology Services at Penn State. See attached handouts.

After the presentation, everyone was checked in at the Fairfield Inn then returned for dinner at 5:00 pm.

The evening portion of the meeting got underway a bit after 6:00pm.

Steve Murray gave an update on Mental Health best practices. There are plans to educate the coaches so they can respond better when the situation arises. (see attachment).

Steve reported on the on campus compliance reviews. Steve and Carlin are visiting four schools, two this spring and two in the fall. They will meet with administrators, the Registrar and financial aid people to review and educate. A report will be given to the President of each school with copies to the AD and FAR. A response for the two spring schools will be due August 1st.

Steve reported that Stretch Media a webcasting company has been chosen as the Digital network provider starting in the 2017-18 academic year. PSAC provided \$6,000 grants to be used for supplies. Basketball is mandated to initiate the broadcasts. In 2018-19 football and volleyball will be mandated to start. Other sports can be broadcast per the discretion of the individual campus. What is broadcast will be limited only by the campus' imagination.

Legislation with Health Care Administrator designation to provide independent medical care was then discussed. As of August 1st, 2017 a designated athletic health care administrator must be in place. This will provide a system for an autonomous decision making process. The intent is to assist in safeguarding the student-athlete as well as protecting the individual that is making the decision on the student-athlete's health. A Q & A document will be coming out soon.

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Sue Gushie mentioned that she got a grant for this new position, through the NCAA Strategic Initiative grant program.

Steve then introduced the new football practice and contact guidelines. Backstory = NCAA's Brian Hainline produced a white paper that called for the elimination of multiple session days and for every seven days of practice there must be one day off. This directive looks to be problematic in terms of scheduling practices pre-season. Schools will be allowed to start three days earlier but then where is the money coming from to bring students in early. There is the cost of dorms and food to consider. This should not be considered a mandate – in terms of when you have to start. Further, helmets (read as contact) can only occur once a day.

The evening wrapped up with Steve going over the legislative review from the January NCAA annual meeting. (see attached handout). Items to mention were #2 academic misconduct where a misconduct policy must be in place and clarifies when a violation must be reported. Specifically this addresses individuals other than students assisting a student-athlete would be in violation of this new rule if misconduct was found. Item #11 deals with the tightening up of medical hardship waivers although there was relaxing of to 3 contests or 30% of dates as the maximum number allowed. Item #12 impacts financial aid by only counting athletic financial aid (not academic aid), aid cannot be offered just for one semester, and allows athletic financial aid to the student-athlete to be increased at any time or reason.

Sunday morning's meeting started around 9:00 am.

There was a discussion about the soccer schedule and having Friday – Sunday games. Steve indicated that PSAC struggles with scheduling. Because there are 17 women's teams and only 12 men's teams trying to keep teams together for trips is difficult. Part of the problem is the PSAC does not have divisional play for soccer. This seems to be the issue, divisional play = no Friday – Sunday games. Steve defended the scheduled and indicated that there is no intention to expand this to more than 2 weekends where a team has to deal with Friday – Sunday schedule. (FYI - soccer can have a maximum of 18 games scheduled per season).

Steve suggested that in May at the PSAC meeting in Harrisburg we discuss divisional play for soccer, field hockey and lacrosse.

There was a brief discussion about the volleyball championships where a top seed in one division had to travel a great distance (WCU went to Erie) and played the top seed in the tournament. Additionally, that trip took students away from campus for three days.

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PSAC Champion Scholar criteria was discussed. There are thoughts about going only to seniors, and also to prevent it from going to “young” underclassmen. It was agreed that transfer credits don’t count nor to AP credits. The phrase “completed two seasons of eligibility and a minimum of 48 credits at your institution” will be added to the award description. Steve will report in the fall how this turns out.

There was a brief discussion on PSAC grants for academic and SAAC support. (see attached sheet for detailed information.)

The morning ended with a sharing of academic support services on campus. Rich Lane at Clarion shared with the rest of us his Faculty Mentor. He asked for volunteers from campus who would be interested in becoming a faculty mentor and they were assigned to/adopted a team. Rich will get the information on this program to Steve for dissemination.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 am.