



MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 13, 2012

DeSales University
Center Valley, Pennsylvania

PARTICIPANTS:

Ken Andrews (MAC), Brad Fields (Eastern University), Laura Gingrich (Alvernia University), Marie Godwin (MAC), Janice Luck (Albright College), Dave Martin (Misericordia University), Brad McCarty (Messiah College), Gracia Perilli (DeSales University)

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Ken Andrews.

OLD BUSINESS:

The November 22, 2011 minutes were accepted **5-0**.

The committee continued discussion regarding the use of Manhattanville's tennis courts for conference play and championships. The committee came to a conclusion that no championship events should be hosted at Manhattanville's tennis facility because it does not meet NCAA standards. In addition, an opposing school may elect to play a conference match at another site.

The committee unanimously approved (**6-0**) a conference-wide tape exchange with HUDL. Each school will receive the "Gold Package" for unlimited sports exchange and video editing at a cost of \$2,240 per institution.

The committee reviewed items to be discussed at the March 28 athletic administrators meeting at Lebanon Valley College with President Steve MacDonald. Agenda items include: video streaming of conference events, academic report, gender equity campus visits, and the MAC 100 wrap-up forum on May 2, 2013.

MAC 100

Marie Godwin gave an overview of the Inaugural Hall of Fame class and award. Ken Andrews mentioned that two nominees were submitted for the Sorrentino Award and Yvonne Kauffman and Jan Trapp will also be honored for the end of their successful careers in athletics. Promotional items (t-shirts, floor decals, uniform patches, etc.) will be distributed to schools at the kick-off event.

Holly Gampa from All Worldwide Travel is assisting the conference office in planning the golf tournament. On-line invitations have been sent to conference presidents and administrators. Marie Godwin will arrange for prizes and a large-group photo. It was suggested that each institution provide 6-10 promotional items (hats, t-shirts, etc.) from their institution for a raffle-like drawing during the reception.

MAC alumni will be invited to attend individual championships. The conference will provide refreshments and a commemorative item (coffee mug).

Individual nominees for all-Century teams will be compiled by the MAC office and presented through a public on-line voting process. Teams will be selected by eras in the conference and awarded a MAC 100 commemorative coin.

As noted, each school will receive MAC 100 t-shirts as “give aways” at various home events. Verbiage for game statements and programs will also be created and distributed to each school.

Ken Andrews reviewed plans for the January 18, 2013 reception at the NCAA Convention in Grapevine, Texas. The reception will take place in close proximity to the DIII President’s Reception to accommodate attendance of those constituents. Former and current conference constituents will be invited for the 250-person reception, as well as members of contiguous conferences, NCAA staff, and conference commissioners.

The men’s and women’s basketball coaches approved in their conference call in March the conception of a basketball Senior all-star game. It was recommended to host the game along with the basketball coaches and director of athletics meetings on a Sunday afternoon in March at a central location (Albright or DeSales). A reception will take place after the competition, and the event may be attached to a community service initiative.

Initial plans have been made for a conference forum at the May 2013 meeting with presidents, direct reports, directors of athletics, faculty athletic representatives, and other campus constituents for a chance to discuss, (1) ideas for conference collaboration and, (2) how can we enhance student-athlete experience.

BJ Spigelmyer noted several main components which could drive the selection of a video streaming vendor: (1) cost of software/membership, (2) equipment, and (3) staffing. The committee recommended institutional autonomy in streaming vendor and model (pay-per-view versus free) but unanimously approved (6-0) to require all conference basketball events be streamed in 2012-2013 and all conference football events be streamed in 2013. Basketball was emphasized due to it’s large following and proximity to wired Internet sources. It was suggested that institutions should be committed to a streaming vendor by the May Voting Delegates meeting.

The committee reviewed the guide for gender equity campus visits. Gracia Perilli suggested that a meeting with men's coaches should be added to paint a holistic picture of equity within a department. Also noted: a school may be exempted from the MAC review if something similar is already performed within campus operations.

Ken Andrews briefly reviewed existing MAC policies on the use of noisemakers at conference competitions. The committee continues support of the current standard.

Ken Andrews reviewed a compiled document of conference expectations from the Fact Book. The committee edited the following (~~strikethrough~~ = taken out; **bold** = added in):

~~An adult (non-student)~~ **trained person** must be retained to announce, score, and time all team sports.

~~An institution that wants to drop a sport must give the conference at least two years notice.~~

All conference basketball games must be streamed **by 2012-2013 year. All conference football games must be streamed by 2013-2014.**

Every three years have a team visit campus to evaluate gender equity **unless a similar evaluation is already done on campus.**

NEW BUSINESS

With a 6-0 vote, the committee recommended Jack Shafer (Commonwealth Conference Male representative, Widener) and Jenn Noon (Freedom Conference Female representative, FDU) to be selected as new members of the Operations Committee in 2012-2013.

Ken Andrews reviewed the winter championship events budget. The swimming championship brought in about \$1000 more in gate receipts, the track & field championship maintained about the same level of revenue, and the basketball championships made money at every venue except Widener. It was noted that the ECAC increased charges to cover mileage for officials.

Ken Andrews reviewed Tier One, Two, and Three NCAA Conference Grant items noting an increase in participation by schools requesting Tier Two grants. Ken will reevaluate requests to see if they fit in other categories than "Student-Athlete Well Being" (such as Sportsmanship, Diversity & Gender Equity, or Identity and Integration).

Ken Andrews indicated that notification of selection for the NCAA Internship or Matching Grants in April could influence several MAC budget items.

Dave Martin reviewed the men's basketball coach's conference call on March 5, 2012. To ensure favorable pricing in the next cycle, the conference will solicit RFP's from four coordinators of basketball officials.

The committee unanimously opposed (0-6) the expansion of the All-Commonwealth Conference Team from five (5) players to six (6) to maintain a true basketball team size. Instead, the committee unanimously approved (6-0) adding an All-Conference Honorable Mention category to all sports; players would be selected into All-Conference Honorable Mention with a single vote. This will ensure student-athletes are still recognized even with an expansion in the size of the conference.

The committee opposed (1-5) increasing the Commonwealth Conference basketball championship bracket from five (5) to six (6) teams. This will provide consistency between sports and conferences with the top 50% of teams advancing to post-season play.

Janice Luck reviewed the women's basketball coach's conference call noting that similar issues from the men's basketball coach's conference call (increase in all-conference team size as well as increase in playoff bracket) were discussed. The committee held the same position on motions made by both committees.

Ken Andrews reviewed the Ocean City meeting schedule:

On Wednesday, conduct the meeting from 10 AM – 1 PM.

Wednesday at 2:30 PM, Ken Andrews and a couple of athletic administrators meet with Hood and Stevenson to review policies and procedures.

Wednesday night: reception at 6 PM with dinner together in one space at 7 PM.

The committee unanimously approved (6-0) deleting the stipulation that only 12 cheerleaders may attend a championship event for free from the *Fact Book*.

The committee unanimously opposed (0-6) pursuing Wells College as an affiliate member in Commonwealth Conference field hockey.

Dave Martin and Ken Andrews noted 2012-13 priorities for the MAC Office: implementation of MAC 100, restructuring the conference staff, review budget priorities, completion of the strategic plan, expansion of video exposure, and maintaining contact visits with conference schools.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM as Operations met to discuss the performance review for Ken Andrews.

The committee will next meet May 15, 2012 at DeSales University at 9:30 AM.