

## **MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCES**

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

November 22, 2011  
DeSales University

Ken Andrews called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

In attendance: Dave Martin, Brad Fields, Brad McCarty, Janice Luck, Gracia Perilli, Katie Imes, Marie Godwin, Ken Andrews, Laura Gingrich

The May 17, 2011 minutes were accepted 6-0.

The meeting started with a look at MAC 100 issues.

The July 18, 2012 MAC golf tournament will start at 11 AM and conclude with a two hour reception that includes “heavy” appetizers. The conference office will explore the best option for drinks. Besides prizes for the golf, each participant will receive a commemorative polo shirt. The total cost per person will be in the \$75-100 range.

The conference will publish a booklet that includes “great moments” in the MAC and also highlights a student or two from each of the current members. This publication will be ready for the NCAA Convention reception.

Ken Andrews reviewed the criteria and process for the MAC Hall of Fame.

A conference-wide service project will be conducted the week of April 8-12, 2013. Neighboring schools might want to do a joint project. Each institution will conduct an activity of their choice. Of greatest importance: document the number of participants and shoot some pictures and video so the conference can produce a release.

MAC championships were the next topic.

For fall 2011 there was a question about Alvernia ticket sales that Ken Andrews will verify with Bill Stiles. Other than the t-shirt sales, no major changes from 2010.

There were 131 championship t-shirts left from fall 2011 championships. There were several factors that impacted this situation:

Since it was the first year of the program, sizing was a shot in the dark. A greater emphasis on smaller sizes and long sleeve shirts is needed.

Messiah hosted all the Commonwealth championships; many of their athletes are more likely to purchase NCAA gear.

Lack of promotion at many schools: table without seller, little signage, not near admission gate, PA announcements, etc.

The group decided to have the conference office absorb the t-shirt losses, but the office will send a note to coaches with remaining sizes for sale and also post information on MAC web site.

Responding to an action item from the spring 2010 meeting, the group affirmed the current championship funding model, but asked that the conference office provide the athletic administrators with the process. The accountant will bill for championships right after each season.

Gender Equity issues were discussed.

Ken Andrews indicated that he did not pursue all equity reports last year. For this year: he needs your EADA sport breakdowns when convenient, and the assessment survey and one-page summary by March 1, 2012.

Each school is to have a site visit from 2-4 MAC administrators in the next two years. The group asked that Ken Andrews construct an outline of what the review team should evaluate. Ken reinforced the notion that the host school should tailor the visit to meet their needs.

Ken Andrews highlighted a couple of strategic planning issues that emerged from the presidents meeting.

The president at each school is asking their senior staff for input on two points:

What ways can MAC schools collaborate on non-athletic matters?

What student-athlete experience issues should be considered?

Feedback on these topics will be the basis for the May 2013 annual meeting discussion to culminate MAC 100.

Ken Andrews will synthesize annual ISSG review for the presidents. For last year, he will do this report for DeSales, FDU, Lebanon Valley, Lycoming, Messiah, and Widener.

A few governance issues were then considered.

The FAR meeting is on January 5 at DeSales. Please try to encourage attendance.

The March 28 (note day change) meeting is at LVC with President MacDonald. What are the topics we want to discuss with him?

Discussion ensued about a financial aid workshop, conducted by NCAA staff, to help schools understand NCAA financial aid and admission rules. The group suggested that financial aid and admission officers attend as athletic administrators are not directly involved in the process.

Ken Andrews mentioned a few game management problems this past fall.

In basketball and football, the camera runs until the court/field clears.

Use of noisemakers (football and men's lacrosse seem to be the two problem areas) is prohibited by the NCAA.

Have a system in place to guarantee the competence of scorers, clock operators, announcers, and the like.

Ken Andrews indicated that Jessica Huntley, ECAC Division III Liaison, will attend our meeting to solicit feedback on ECAC functions and Proposal 10, the legislation exempting a week for preparation for ECAC championships. Bill Klika will then present the other 2012 NCAA legislation. We will place this session at the start of the agenda.

Marie Godwin summarized the success of the recent START program at King's where about 35 students took the PIAA exam in soccer, baseball, or women's lacrosse.

Alvernia, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Conference, is considering a bid to host the 2012 baseball regional at Boyertown or York. Prior to the December meeting, Ken Andrews will consult with Bill Stiles about more details.

The group agreed that a special award for long-term conference service ought to be presented to Yonnie Kauffman and Jan Trapp at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

These agenda items emerged from the October president's meeting.

The conference will apply for a NCAA Matching Alliance Grant to institutionalize a third person in the MAC Office (18 schools and 23 sports warrant this increase). After MAC 100 concludes, this position's primary focus will be the use of technology. If we don't receive the grant this year, we will reapply in 2013.

After dismissing an "all-sports" award, discussion centered on how the conference could better recognize academic achievement. Is there a way to use the academic report? Operations asked Ken Andrews to synthesize what schools are doing now; those results might suffice or at least give schools ideas on ways to expand their academic awards program.

Operations did not see any way to adjust the spring sports calendar and not impact the conference season or preparation for NCAA competition.

The group agreed to tackle “expectations for MAC programs” at their March meeting. This would be broken into categories: required and recommended aspects. This would serve two purposes – we would ensure that schools are abiding by certain principles and policies and provide schools with a template to leverage their institution for resources.

Ken Andrews mentioned that conference offices now have access to the NCAA rules tests, and that generally part-time people and certain schools appear to score lower than their counterparts. He also noted that there are persistent issues within the conference like the medical hardship waiver, camps and clinics, MAC terminology, etc. Laura Gingrich outlined the program at Alvernia that is comprehensive and successful. Some other thoughts on this matter: create a webinar for conference constituents, have a tab on the MAC web site with resources, and develop a conference check list for compliance on common problem areas.

Gracia Perilli spoke about the cross country motion to move to chip timing. This motion allows resources for this improvement and was approved 6-0: Increase the cross country championship budget from \$1,400 to \$2,400.

Laura Gingrich present two motions related to field hockey.

Next year there will only be two schools that do not have a turf field – DeSales and Delaware Valley. Although play is preferable on turf, the group voted 0-6 against this motion: A conference team will only play one away match on a grass field each year.

In order to better recognize defensive players who rarely are named player of the year, the field hockey coaches proposed: Award offensive and defensive players of the year in field hockey. Operations defeated this motion 1-5 as it may “water down” the process and would have to be considered in most conference sports.

Janice Luck reviewed football action items.

For liability purposes, and after consulting with athletic trainers, the *Fact Book* needs to be revised in this way:

For varsity football games, an ambulance and physician are required.

For JV football games, an ambulance and athletic trainer must be present.

SID’s will provide six copies of statistics for coaches at half time and at the end of the game.

A significant discussion ensued about film exchange. Besides use by the sport, it has become a major tool for SID production of videos. For schools that video stream games, they are at a competitive disadvantage to schools that don’t; that is a disincentive we should discourage. Although there are many other issues about film exchange, this motion was approved 6-0: Football will use HUDL for film exchange in 2012.

Ken Andrews will begin to review pricing with HUDL – for football only, and for other conference sports with a formal film exchange.

The group endorsed a conference penalty for “intent to injure” and will consider the coaches protocol for this policy at the May meeting. It was suggested that an athletic administrator with a football background (Rick Beard) chair the group that makes these decisions.

Brad McCarty presented things under consideration in men’s soccer.

Ken Andrews expressed concern about Rich Kiernan’s work at coordinator of officials. Although the coaches are pleased with the quality of officiating, they are seeing the same officials too often – one school indicated having one person seven times (maybe not all in the middle). Although we have build limits into other contracts, Rich did not want the same restriction so he could put the “best people” on a game. The group agreed that no team should see the same “middle” more than 3-4 times a season. Ken Andrews indicated significant feedback from quality officials who were not getting to work for Rich. The conference does not want to be part of a political squabble between chapters. Ken Andrews will contact Rich about conference expectations; he needs to make progress on these matters if he is to be retained after the 2012 season.

Operation approved this motion 6-0: Men’s soccer will have a required electronic film exchange commencing in fall 2012.

Brad McCarty indicated that there are no women’s soccer action items.

Even though the coaches did not meet, Ken Andrews presents a couple of tennis issues.

He described how extra players are incorporated into the individual tournaments and the benefits of including them. The main additional cost is for the schools travel expenses. The coaches need to formalize the process at their May meeting.

The group was opposed (6-0) to an inquiry from Oneonta to become as associate member in men’s tennis. Assuming the athletic administrators concur with this position in December, Ken Andrews will convey this position to the MAC Executive Committee and Oneonta administration.

Gracia Perilli presented the volleyball action items.

The cross-over tournament received the most attention. Ken Andrews indicated that if a school cannot host the event in appropriate fashion, they should pass the opportunity on to the next school. Messiah, Lebanon Valley, Elizabethtown, and Alvernia are scheduled to host 2012 tournament. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> place Commonwealth teams won’t participate after 2012.

In a 6-0 vote, the group approved this motion: The MAC crossover volleyball tournament will be conducted on a Saturday only.

In 2013 NCAA statistics (full box) will be required for all matches.

Marie Godwin highlighted MAC SAAC activities for the year.

Elections for 2012-13 officers will take place at the February 17 meeting. Please encourage strong leaders in your SAAC to run.

Each school has committed to raising at least \$500 for Make-a-Wish Foundation. The organization cannot identify who we might sponsor.

As part of the Division III initiative, each MAC campus should be involved in some Special Olympics program. The emphasis on this should be participating in or running an activity rather than fundraising.

As members of the Operations Committee represent all MAC schools, this motion passed 6-0: Add to the Operations section in the Fact Book that members of the Operations Committee may not abstain from any votes.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.