

HCAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, October 28, 2009

PRESENT

Dave Beccaria  
Jamie Gluck  
Adam Lewis  
Alison Crawford  
Maggie Cronin  
Sam Permutt

LEADERSHIP TRAINING/NCAA GRANT MONEY

Julie Young has been organizing leadership training meetings for all team captains. Thus far, she has met with the fall captains, so we asked the execs about how this process is going based on the feedback that they've received from other student-athletes. Although the fall captains seem to feel that this training process started a little bit too late for them, it appears that the leadership training is being well received by the captains. The captains seem to like interacting with captains from other teams and having opportunities to learn from each other. The fall captains hope that some sort of training could be done for them at the end of this school year so that they could arrive prepared for their pre-season activities at the end of the summer. (In speaking with Julie, it seems like this is the plan.)

Wendy Smith has asked me to start the process of applying for NCAA grant funds that could be used to augment our leadership training efforts. In speaking with Julie and the execs, it appears that this grant money could best be used for any of the following: a speaker who could offer leadership training ideas for all student-athletes and possibly some breakout/workshop sessions for team captains; leadership training exercises (possibly including ropes course, etc.) somewhere; more books/materials that could be used in Julie's meetings with captains. Other ideas are welcomed, so please let me know if anyone has ideas about how to possibly use grant money to improve our leadership training efforts.

It seems that the hope for the department's leadership training is for it to develop into a department-wide effort. It's probably not enough to just train a few captains each year. We'd like to find ways to build on the lessons that Julie is teaching in her meetings with captains and to hopefully allow for both a more broad-based and team-specific means of developing strong leaders. Again, ideas are very much appreciated for how this can and should take place.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Alison Crawford continues to work with Eighth Dimension on the details related to student-athlete volunteers for the Special Olympics at Villanova University on Saturday, November 7. Eighth Dimension is providing the funding for a bus or two that will serve as transportation to and from Haverford. We hope that all head coaches will urge their student-athletes to participate in this effort. This will be the HCAA's department-wide community service project for the year. Any volunteers who plan to participate will need to sign a waiver that will be located at the desk in the Fitness Center, and Alison Crawford will be in touch with more details in the coming week.

CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE COST CONTAINMENT

We discussed the Centennial Conference's approach to cost-containment measures. The execs seem to be against the idea of the conference mandating cost-containment measures for all schools. Instead, the execs would prefer that school presidents exercise his/her own autonomy in determining cost-containment measures and the impact that those steps would have on his/her own school's student-athletes. I'll be drafting a letter on behalf of the HCAA, and I'll be sending that letter to the conference office and the conference's SAAC.

#### BROADCASTERS FOR WEBCASTS

In the past, the college's radio station (WHRC) was interested in broadcasting various sporting events on campus. That service seemed to be very much appreciated by parents, alumni and prospective student-athletes. Over the past few years, student interest in providing this service has declined significantly, but we'd like to revive this effort. The athletic department has all of the tools/instruments needed for these broadcasts, but we need to find students who would be interested in doing a good job with the actual broadcasts.

I met with Jason McGraw a few days ago to see if he had any suggestions about groups or individuals who might be interested in broadcasting sporting events this year. It doesn't appear that there is any real interest out there right now, but Jason and the execs have provided a few names. I'll be following up with these individuals, and then Jason will be sending an e-mail to all students in order to see if anyone is interested in broadcasting sporting events.

This effort could be a great thing for a number of reasons: we could continue to allow parents, alumni and prospective student-athletes to follow sporting events via the Web; we could hopefully create more interest in sporting events on campus; and we could provide opportunities for students who don't want to play sports but who want to be involved with athletics at some level.

If anyone has any ideas about how to get this effort up and running, please let me know.

#### MEAL MONEY

During the cost-containment conversation, Sam Permutt asked why the athletic department gives meal money to student-athletes who aren't on the meal plan. Obviously for away games, everyone needs to eat. But during fall, winter and spring breaks, why should those not on the meal plan receive meal money? This seems like a potential waste of money.

Secondly, it seems that the meal money for away games results in "double-payment" for meals. The students are paying for their meals as part of their meal plan, so the Dining Center already has that money. And yet the athletic department is paying for meals that are missed because of away games. Should the Dining Center be responsible for paying all or a portion of this meal money...since it already has the money that students have paid for their meal plan?

If boxed dinners could be improved significantly, there might be potential interest for student-athletes to take boxed dinners with them for away games instead of meal money...if the savings is worthwhile.

Also, the possibility was raised for a "meal exchange" in which our student-athletes could eat at another school's dining facility during away games and vice versa. We're not sure how feasible this might be.

Any feedback on this topic is greatly appreciated.

#### ISSUES/CONCERNS

The execs asked about the ability to move practice times around in order to allow more student-athletes to attend games on campus. Right now it seems like many teams are practicing while other teams are playing, and some student-athletes feel that they don't have the ability to support other teams' games. (Jamie and I explained that athletic trainer coverage and class schedules have a lot to do with this.)

Apparently a few cross country runners were wondering why the ice room hasn't been accessible recently on the weekends. We're assuming that it might be because some student-athletes have abused their access to the ice room during the weekends.

In order to create more visibility for the HCAA Web site, the execs thought that maybe we could have a poll (to get student-athlete opinion on a variety of topics) on the front page of the athletics Web site. This poll could change from time to time, but it would ultimately take people to the HCAA Web site upon entering information for the poll. (This poll could also be done on the GO Boards in order to direct more people to the HCAA Web site.) Gregg Petcoff and Matt Kirsch – Please let us know your thoughts on this.