



Division II Caucus Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2017 --- 8:00 p.m. (Bronze 2)

- I. Roll Call – each coach signed in with name, school, and conference followed by introductions around the room

- II. Coaches Connection Intro (Debbie DeJong)
 - a. Updated group on strategic plan of NCAA and softball
 - b. Expressed purpose of the Coaches Connection as the following
 - i. Resource for the sport in making changes and avenues of how to get there
 - ii. Help educate on resources dealing with championships and the legislation process

- III. Previewed DII Caucus
 - a. Discussed first item will be having all coaches vote on NFCA bylaws, HCC was encouraged to help with the voting process
 - b. Festival Discussion
 - i. Brittany Bennett (UNC Pembroke)
 1. Presented numbers on the impact of Festival Years vs. Non-Festival Years concerning the number of games played per week, which impacts the student athlete experience, missed class time, and injuries caused do to overuse
 - a. March 1st start in Festival year averages 7.6 games per week compared to Non-Festival year of 4.2 games per week
 - b. Please reference power point presentation for exact numbers
 2. Biggest issue concerning Festival year is embedded in finding a way to restore the loss of dates that we experience by the Festival year moving up championships by 7-10 days
 3. Encouraged that we must present solutions outside of removing the festival year. Solutions discussed:
 - a. Move to 8 team regional, eliminating super regional
 - b. Counting Fall Dates
 - c. Align our championship with baseball

NATIONAL FASTPITCH COACHES ASSOCIATION



- ii. Group Discussion:
 - 1. We have the data, how do we move forward in taking action?
 - 2. Averaged more games in festival year 2016 than in 2017 shows are commitment to play games and the importance of us having 56 game allotment
 - 3. Encouraged to have conversations with ADs and presidents concerning problems and solutions
 - 4. Encouraged to educate and have discussions with players on the impact of the Festival year and the experience
 - 5. Encouraged everyone to fill out NCAA census in January concerning the Festival Year, email will be coming from institutions SWA
 - 6. Much discussion concerning all members supporting what is best for our division and solidifying solutions to bring to caucus
 - 7. Primary discussion involved evaluating proposing 8 team regional and aligning with baseball as due to many reasons including additional cost counting fall dates was eliminated
 - 8. Voted by the HCC that the 8 team regional in only the festival year would be the solution presented to the caucus

- c. Scholarship Proposal (Gary Bryce)
 - i. Last scholarship increase in DII softball was in 1992
 - ii. Must have 15 schools or 2 conferences to support in order to get on floor
 - iii. Currently have 1 conference and/or 11/15 schools that support
 - iv. Encouraged HCC members to reach out to as many schools and have discussions on whether they support scholarship increase
 - v. Institutional Decision meaning Athletic Administration must sign off on support and President must have vote of support

- d. DII Recruiting Calendar Discussion
 - i. Question of if we should have recruiting calendar (Gretta Melsted)
 - ii. Possibility with the Culture of Compliance review that all recruiting calendars in DII would be eliminated
 - iii. Concerns
 - 1. Number of games the players are playing
 - 2. Promoting Life in the Balance



- iv. Motion to vote on following was stalled to wait till after Culture of Compliance review
 - 1. Recruit similar to DI
 - 2. Recruit no Fridays
 - 3. Dead Periods/Months
 - 4. No Recruit Calendar

- IV. 2018 HCC (Brian Stanley)
 - a. Introduced outgoing members
 - b. Introduced new members

- V. Meeting Adjourned 9:45 p.m.

Prepared by Carla Passini, Quincy University

In attendance

HCC: Carla Passini, Quincy University (GLVC), Sue Kunkle, University of Southern Indiana (GLVC), Susan Anderson, University of Central Missouri (MIAA), Patti Gerckens, UC San Diego (CCAA), Miles Mallette, Kentucky Wesleyan (GMAC), Gretta Melsted, Augustana University (Northern Sun), Susan Cassidy-Lyke, Molloy (ECC), Jessie Homesley, Christian Brothers (Gulf South), Jason Marino, Le Moyne College (NE-10), Dervin Taylor, Adams State University (RMAC), Erin Kinberger, Saint Leo University (Sunshine State); Brittany Bennett, UNC-Pembroke (Peach Belt), Dean Johnson, Caldwell University (CACC), Lonny Sargent, Western Oregon University (GNAC), Lataya Hilliard-Gray, Winston Salem State University (CIAA), Patrick Peasant, Miles College (SIAC), Kimberly Stiles, University of Charleston (Mountain East), Todd Buckingham, Saginaw Valley State University (GLIAC)

Non-Voting

Gary Bryce, Wayne State University – DII Representative NFCA Board of Directors, Brian Stanley, NFCA Division II Liaison, Molly Simons, NCAA, Chelsea Crawford, NCAA, Debbie DeJong, LIU Post, NCAA Coaches Connection, Val Silvestrini, Florida Tech (SSC, Coaches Connection), Dave Caison (Assistant Coach), Texas A&M University-Commerce (Lone Star)