

HCAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, November 11, 2009

PRESENT

Dave Beccaria
Jamie Gluck
Sam Permutt
Maggie Cronin
Adam Lewis

FEEDBACK ON QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

The execs had a few questions about meal money at our last meeting, so I met with Wendy Smith to get a few answers. The Dining Center isn't open for anyone during breaks, so those particular meals wouldn't be covered by the meal plans anyway. As a result, all student-athletes are eligible for meal money during breaks. Also, meal plan prices take into account the fact that all students will miss a certain percentage of meals during the course of a semester. As a result, the athletic department needs to fund meal money for student-athletes who miss meals for away games.

During breaks, student-athletes would like coaches – if at all possible – to consider practice times that don't conflict with other games on campus. That way, student-athletes can practice and then watch/support other teams' games.

FACULTY MEMBERS HELPING VARSITY TEAMS

The field hockey team asked Ashok Gangadean, a philosophy professor, to speak with them prior to one of their final regular-season games. Gangadean talked about "being/playing in the moment," a concept that certainly has value to sports teams. It appears that the field hockey team really enjoyed this opportunity to apply academic concepts to their athletic pursuits. The team felt that they learned a lot and that it was nice to get a different perspective on a concept that they'd heard a lot from their coach.

The execs felt that other faculty members, including the following, might have messages to offer varsity student-athletes: Ben Le, social psychology/relationship psychology that could be beneficial to team sports; Dave Owens, sports decision theory in economics; Jason McGraw, who teaches a class on connecting leadership theory to practice.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

It seems that the student-athletes did an excellent job of providing the quantity and quality of support needed to help the Special Olympics at Villanova University last Saturday. Alison Crawford will be supplying me with more specific feedback and a few photos as well, and I'll make sure that his information is posted on the HCAA Web site. The execs said that the volunteer effort was more organized and efficient this year, which allowed the student-athletes to feel like they were having more of an impact on this event.

While this volunteer effort has been successful for the past few years, the execs would like to consider other possible opportunities for next year's department-wide community service project. The execs think that we might be able to do something on our own campus that could benefit the local community. Ideas and suggestions are certainly welcomed.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The athletic department is once again organizing a Thanksgiving Food Drive that will benefit ElderNet, which supplies meals for local elderly families in need. Each student-athlete and coach are asked to donate one non-perishable (hopefully Thanksgiving relevant) food item and \$1 towards this effort. Donation boxes are located outside of each coach's office door, and we need to collect all donations by Monday, November 23.

Coaches are encouraged to spread the word about this effort to their respective teams, and we appreciate everyone's help in supporting this effort.

VARSITY LETTER BLANKETS

We asked the execs for feedback about the best and most appropriate forum to give varsity letter blankets to senior student-athletes. In the past, we've distributed these blankets at a brief ceremony during halftime of a basketball game. Halftime of a basketball game still seems to be a good venue for this sort of thing, but another idea would be to distribute the varsity letter blankets at each individual team's "senior day." The execs feel that this would allow parents/families to be a part of this ceremony. However, not all teams have a "senior day," and this particular forum wouldn't necessarily allow a lot of other students and student-athletes to witness the ceremony. The idea of distributing these blankets at the year-end senior student-athlete awards ceremony didn't receive much support at all for a variety of reasons.

It seems that the execs would favor either a ceremony during a halftime of a basketball game or at individual team's "senior days."

BROADCASTING FOR WEBCASTS

I met with Jason McGraw a week ago, and followed up with an e-mail to about 15 students whom Jason thought might be interested in doing some broadcasting for sporting events. So far, we've received only two responses from individuals who might be interested in this sort of thing, and I'll be following up with those two people in order to figure out how to proceed. At some point, I'll be putting them in touch with Gregg Petcoff and Matt Kirsch. We're hoping to get these broadcasts re-started and eventually done on a broader and more serious scale. If you know someone who would be interested in broadcasting sporting events on campus, please have them contact me at dbeccari@haverford.edu.