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Annual Meeting of the Centennial Conference Wednesday, June 5, 2002 Muhlenberg College

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

Attendance: Nancy Vickers (Bryn Mawr), William Durden (Dickinson), Richard Kneeder (Franklin & Marshall), Gordon Haaland (Gettysburg), Tom Tritton (Haverford), Jerry Schnydmann (Johns Hopkins), Arthur Taylor (Muhlenberg), Al Bloom (Swarthmore), John Toll (Washington), Joan Develin Coley (McDaniel), Steve Ulrich (Executive Secretary). **Also Present:** Bob Massa (Dickinson), Barbara Fritze (Gettysburg), Rudy Ehrenberg (Muhlenberg), Brian Thomas (Ursinus).

meeting commenced at 10:07 a.m.

I. Executive Committee Recommendation for Basketball Scheduling

- 18 Conference games for men's basketball
- 18 Conference games for women's basketball
- four teams in playoff tournament
- eliminate divisional structure

VOTING (recommendation for men's basketball): **Approved 7-2-1.**

VOTING (recommendation for women's basketball): **Approved 7-3.**

II. 2002-03 Budget Proposal

The Executive Committee unanimously approved the proposal (appendix A) which does not raise the dues assessment for 2003-04. The assessment remains at \$16,000 for 10 institutions and \$12,000 for Bryn Mawr. Each school will also be assessed a one-time charge of \$500 for an audit of the Conference books. **Approved 11-0.**

III. Sharing Admission/Financial Aid Information re: Student-Athletes

Ulrich presented information utilized by the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) for sharing admission and financial aid information for football, men's basketball, women's basketball and men's ice hockey. Three schools think that problems exist in the Conference re: financial aid.

Presidents' meeting adjourned at 11:30.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

Attendance (in addition to those already listed): Kate Miller (Bryn Mawr); Les Poolman, Julie Emrhein (Dickinson); Robert Bunnell, Patty Epps (Franklin & Marshall); David Wright, Carol Cantele, Dan Gilbert (Gettysburg); David Dawson, Greg Kannerstein, John Douglas, Penny Hinckley (Haverford); Tom Calder (Johns Hopkins); Ethan Seidel, James Smith, Carol Fritz (McDaniel); Steve Erber (Muhlenberg); Connie Hungerford, Bob Williams, Adam Hertz, Susan Davis (Swarthmore); Bill Stiles, Carrie Kirk (Ursinus); Bryan Matthews, Sarah Feyerherm (Washington); Jen Brehm (Conference Office).

meeting commenced at 11:45 a.m.

Ulrich presented the "State of the Conference" address (appendix B).

I. Administrative Delegates Consent Package

MOTION: The Delegates move the following:

"Three spring sports - softball, men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse - may hold their Conference championship tournament on the same weekend as the NCAA championship selection weekend. *Rationale:* (1) This would provide equity among all sports. Currently these three sports are the only teams that do not have this scheduling opportunity; (2) The spring season presents the greatest challenge in completing games because of the weather in the early spring; (3) This may reduce the need to begin season games earlier in the spring or prior to spring break. Contests would also be spread out, helping to reduce mid-week contests and class conflicts; (4) These three sports have the fewest number of weeks to complete their playing schedule compared to all other Conference sports."

Approved 8-1-1.

MOTION: The consent package was moved. **Approved 10-0.**

II. Basketball

MOTION: Swarthmore moves to increase the number of teams qualifying for the men's and women's basketball tournaments from four to six teams, citing a better experience for students participating in the sport and that an increase would not interfere with exams.

MOTION: Franklin & Marshall moved to refer the motion to the Executive Committee. **Failed 6-5.**

Failed 4-7.

III. Budget Proposal

The 2002-03 budget proposal was **approved 11-0.**

IV. New Business

McDaniel spoke on the problems with non-conference football scheduling. With only seven football-playing institutions in the Conference, it has created a "very difficult scheduling problem" that the Conference should discuss in search of solutions.

The Conference recognized Kneedler upon his retirement as president of Franklin & Marshall.

meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:55.

meeting reconvened at 2:00 for telephone discussion with Stephen Lewis, the outgoing president of Carleton College, on the future of Division III.

meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

APPENDIX A - CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE BUDGET 2002-03

Budget Line	Actual 00-01	Request 01-02	YTD 01-02	Request 02-03	% Change
Salary-Administrative	82,069	90,000	90,000	93,600	4.0%
Student Wages	966	2,000	0	2,000	0.0%
Benefits	28,651	30,000	32,601	32,000	6.7%
Workers' Compensation Ins.	500	500	456	500	0.0%
Rent - Office	5,472	5,616	5,616	5,784	3.0%
Electric / Cleaning	1,027	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%
FIXED COSTS	118,685	129,616	130,173	135,384	4.5%
Supplies/Equipment	3,565	5,500	7,604	5,500	0.0%
Postage	254	750	142	500	-33.3%
Telephone	810	2,000	1,840	1,500	-25.0%
Printing	885	4,000	2,576	2,000	-50.0%
Dues and Memberships	535	1,000	535	1,200	20.0%
Food Service Charges	1,661	2,000	992	2,000	0.0%
Travel	1,191	3,000	1,506	3,000	0.0%
Championships	5,072	8,000	2,631	10,000	25.0%
* Operational Expenses	3,607		2,250		
* Program Costs	1,465				
* Conference Calls			381		
Awards	6,066	10,000	7,332	10,000	0.0%
* Medals	6,066		5,472		
* Team, Individual Plaques			1,860		
Miscellaneous	14,380		6,502	2,500	
OPERATING COSTS	34,419	36,250	31,660	38,200	5.4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	153,104	165,866	161,833	173,584	4.7%
REVENUE	Actual 00-01	Request 01-02	YTD 01-02	Request 02-03	% Change
Dues	158,311	173,000	173,000	173,000	0.0%
Interest Allocation	5,896	0	1,862		
Fund Reserve	9,433		20,536		
Accounts Receivable					
TOTAL REVENUE	173,640	173,000	195,398	173,000	0.0%
Surplus/Deficit	20,536				
NOTES					
Dues Assessment is \$16,000 per institution; Bryn Mawr is 3/4 assessment (\$12,000); W&L (\$1,000)					
as of June 15, 2002					

APPENDIX B - CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE "STATE OF THE CONFERENCE" ADDRESS 2002

Ten years.

"The Centennial Conference is an association of independent institutions of higher education that share a commitment to academic achievement, equality of opportunity, and a program of competitive athletics which contributes to the broad education of their students."

It is hard to believe that we turned 10 years old on April 29. The grand experiment that evolved from the Centennial Football Conference has come of age.

Although I have traditionally used this address as an opportunity to tout our successes, I feel that this is a time for *retrospection*. For although we have done some great things as an association, ***we have also let opportunities to do even more go by the wayside.***

On April 29, 1992, the expansion of the conference to an all-sports conference was announced. A purpose and mission statement adopted by the presidents stated,

"recognizing that our fundamental purpose is the academic mission of our institutions, we agree to establish an all-sports conference in the spirit of rationalizing our competition by controlling travel, schedule and costs."

Have we succeeded? Absolutely.

"The purpose of the Centennial Conference is to provide for athletic competition among institutions that share similar academic aspirations and are committed to the importance of the total educational experience for students engaged in sports."

How have we done? Depends on who you ask. The key statement is "institutions that share similar academic aspirations." Notice that does not say "we all do the same thing." Nor, "we all admit the same students," nor "we use the same financial aid methodology." Until we grasp those basic facts, and understand that we all have our differences but all want to keep athletics in a proper academic setting, they will be stumbling blocks.

"The member institutions share an educational culture that seeks to foster academic excellence. Intercollegiate athletics programs are an integral part of the life of member institutions and complement their educational objectives."

Academic excellence. Is there a quantitative measure? We can all agree that it is not the rankings of a certain national publication. Is it measured by which schools fall on your comparison list? Is it members of the student body on the dean's list? Is it measured in the professional pursuits of graduates?

We can use three criteria as an athletic structure, however. If it is measured by the Conference's academic honor roll - 721 students have achieved at least a 3.4 cumulative gpa while earning recognition on the playing courts or fields - we have attained excellence. If it is measured by students that receive NCAA postgraduate scholarships - 7 this year, 34 since our inception - we have attained excellence. Academic All-Americans - 7 so far this season, 67 since our inception - we have attained excellence.

"Intercollegiate athletics programs are an integral part of the life of member institutions and complement their educational objectives. Our members sponsor an average of 21 varsity teams per campus - well above the national norm. Most look primarily within the conference for standards of competitive excellence and, for most sports, measure success or failure in competition with each other."

Our students have the best of both worlds. They receive the best instruction in the best facilities and are given every opportunity to succeed in their academic endeavors. Outside of the classroom and lab, they receive the best instruction in their chosen sport with the opportunity to succeed against quality competition inside the Conference. Our students have come to realize that a game against a Centennial Conference member is meaningful, not only because of championship implications but also because of the quality of the opponent.

"The conference is governed by the presidents of the member institutions in a structure that provides for involvement of senior administrative officers responsible for athletics, chief academic officers or faculty representatives, directors of athletics, senior women administrators of athletics, and coaches."

The founding fathers had the right idea in 1992. We created a system that "provided" for the involvement of all these constituents, and all have contributed. But times have changed. The administrators of athletics, charged with the day-to-day operation of the program, are asking for more involvement from the presidents... more involvement and a better sense of direction not only for our intercollegiate programs but also how athletics fits in the overall mission and plan for the institution.

Some feel that the Centennial Conference has become just an avenue to qualification to the NCAA championships. If that is the case - we have reached our pinnacle. Congratulations.

I believe that the Conference is more than NCAA automatic qualification. I believe that we are not just 11 institutions all in this alone. I believe that we have 11 members that can work together for the betterment of their students who participate in athletics... if we can put partisan politics aside. I believe we have more work to do. Let's roll up our sleeves and together we can make the Centennial Conference everything we believe it can be!