

MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CORPORATION

PRESIDENTS MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2007

Hilton Inn & Towers
Harrisburg, PA

William Penn Room
3rd Floor

Attendance: Jim Harris, Jim Douthat, Steve MacDonald, Kim Phipps, Bernie O'Connor, Tom Leamer, Tom O'Hara, Ted Long, Lex McMillan

After lunch, Jim Harris convened the meeting at about Noon.

A question regarding Middle Atlantic Conference membership persists since the by-law revisions of May 2006. Ken Andrews and the group concurred that **two thirds of the full membership must vote in favor of Middle Atlantic Conference members.**

After a quick review of membership offers to Alvernia, Misericordia, and Arcadia, the following motion received unanimous approval:

Misericordia will officially compete in Middle Atlantic Conference swimming and track & field championships commencing with the 2007-08 season. Dues are set at \$1,000.

A discussion ensued about the status of Shenandoah as a full or affiliate member. Ken Andrews mentioned the athletic director's discussion of affiliate status for Shenandoah and whether that increases or decreases the leverage on them for full membership. The presidents unanimously support the notion that more short-term contact with them enhances our long-term relationship and approved this motion:

Invite Shenandoah to join the Middle Atlantic Conference as an affiliate in men's lacrosse in 2008.

The presidents agreed that the timing on Shenandoah membership into the Corporation in fall 2008 is an administrative function that Ken Andrews can manage.

Jim Harris announced that Maritime has turned down an offer to join the Middle Atlantic Conference in football. The group asked that Ken Andrews communicate to Maritime that this offer is not open-ended, and they will need to initiate an inquiry about future membership in football.

Two Commonwealth Conference moves impact automatic qualification in tennis (men and women) and baseball:

Jim Harris announced that **Widener might consider reinstating tennis.** If this addition occurs prior to the 2009-10 seasons, tennis will not miss any automatic qualifying opportunities.

Jim Douthat indicated that **Lycoming will sponsor baseball starting in spring 2009,** ensuring that no NCAA automatic qualification will be lost.

Kim Phipps stated that three of four committees on campus have approved the **addition of swimming (men and women) at Messiah in 2008-09.** Although not an AQ sport, this new offering will enhance the Middle Atlantic Conference swimming championships.

The directors of athletics asked that the Corporation retain the protocol for conference automatic qualification. When a conference has enough members for an AQ, they may apply for that status; the other conference will be

considered for national competition in Pool B. After much discussion, the presidents approved unanimously this motion:

If neither the Freedom nor the Commonwealth conferences have the minimum number of sponsors (seven) in a particular sport, the sport is a Middle Atlantic Conference sport.

A lengthy discussion about the **Corporation logo and branding occurred**. With all the recent membership changes, it is an opportune time to review and resolve this thorny issue. The concept of conference “partners” appears to be a good approach. As a first step, **Ken Andrews will garnish “free advice” from campus experts** and develop a strategy based on that feedback. A grant or increase in dues will be needed to fund this important project.

For **schools that express interest in Corporation membership**, Ken Andrews should encourage them to send a letter of inquiry (not an “application”) that includes:

What motivation do they have to join us?
Why would they be a good partner in the Corporation?
How does our Philosophy and Principles Statement fit with their program?

Ken Andrews will also provide IPEDS and EADA information on each inquiry. Membership decisions will typically occur at the spring meeting of the presidents.

Presidents of new schools should begin participation in MASCAC meetings at the regional AICUP session in October 2007 at DeSales. Athletic administrators at the new schools have been invited to Ocean City in May.

Three schools have been unable to submit **NCAA financial aid data** to Ken Andrews. When they have completed their appeals to the NCAA, we will do the annual conference comparison.

The revised **philosophy and principles document received significant attention** (draft attached). A motion to retain the 2.0 as a conference-wide standard for continuing athletic eligibility failed 5-4. The group reviewed the academic criteria feedback from institutional research and admissions officers at member schools. The Executive Committee will formalize the package of academic standards reporting that will be sent to these two campus offices for implementation after the Annual Meeting. Approval of the revisions was not unanimous.

Ken Andrews commends the work of the committee that reviewed **equity concerns in MASCAC athletic programs**. The group expanded the focus from “gender” to the entire athletic enterprise. Ken recommends that the **president, direct report, athletics director, and SWA on each campus meet to develop a plan** to address areas of concern. Based on athletic administrator’s recommendations, the presidents authorized the following:

The MASCAC add women’s golf as an individual sport in spring 2008.

The Corporation sponsors a regional symposium in 2008 that responds to the key findings in the Equity Report.

Ken Andrews highlighted the need to **develop some broad sportsmanship principles for the athletic administrators** so they can implement specific strategies for the 2007-08 academic year. He will work with the Executive Committee on this front.

The May 8 **meeting at Widener should focus on the future of Division III**. The MASCAC athletic administrators will meet with Jim Harris (NCAA Presidents Council) and Kevin McHugh (AD at TCNJ and Vice-Chair on Management Council) at Ocean City to consider these issues.

Ken Andrews departed and the presidents discussed his performance review.

The meeting adjourned at about 2:15 PM.