

## 1-25-12 SAAC Meeting Minutes

- Hopefully we will be back in Campus Center 200 next meeting in 2 weeks.
- Kathy Tierney wants to meet with SAAC at 8pm this coming Monday (January 30). Room will be announced. This meeting is important for everyone to attend to hear Kathy's (our athletic director) input on this semester.
- Cupcake Hour will start Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- There will be an Athletic Liason meeting with the Board of Trustees on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Please attend if you can. One trustee is assigned as the athletic liason. We would like representatives from each sport to come. In the past we have talked about athletes' needs for new amenities on campus, athletes' identity on campus, any frustrations athletes have with integrating in the campus community but also the advantages of being an athlete at Bryn Mawr at Bryn Mawr. At the next meeting we will talk about the challenges of the scholar athlete at Bryn Mawr and the challenges we face in the Centennial Conference because we are not competitive enough. This affects different sports differently but knowing that you are going to lose a game hurts mentally and it hurts recruiting. We are going to go about this by talking about positive things of being an athlete at BMC. We are going to start the meeting by going around and having each athlete present something. The topic that athletes will share about is big picture challenges but also big picture positives. Things to share: why we are athletes, why we like playing, i.e. team building, work ethic, and education. After we highlight the reasons we want to play, we are going to shift into the reasons why this competitive gap is hurting us—how this makes you feel personally, how does this make you feel about representing Bryn Mawr. We want 2-3 personal anecdotes of something that makes you feel bad about this competitiveness gap but why you still have persevered and continued participation in athletics. Lastly we will talk about ways we think we can improve our competitiveness with short and long term goals. For example, be more effective at recruiting quality athletes who will dedicate four years to the sport, continue to increase facilities by showing how new and improved facilities have helped us in the past. Also, increasing our visibility as athletes to the external community by participating in charity events, increasing our fan base.
  - Ideas: how the turf improved recruiting this year, having an indoor track would increase fan attendance, help off-season athletes stay more fit, provide another training option for the track team instead of having to go to Haverford.
  - Jill Breslin: A lot of schools in the conference view us as at the bottom and mentally that's challenging to have people assume we are losers. At the trustee meeting the athletes need to be clear and to the point with the liaison that we don't want people to think we always lose and don't take athletics seriously and we want to renew our image.
  - Miranda: Athlete retention is hard when teams are always losing.

- Jill Breslin: We want more branding on the campus to improve the identity of athletes.
  - Manya: Bryn Mawr brands itself in being first in everything but we are the bottom of the conference, we were the last to get a turf field, we don't have an official website solely for athletics, like other schools in our conference.
- Gabby: We will return to this topic in two weeks two days before the trustee meeting. Remember also to share why you are an athlete at Bryn Mawr and what you enjoy.
- Owls Fight for a Cure: This will occur in conjunction with a basketball game on February 2. It's a fundraiser for the Bryn Mawr Breast Health Center. This year the athletic department is planning most of it but they need volunteers to sell raffle tickets during the day and during the game. Please email one of the board members if you want to volunteer and we will send out a reminder soon.
- We are having an alumni panel on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please come! It will be a great opportunity.
- We will be electing an entire new SAAC board this year. We are going to approach this process differently this year. The current executive board is all seniors so there needs to be extra time to train a new board. We will elect a new board the first week in March. Elected board members will come to the meetings that the board has to show how planning SAAC occurs and to learn the small details.
  - Board Positions:
    - President: Learn a lot about organization, how the athletic department works
    - Vice President: main job is banquet planning in second position
    - Secretary: minutes, attendance, Facebook page, organization of details
    - Public Relations: Stalls Illustrated, posters, Planga.
    - Treasurer: budgeting. Next year this will become Treasurer/Community Service Organizer.
- Manya: Planga page
  - All athletes can be members, all non-athletes will be fans.
  - Home events and nearby events for track and crew are posted.
  - SAAC events are posted
  - Make accounts on Planga so you can see everything
  - It will be good to send reminders for cupcake hour!
  - You sign up by making an account and then the administrators will promote you to members.
  - You can make a group for individual teams but if it is about something campus-wide (i.e. Soccer team Sneaker Sale) for it to be posted on the Athletics page.
  - Any athlete can become a member.
- Facebook page: We are unveiling a new facebook page for Bryn Mawr SAAC.

- Post Stalls Illustrated!
- Athlete of the Week:
  - Jessica Arbon went a best time by 2 seconds in the 200 back at Seven Sisters. This was a rough meet for many because it was following a difficult winter break training trip and the Swarthmore meet but Jess was still one of the only ones to get a best time last weekend.
  - Victoria Travis ran a best time in the 800m over the weekend. She ran a strong and solid race.