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Steven F. Ulrich, Executive Secretary
Jennifer Brehm, Media Relations Assistant

**Annual Meeting of the Centennial Conference
Wednesday, June 6, 2001
Bryn Mawr College**

Attendance: Nancy Vickers, Karen Tidmarsh, Elizabeth McCormick, Amy Campbell, Kate Miller (Bryn Mawr); Bill Durden, Bob Massa, Les Poolman, Julie Emrhein (Dickinson); Dick Kneedler, Bob Bunnell, Patty Epps (Franklin & Marshall); Gordon Haaland, David Cowan, Barbara Fritze, Chuck Winters, Barb Streeter (Gettysburg); Tom Tritton, Elaine Hansen, Joe Tolliver, Greg Kannerstein, Penny Hinckley (Haverford); Jerry Schnydmann, Susan Boswell, Tom Calder, Faith Shearer (Johns Hopkins); Arthur Taylor, Rudy Ehrenberg, Steve Erber, Jenny Warmack-Chipman (Muhlenberg); Al Bloom, Bob Williams, Sue Davis (Swarthmore); John Strassburger, Judy Levy, Brian Thomas, Carrie Reilly (Ursinus); John Toll, Bryan Matthews, Penny Fall (Washington); Sam Case, Ethan Seidel, Jamie Smith, Carol Fritz (Western Maryland); Steve Ulrich, Jennifer Brehm (Conference Office).

Meeting commenced at 11:50 a.m.

A meeting of the Presidents' Council was held prior to the start of the Annual Meeting which lasted approximately 50 minutes.

I. State of the Conference

Ulrich presented the annual "State of the Conference" address which is included as an attachment to the minutes.

II. Conference Bylaw Change Proposal

The Executive Committee moved the following changes to the Centennial Conference Bylaws:

BYLAW I. Governance Structure / A. Annual Conference Meeting / 2. Voting.

"Each institution has one vote at the Annual Conference Meeting. A motion to be approved requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the institutions present and voting."

BYLAW I. Governance Structure / B. Executive Committee / 3. Functions.

"The Executive Committee has the authority to act for the Conference with a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting, although it will seek unanimity whenever possible."

BYLAW I. Governance Structure / C. Administrative Delegates / 4. Voting.

"Each institution has one vote at the Administrative Delegates Meeting. A motion to be approved requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of those institutions present and voting."

BYLAW I. Governance Structure / C. Administrative Delegates / 5. Board of Delegates / Voting

"Each institution has one vote at the Board of Delegates Meeting. A motion to be approved requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of the institutions present and voting."

BYLAW I. Governance Structure / D. Sports Committees / 5. Voting

"Each institution has one vote at the Sports Committee meetings. A motion to be approved requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of those institutions present and voting. The Administrative Chair has no vote."

The motions were approved by unanimous voice vote.

II. 2001-02 Budget Proposal and Recommendations

The Executive Committee moved a budget proposal for FY02 which is included as an attachment to the minutes. **The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

III. Recommendations from the Administrative Delegates

The recommendations have been made by each sports committee... reviewed by the Board of Delegates... and approved by the Administrative Delegates. They are presented as a consent package to be voted upon as one motion. Should an institution wish to remove a motion for further discussion, it should be done prior to the vote.

Championship Tournaments

The field hockey, women's lacrosse, softball and men's soccer tournaments be held on Saturday and Sunday, rather than Friday and Saturday, to alleviate missed class time concerns. The Conference will not charge admission to outdoor championship events.

Basketball Scheduling Issues

Adopt a 20-game double round-robin schedule beginning with the 2002-03 season. Adopt a double round-robin schedule beginning with the 2002-03 season. All weekend Centennial Conference basketball games begin no earlier than 1 p.m. and no later than 4 p.m. Two Centennial Conference basketball games at the same facility (women-men, men-women) must be played consecutively with no break due to jayvee or alumni contests. Eliminate the divisional structure in basketball with the adoption of a double round-robin schedule in 2002-03.

Baseball

A Friday postponement shall be replayed Sunday or Monday if mutually agreeable to coaches. A Saturday postponement shall be replayed Sunday (then Monday unless both coaches agree to find a more suitable date), taking precedence over a Friday postponement. Every institution must have a separate bullpen for the visiting team as specified in the 2001 NCAA Baseball Rulebook. Starting times for midweek single games should be 3 p.m. (3:30 after Daylight Savings Time begins, or 3:45 by mutual consent)..." Adopt a four-team playoff format: The 4th-place team from the regular season plays at the 3rd place team on the Friday afternoon of the first weekend in May. The winner of that game plays the 2nd-place team on Saturday morning at the field of the 1st-place team, with the winner of that game proceeding to a double-elimination series with the regular-season 1st place team on the latter's home field. One game in this series will be played Saturday afternoon with the second and third (if necessary) on Sunday. All games are nine innings. Adopt the following start times for the tournament: game times be 3:30 p.m. for the Friday game, 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. for the Saturday games, and noon for the first Sunday game with the second Sunday game (if necessary) beginning 20 minutes after the completion of the first Sunday game. If the Friday game is not played because of weather or exam schedules, three games be scheduled on Saturday with teams which placed 3rd and 4th playing at 9 am, that winner playing 2nd-place team at 12:45 p.m., and the winner of that game playing 1st-place team at 4:30 p.m., all on the 1st-place team's field. Sunday schedule would be as above. If it should rain on Saturday and/or Sunday such that the double-elimination series cannot be completed, the championship would revert to the regular-season top finisher, which would become the Conference's Automatic Qualifier for the NCAA tourney. The home site Athletic Administrator in consultation with the Executive Secretary shall make decisions on whether games may be started if weather or field conditions are questionable. The Conference Office shall arrange for umpires. The host institution will pay umpires and be reimbursed by the Conference Office. The Committee strongly recommends that three umpires be used. The tie-breaker formula to determine seedings for the playoff will be: 1. Head-to-head competition; 2. Play against particular teams in descending order of regular-season finish (e.g., if there is a tie for fourth, the records of those two teams vs. the 1st-place finisher would be examined, then on to 2nd place, etc.); 3. Coin toss. All batting practice for playoff games take place in batting cages, not on the field.

Basketball (Men)

The home team should provide a copy of the game film for the visiting team as that team departs for campus following the game. The videotape should be provided by the home team. Tapes must be sent by overnight by UPS or FedEx, etc. so it can be tracked, unless coaches make another arrangement.

Basketball (Women)

There will now be a sound requirement for all tapes exchanged that the tape will include audio. The home team should provide a copy of the game film for the visiting team as that team departs for campus following the game. The videotape should be provided by the home team. Tapes should be sent by overnight by UPS or FedEx, etc. so it can be tracked, unless coaches make another arrangement.

Cross Country

Use the NCAA regional tie-breaker to decide the winner of a conference championship tie. It should be a Conference requirement that the host site for the championship have, as a minimum standard, a finish-line video camera. The Conference present seven medals to the first team (first seven finishers) and seven more to the second team (runners 8-14) at the championship. The host site provide a championship course review on Friday.

Field Hockey

The tournament should be moved to a Saturday/Sunday schedule because of missed classes on Friday. If the unusual situation should occur that the games cannot be played because of inclement weather, the following would govern the situation: "Guidelines governing championship administration are as follows: 1. Semifinal games must be played back-to-back. 2. Designated start times would be no earlier than 11 a.m., and no later than 7 p.m. 3. All games would be played on the same surface. 4. If these criteria could not be met by the #1 seed, then we look to the #2 seed to host. Recommend start semifinal times of 12 noon and 2 p.m. and a championship start time of 12 noon whenever possible. Conflicts will be worked out between the committee chair and the Conference Office. Travel expense and time will be taken into consideration for start times and order of the semifinal games.

Football

New VHS or SuperVHS tapes of all games, not to exceed the total number of games played by either team, as requested by the opposing coach. If Team A played three games and Team B has played twice, two tapes are the maximum exchange.

Golf

Hold the 2002 championship (April 26-27-28) at Eagles Landing GC.

Lacrosse (Men)

Add "face-off" to the All-Centennial team.

Lacrosse (Women)

Amend tie-breaking formula "Team with the best Conference record vs." Change all references of USWLA to US Lacrosse.

Soccer (Men)

The semifinal start times be scheduled for 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with the championship scheduled for a 1 p.m. start. If lights are available, the times should be 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for the semis and 7 p.m. for the final. Conflicts will be worked out between the committee chair and the Conference Office. Travel expense and time will be taken into consideration for start times and order of the semifinal games. Strike Section VI-B which reads, "For Conference men's competition, the Brine NCAA championship ball is the official ball." Amend Section V-A on determining the Conference champion, Section V-B on first place ties, and Section V-C on determining the NCAA representative to reflect the recommendation for a tournament.

Soccer (Women)

Adopt a four-team playoff tournament format. Semifinal start times be scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. with the championship scheduled for a 1 p.m. start. Conflicts will be worked out between the committee chair and the Conference Office. Travel expense and time will be taken into consideration for start times and order of the semifinal games. The top seed has the opportunity to find a suitable grass field as opposed to turf. The field must be approved by the Executive Secretary. If a field cannot be secured, the No. 2 seed will host the tournament. Amend V.C.2. of Soccer - "Records vs. teams in descending order of standing" to "Records vs. teams in ascending order of standing". Amend V-C-3 to "An extra point shall be awarded to the winning team for each goal scored up to three in games among tied teams. These points shall be accumulated throughout the Conference season." Soccer fields should be maintained at 1 1/4" or less.

Softball

The Conference Office will be responsible for assigning umpires for the tournament. PSAC will be the assignor used, therefore the dates of the championship will be reserved in advance, but final arrangements will be made by the Conference staff. For the Conference championship tournament, the higher seed will take the third base dugout. As recommended by the NCAA, it is strongly recommended that all Conference schools have an outfield home run fence at the distance determined by the NCAA (190-225 feet).

Swimming

Amend Section V-E "Determine entrants to the championship meet. If an athlete qualifies for an individual event, s/he is eligible to swim in a relay."

Tennis

Amend Section VII B to read "Conference institutions may send up to three (3) singles and two (2) doubles team to the championship tournament." Statement previously read one doubles team. Reinstate Section VII C of the conference handbook with the exclusion of the word not so as to read "Singles players may play doubles in the same tournament." No more than three ITA/USTA certified officials will be used at the tournament.

Track And Field

Present medals to the first-place finishers only at the end of each championship meet. The remainder of the medals are to be distributed to the head coaches, who are responsible for distribution to their athletes. Revise qualifying standards for 11 events (see minutes). When the 3,000-meter steeplechase becomes an official NCAA women's championship event, it will replace the 3,000-meter run as a championship event, unless the host facility cannot adequately handle the steeplechase. The 4x200 relay (indoors) be a seeded event.

Volleyball

Semifinal matches will be played at 2:00 p.m. Warm-up for the final will begin immediately following the conclusion of the last semifinal. Conflicts will be worked out between the committee chair and the Conference Office. Travel expense and time will be taken into consideration for start times and order of the semifinal games.

Wrestling

All Centennial Conference meets on weekends must start no earlier than 10 a.m. and no later than 6 p.m. Revise Section V-B (Tournament Schedule) as follows: 1. Registration, Friday 6 p.m.; 2. Coaches Meeting and Seeding, immediately following registration; 3. Skin Check, Weigh-In, Saturday 8 a.m.; 4-7 Remain the same. Amend Section V-B-7 as follows: "True Second-Place Wrestle-Back Bouts, after conclusion of finals when deemed necessary to determine NCAA qualifiers."

MOTION: Haverford moves to remand the motion to adopt a double round-robin basketball schedule beginning with the 2002-03 season to the Executive Committee. Also remanded is the motion to eliminate the divisional structure in basketball with the adoption of the double round-robin schedule in 2002-03. **The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

MOTION: Muhlenberg moves to remove all baseball proposals concerning the playoff format. **The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

MOTION: Muhlenberg moves to adopt the consent package. **The package was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

MOTION: Muhlenberg moves that the baseball playoff be moved to the last weekend in April. **The motion failed, 1-10.**

MOTION: Gettysburg moves the baseball playoff proposals from the Delegates. **The motion was approved, 11-0.**

IV. Committee on Membership Report

At its meeting on Feb. 23, 2001, the ad hoc committee on membership crafted two general recommendations: (1) an amendment to the Conference statement of unifying principles

"The Centennial Conference abides by the following principles that, in our view, serve to unify the Conference and make it distinctive. The 11 Centennial Conference institutions are as one in believing in the primacy of Conference competition and we believe in:"

and (2) a set of steps and priorities to address issues in football scheduling. The first step the committee recommends is that the Centennial Conference approach the University Athletic Association (UAA) and its members that play football (Case Western Reserve, Carnegie Mellon, Chicago, Rochester, Washington U.) about crafting a joint schedule. To provide a context for these recommendations the scope of discussion is provided as follows. Furthermore, two items beyond the committee's charge were also discussed, and we forward our thoughts on those gratis: (1) the member schools continue to explore ways of cooperating beyond athletics; (2) that the Conference give serious considerations to becoming involved in any extension of the Mellon study that produced "The Game of Life."

Massa would like to invite the authors of "The Game of Life" - James Schulman and William Bowen - to a symposium at Dickinson to discuss the findings. Vickers will write a letter to Washington and Lee University to gauge its interest in considering associate membership in football.

MOTION: Washington moves to adopt the Committee on Membership Report. **The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

V. Athletic Transportation and Van Safety

Ehrenberg led a discussion that attempted to find solutions for the Conference members. Johns Hopkins is only using vans within the Baltimore city limits, upon advice of counsel, and Muhlenberg is following suit. Hopkins also uses a professional driver or trained coach with a specific license for mini-buses. The Conference Office will work with the membership to keep everyone informed on new information and advice on the issue.

VI. Initiative Grant Proposals

Ulrich reported on the NCAA Division III Initiative Grant program. The Conference has already applied for \$10,000 through the Conference Technology Grant program, and \$2,250 through the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee program. The Conference Office may consider applying for a Strategic Alliance Matching Grant to create full-time professional administrative opportunities for minorities and women and to increase ethnic and gender diversity within athletics administrations and coaching staffs. Ulrich will circulate any grant proposal to the Presidents Council and the Executive Committee will decide if the proposal will move forward.

VII. Officers for 2001-02

Executive Chair:

Arthur Taylor, President, Muhlenberg

Executive Committee:

Tom Tritton, President, Haverford

Executive Committee:

Dick Kneedler, President, Franklin & Marshall

Resource Person:

Julie Emrhein, SWA, Dickinson

Resource Person:

Tom Calder, AD, Johns Hopkins

Chair, Administrative Delegates:

Chuck Winters, AD, Gettysburg

Board of Delegates:

Penny Fall, SWA, Washington

Board of Delegates:

Sue Davis, Swarthmore

Board of Delegates:

Carol Fritz, SWA, Western Maryland

Board of Delegates:

Brian Thomas, AD, Ursinus

Executive Committee Replacement:

Nancy Vickers, President, Bryn Mawr

Date / Site of 2002 Meeting:

Wednesday, June 5 at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa., 10:30 a.m.

VIII. New Business

Haaland urged that timely action be taken on the membership actions, especially on the level of interest by Washington and Lee regarding football.

Meeting adjourned 12:55 p.m.