

SAAC Exec Board

4/28/2010 Minutes

Communicate perspective, Support needs, Promote MIT athletics, Serve community

MIT SAAC Mission Statement:

The MIT SAAC will:

- a. Communicate the student-athlete perspective to decision-makers
- b. Support unmet needs of student-athletes
- c. Promote MIT athletics on campus and to the surrounding MIT community
- d. Serve our greater community

Sonya's first meeting as President!

I.) Continuing Existing Events

a. Appreciation Day

Organizers of this need FULL backing of SAAC. We need to commit to this so that more SAAC members sacrifice their time to help set up/man the event/clean up.

b. Experience MIT

There should be 3 leaders: one for organizing labs, one for administrative aspect, and one for organizing volunteers. Wait to decide on day of the week (Friday? Day off of school?) until next year, when we have a better idea of schedule.

c. GBM

Have 2/yr? Don't want to lose interest if it's too often, but there used to be 2/yr and it works well with semester schedule. Would need to get organized quickly to nail down a date.

d. Feedback from SAAC

Everyone at the meeting decided it would be a good idea to continue these events next year.

II.) (Possible) Ideas to Pursue

a. Community Service

i. BSA-Boston Scholar Athlete-college students tutor kid athletes in the Boston area

Shannon McCloud of BSA is in contact with Lauren. Want volunteers from MIT sports teams to commit at least 1 hr/volunteer/week, hopefully having around 3 people going each week. Don't need same volunteers each week. Team members can cycle volunteer weeks.

In mid-August, BSA will provide us with the times they want volunteers. By September, we should have a plan for what teams will commit.

It would be ideal to have large teams commit to this, since the volunteer times are around 1:30-3:00 at the schools (hopefully near MIT campus) and some MIT athletes have class at that time.

Richard will talk to XC/Track by the next SAAC meeting this semester, Lauren will talk to Swim and email Shannon with updates. Possibly have Football team in the Spring?

ii. FoJ

SAAC can't really motivate teams to participate in Friends of Jac., teams need to pursue it on their own. We can encourage them to participate, though.

iii. SAAC Sponsored Relief Fundraiser (?)

In NEWMAC SAAC conference calls, there were ideas for a conference-wide fundraiser competition between the NEWMAC schools. Maggie will be in contact with NCAA intern Felicia Prater, who leads these conference discussions.

b. Health and Wellness

i. Dining—submit idea to idea bank?

Idea Bank for House Dining Review will close soon-we would like to submit something on behalf of student-athletes.

Mitch Kelley of Track team sent a good overview of the captain's dining meeting with Tom Gearty recently-we could use that as inspiration. Use quotes from students, notes from GBM, and stats from Dining survey to back up our ideas. Discussion on submission will occur through email.

Julie said Tom Gearty & Dining people are listening to and recognizing the student voice, based on a recent meeting with Student Life officers.

Stephen F. will be the contact person for this.

ii. Nutrition

Carrie Moore (Director for PE) is interested in contacting students/reaching out to students on Nutrition issues. We could help provide nutrition facts/exercise tips, especially at beginning of term when frosh are making their college habits (don't want them to end up like the person Juls was talking about who hadn't eaten a vegetable in months)

Richard/Stephen F. will work on this (with Carrie), so we can get communication started before summer.

Julie said that if we want to bring in a Boston nutritionist, this would be an example of our leadership development as we take charge in an area of

student interest, and thus that could be funded by a generous alum donation for student leadership development.

iii. What to do with survey results

Some SAAC members still have printed results, so we can use this in communicating the needs of athletes to Dining people and Carrie.

c. Athletic Promotion

i. Competition, maybe in Fall?

Pick an event every 1-2 weeks, have students come to support the team and they sign in for their living group, friend group, dorm floor, etc (they form an organized group), points for each group awarded for each person who attends that event and are posted on SAAC website, possible reward=engraved trophy. Potentially ask coaches for what event they want highlighted by this competition.

Should hammer out guidelines over the summer, so we can start right away in Fall.

BUDDY system-

Have a team teach their "buddy team" how to do their sport (for example, fencing teaches basketball how to fence and basketball teaches how to score) and go t their "buddy team's" meet/game/match, etc. We want to focus on the competition promotion idea (II.c.i.) for now.

ii. Publicize Request Form

III.) Structure of Meetings Next Year

Less focus on each committee's updates, more focus on getting work done in meetings. Committees can email SAAC with their updates about every other week

IV.) Additional Ideas

Some SAACs at other schools have members that were voted on by their teams to represent them in the SAAC Should we ask coaches to get athletes to come to meeting to see what we do? If they're not interested, they won't contribute.

SAAC newsletter each term? Opportunity to draw people to the website.

Julie's announcements:

-May 13 7:00 Celebration of Student Athletes-open to all student-athletes

-Visiting Committee breakfast-next Tuesday, 8am, NW35-mingle and talk about experience as athlete with the visiting committee! Summer also emailed about visiting committee lunches that we were supposed to already have RSVPed to if interested. Check your email and RSVP if coming to breakfast or lunches.

Hooray for Juls and Summer for a great year with the SAAC!