



## Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Summer Meeting

July 27-29, 2012

University of the Incarnate Word

Those attending were:

Abilene Christian University: David Pillen, Ben Hynds, Shalaina Lakey, Ann Varner

Angelo State University: Paul Mason, Luz'ce Baca, Stacy Duffell

Cameron University: Alexis Williams, Kelsy Hebert, Michelle Warner

Eastern New Mexico University: Not Represented

University of the Incarnate Word: Stephen Lucke, Sarah Parker, Stacy Nordquist

Midwestern State University: Not Represented

Tarleton State University: Chris Patton, Danielle Barker, Cheri Spellmeier

Texas A&M University-Commerce: Haley Green

Texas A&M University-Kingsville: Betsy Haddock, Ashley Coy, Amanda Knight

Texas Woman's University: Sara Grunert, Jordan Readicker, Charollette Hunt

West Texas A&M University: Dustin Vaughan, Sarah Snider, Courtney Lee

LSC Office: Stan Wagnon, Jay Poerner, Stan Wagnon

**1. Minutes from November 21, 2011 LSC SAAC Meeting:** Reviewed minutes from November 21, 2011 SAAC meeting in Allen, TX.

**2. Make-A-Wish:** Reviewed the Division II SAAC initiative and conference goals. Goal will continue to be 100% participation with each school striving to raise a minimum of \$1,500. The group participated in roundtable discussions to share fundraising ideas and best practices. David Pillen (ACU) reported that Division II again raised more than \$400,000 for Make-A-Wish this past year.

**3. Community Service Months (November and April):** Reviewed the Lone Star Conference Community Service Month initiative. It was noted that the Conference Office will again make available a \$200 subgrant to encourage participation and help assist schools with community service project costs. One grant will be made available to each school in either November or April and must be applied for by the campus SAAC Advisor. The group participated in roundtable discussions to share community service ideas.

**4. SAAC Cup Criteria:** The group decided to add an area to the SAAC Cup for "other charitable fundraising." There are occasionally situations where a SAAC will take on a fundraising project to assist a worthy cause in their local or campus community. This will allow those groups to earn SAAC Cup points for their efforts.

LSC Community Service Month Participation: Schools will receive 500 points for each SAAC-organized community service project they participate in during the November or April LSC Community Service Month.

Make-A-Wish Participation: Schools will receive ½ a point up to \$1499 and 1 point (\$1500 and up) for every dollar raised for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Funds shall be donated to the NCAA national office on the required forms.

Conference SAAC Meeting Attendance: Schools will receive 250 points per person who attends Conference SAAC meetings. Participants must attend the entire meeting. Conference SAAC meetings are in November (Allen) and July (TBD).

Campus SAAC Meetings: Schools will receive 100 points for campus SAAC meetings (a maximum of two per month). A formal agenda and/or minutes from each meeting should be kept on file with the SAAC Advisor.

SAAC Legislative Grids: Schools will receive 500 points for submitting their completed NCAA legislative grids to the LSC Division II SAAC representative (currently David Pillen at ACU) by the required due date.

Other Community Service: Schools will receive 250 points for each SAAC-organized community service project they participate in outside of the November and April LSC Community Service Months.

Other Fundraising Projects: Schools will receive ½ a point for every dollar raised by SAAC and donated to a charitable fundraising project (other than Make-A-Wish).

**5. Media Relations Social Media Survey:** The group took part in a social media survey. Information collected will be used by the Conference Office to evaluate and improve social media initiatives.

**6. NCAA SAAC Report:** David Pillen (ACU) provided a summary from the Division II SAAC summer meeting in Indianapolis. He gave a brief overview of some of the legislative proposals they will see on their SAAC legislative grids next fall. David's term on the Division II SAAC ends in January. He talked to the group about his experience and the process for replacing him.

**7. Academic Performance & Improvement:** Reviewed the LSC Academic Success Rate and graduation rate (student-athlete and student body) data. Discussed the need to improve and put a plan in place. The group participated in roundtable discussions to answer the following questions: What is the perception of student-athletes on campus in regards to academic performance? What can your athletic department or the Conference do to help in this area? Consensus was that the perception was different sport-by-sport, but that basketball and football had the worst reputations possibly due to the high number of transfers. Some ideas to aid improvement include: requiring mandatory grade reports during the year, a minimum GPA requirement, creating a student-athlete leadership council for academics, mandatory incoming student-athlete orientations on study habits, providing teams with a faculty sponsor for support, requiring schools to provide an athletic academic advisor that understands NCAA rules and the time demands of student-athletes.

**8. Player and Coach Conduct:** Reviewed some of the conduct policies being discussed by LSC coaches groups and athletics administrators as well as the new policy for basketball effective the 2012-13 academic year. The group participated in roundtable discussions to answer the following questions: Is there a problem with coach and player conduct in the Lone Star Conference? If so, what is causing this problem? What are some corrective actions? What are your thoughts on conference conduct policies and suspensions? Student-athletes agreed that some sports may have conduct issues, but that student-athletes, coaches, officials and fans all contribute to the problem. They also felt strongly that coaches should be controlling player conduct issues on their own teams. They agreed conduct policies may be necessary in some sports, but not across the board.

**9. LSC SAAC Cup:** The 2011-12 LSC SAAC Cup was awarded to Texas A&M University-Kingsville for the third straight year. TAMUK accumulated 17,601 points, Angelo State finished second with 13,144 and West Texas A&M third with 13,083.

**10. Informational Items:** Reviewed the following:

LSC Needy Student-Athlete Fund: This fund can be used by student-athletes with a demonstrated financial need to pay for medical or dental expenses, personal or family emergencies, etc. Applications are submitted by the director of athletics. The group was provided with a copy of the application/guidelines to better understand the program.

LSC Degree Completion Scholarship Program: The purpose of the LSC Degree Completion Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance for completion of a first baccalaureate degree to deserving student-athletes in the conference. The scholarship is funded with assistance from the NCAA Conference Grant program. The group was provided with a memo detailing the scholarship requirements.