

**Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Teleconference – September 27, 2015**

Attendance: All institutions represented on call by at least 2 SAAC members.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March, 2015 PSAC SAAC meeting were reviewed and approved by Chris Pike and Maddy Shaak.

PSAC Update: Commissioner Steve Murray gave a brief update on the new PSAC legislation effective this year, including, spring sport championships permitted during week of PASSHE finals, increasing social equity positions from 4 per school to 1 per sport, and that football crossovers and the first 4 contests in field hockey will not be counted in their standings. PSAC Associate Commissioner and Conference SAAC Liaison Carlin Chesick spoke about the PSAC Facebook and Twitter pages. SAAC members are encouraged to “follow” and “like” the social media sites.

Division II Legislative Proposals: A discussion was held concerning the 8 NCAA legislative proposals up for debate at the 2016 NCAA Convention in January. Most proposals directly impact the safety and well-being of student-athletes. Specifically, the group discussed a proposal that will require institutions to designate a strength and conditioning coach or require those coaches that conduct strength and conditioning workouts to be certified. Other student-athlete friendly proposals: clarify the foreign exchange/study abroad legislation, allow a maximum of 6 credits per term toward a minor to be used toward PTD, amend the automatic qualification legislation, allow skill instruction in the sport of football, and allow baseball, softball and women’s volleyball to also have legislation that permits a conference challenge event to be exempted annually from their maximum number of contests. In addition, there is a proposal for competing unattached, which would require a student-athlete to be both academically and athletically eligible and a basketball proposal that would allow pre-season practice to start on October 1, but would only allow 30 CARA dates prior to the first competition.

Division II SAAC Update: Our National SAAC representative is Chris Pike, a football student-athlete from Gannon. Chris spoke about the Legislative SAAC Grids and encouraged comments to be submitted with proposals. He reminded the group that National SAAC will be able to vote during the business session this year. In addition, SAAC is looking to create a better network and has established a database of Liaisons and SAAC Presidents. The conference has already submitted its information to the NCAA for this. Chris also discussed the It’s On Us video created by National SAAC and Management Council, Make-A-Wish and Team Impact, which this summer formed a partnership with DII SAAC, similar to MAW.

NCAA Strategic Grant Program: The SAAC reviewed the sub-grants provided to campus SAACs (\$500) and academic support (\$3,500). The SAAC members were informed how the NCAA issues grants and what steps are taken by their institutions athletic departments.

Strategic Planning & Sportsmanship: The conference sportsmanship award was discussed and reps were encouraged to have this as a monthly agenda topic at campus SAAC meetings. Sportsmanship award nominations are due May 6, 2016. The PSAC strategic plan is currently in its cycle for 2014-17.

Conference SAAC Project and Make-A-Wish: The PSAC was first overall in money raised among Division II conferences and a new record was set for the total raised by Division II. Numbers will be out at a later date. The PSAC had full participation which is an annual goal. Week of Wishes will be held October 2-15, 2015. Schools were encouraged to submit money raised right after events and not at the end of the year.

Topics for Spring Meeting: A few ideas for the spring meeting included: Campus SAAC Development, CareerAthletes, interview/resume/cover letters.

Campus Issues Form: No issues were brought to the meeting.

Future Meeting Dates/Planning: The spring meeting will take place Saturday & Sunday, March 19-20, 2016 in Lock Haven.