2-22-12 SAAC Meeting Minutes

1. Read the notes on what Kathy said. If you are going to be around this summer let Kathy know. She would like your input on getting the new Athletics website up and running and there also might be a job opportunity with the Athletics Department.
2. Elections for the new SAAC executive board will happen soon. Read through the minutes from our Candidates Forum.

**Kathy Updates**

* At the NCAA convention we had several pieces of legislation—some of which our own SAAC assembly discussed last semester. One such legislation is that coaches can now text prospective student athletes. Coaches were split 50-50 about this. Many of our peer institutions were also split. Freshmen and sophomores on the national SAAC were in support of texting. Juniors and seniors were against it. The legislation passed to allow coached to text prospective students.
* We have established the Friends of Bryn Mawr Athletics (engages alumni and parents involved with the department). We have established by-laws and organized leadership. One of the big goals is to raise money to offset the needs of the department. We had a big drive at the holidays and the next fundraising drive will be in March. One of our primary needs right now is to create equity for travel (meals for spring teams and swimming during training trip/training over spring break). Next year I (Kathy) want to talk with our group about our needs and where the priority needs are for us as athletes. The steering committee suggested a shared resources model rather than having donations directly to a specific team. The goal is to direct money towards the most compelling needs in Athletics to help athletes succeed. Some other needs are upgrading the website, SMART classroom in the multi-purpose room.
* In conjunction with Friends of Bryn Mawr Athletics we will be doing a regular newsletter and as part of that, this spring we will be doing a Title IX blog on our website to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Title IX. The first blogger will be Jen Schillingford (the former athletic director at Bryn Mawr). Other bloggers will be Libby Sander, David Karen, Kim Cassidy.
* Kathy is working for funding to outsource our website. It’s a 3-year contract and our coaches know we need to move to this model because we’ve already maximized what we can do with the old model. If anyone is going to be on campus this summer please let Kathy know so you can help with student input on the website. The goal is to have the new website up and running by mid-August.
* I want to commend you for your dedication to strength and conditioning workouts with Courtney. We are going to keep Courtney on and I’m working on a model to combine the strengths that Courtney and Stacey can bring. We are going to build in a program that brings the flexibility. The interaction of all the athletes together during this time is really powerful.
* Laura Kemper is healthy and doing well. She is at 34 weeks and she was released from the hospital and is home until the birth.
* I want to thank you all for the thoughtful discussion with the board liaison Edith. Kim Cassidy has also been updated by Edith after her meeting with the athletes. We will continue this discussion of how can we be more competitive and improve our experience as athletes at Bryn Mawr.
* Update on the rugby program: Since 2007 we have been monitoring the injury rate for rugby. It has increased since then. Since 2009, we have implemented best practices to reduce the concussion rate. Rugby is not an NCAA sport so it didn’t have such measures in place to reduce injury (i.e. a certain number of practices per week, a cap on the season) Unfortunately, since 2009 the concussion rate hasn’t dropped. It’s at 35%. Terry and Kathy came to the team and shared this information. Rugby responded maturely and logically to help work together to find a solution. It’s not ideal but it’s an alternative to cutting the program. All competition is cut for the fall and there will be 3 competitions in the spring. We (Terry and Kathy) also took one of their suggestions to require mandatory strength and conditioning and mandatory practices. There isn’t another school that monitors the concussion rate of their rugby team so we can’t compare what happens at Bryn Mawr. This was tough for the rugby team to have their competition reduced but their status in the department doesn’t change. Rugby is still a varsity club sport.
* Kathy: If you are here on campus this summer let me know. 1) The department always loves hiring athletes to work for us. 2) We would love your input for the website design.

**Candidates Forum**

**President**

* Karina Siu: Wants to be more involved in Athletics Department. Wants to focus on visibility of Athletes on campus: making non-athletes more aware of athletic program and creating a better linkage with SGA. Currently Rhoads North Dorm President and a member of Res-Co.
* Maddy Beckmann: In 3rd grade I started a non-profit that donates about 4000 coats a year. I also organized a donation that sent food packages to Africa. Mikah and I are working on a dodge-ball tournament to raise money for field hockey. I’d like to get fans/non-athletes more involved and get them to recognize what we do as athletes. I would also like to get Bryn Mawr Athletics more involved in volunteering with the Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative.

**Vice-President**

* Mikah Farbo: Dorm-rep for PSafe committee in Merion. President of high school student council. Historian for high school National Honor Society. Field Hockey captain next year. I think athletes need more support from other athletes (athletes going to each others’ competitions). I want to get Bryn Mawr athletes more involved in the community.

**Secretary**

* Caroline Herman (abroad): Organized and a great note-taker. Really cares about cohesiveness and collaboration in Bryn Mawr Athletics.
* Rebecca Joseph (abroad): Junior, involved with SAAC for past 3 years. SAAC rep for soccer last fall. Organized, good at time management. Wants to be more involved with SAAC and integrate athletes and non-athletes.

**PR**

* Phoebe Jordan; Wants to increase awareness of athletics. Increase coverage of athletic competitions. Increase attendance at games through incentives. On her high school swim team she organized a stroke clinic and the annual high school swimming fundraiser.
* Holly Constants: She is organized. The executive board is like a team. A good communicator. Commitment, proud to be a Bryn Mawr athlete. Always invites professors to her games even if they are not favored to win. Want to make sure everyone on campus knows how hard we work as athletes. Has a lot of experience creating and organizing fundraisers. Organized a fundraiser for breast cancer awareness.
* Marian Slocum: Wants to help improve the visibility of Bryn Mawr Athletics on campus. Commitment. Wants to post a large athletic calendar in Haffner and Erdman so students are more aware of what’s going on in Athletics. Like Luke Skywalker, ready for the challenge.

**Treasurer**

* Chantille Kennedy: Senior captain for high school basketball team. Wants to help build up certain areas of the program. Extremely organized and good at managing finances.

**Questions for Candidates**

* Zoe: How to better organize and delegate creating community service opportunities?
	+ Mikah: Poll people for ideas
	+ Maddy: Work with Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative
	+ Chantille: I work with Overbrook Art Club and GASP. I think we can get more involved with schools and their gym class and athletics.
	+ Karina: We could have a community service liaison to Athletics. However, we are busy with academics and athletics so I think we can try to find a way to bring community service events to Bryn Mawr (Overbrook).
	+ Marian: Would think of a lot of fun ways to advertise for different events and get more people involved.
	+ Holly: Competition between teams to give people incentive to get more involved.
	+ Phoebe: Competition between teams (based on her homeroom book collection competition in high school).
	+ Karina: We could also do more community service on campus by getting athletes to get non-athletes down to the gym more.
* Visibility?
	+ Karina: More involved with SAAC
	+ Mikah: Having athletes go to other athletic events.
	+ Phoebe: Boosting attendance for all events. Increasing announcements/advertisements up-campus.
	+ Maddy: Fan of the week, advertisements all home games on Facebook, on the TV screen in the campus center.
	+ Holly: Getting professors more involved, inviting them to games.
	+ Marian: Stalls Illustrated, big calendar in Haffner and Erdman. Selling shirts to non-athletes (tabling in Erdman).
	+ Chantille: More advertising (especially dining halls).
* Gabby: Question addressed to Chan who is running for treasurer…The current board has discussed making the treasurer position into a co-position with community service organizer.
	+ Chan: I’m very organized and good at time management so I’d be up for the responsibility. I’m on the board for my mother’s fundraising ball for breast cancer. I wouldn’t have a problem with fundraising and getting volunteers.

**Announcements**

* Tiffany Olszuk is doing a mindfulness and athletics study for her senior thesis. Please participate and encourage other athletes to participate. You have to attend 4/6 sessions and you get a prize. Email tolszuk@brynmawr.edu if you are interested in participating.
* Maddy: Please take and post posters for the Field Hockey Dodgeball Tournament.

**Owl of the Week**

* Shannon Murphy and Lucy Gleysteen both PR’d in the shot put by a foot at the Keogh Invitational.
* 400 Medley Relay Team (Judy Yeung, Phoebe Jordan, Meredith Davis, Zoe Guastella: Broke the only relay record that had not already been broken during Nikki’s time as a coach. They swam in a time of 4:12.63 and the previous time was 4:13.70. The previous record was set in 2003 by the team of Stacy Claxton, Kelly Radimer, Marot Williamson, and Jen Wolfe.
* Emily Levine: Ran the 1000m at the Rider/Lafayette Winter Games hosted at The Armory in New York City and broke the school record set by All-American Joanna Simonis in 2005. The prior record was 3:12.0. She ran in 3:10.12.