



## **Centennial Conference Spring Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 25, 2007**

**Present for the conference call: Kate Will, Gettysburg; Baird Tipson, Washington; Jamie Smith, McDaniel; Erin Fitzgerald Stroble, Ursinus; Steve Ulrich, Centennial Conference.**

### **I. 2007-08 Conference Budget proposal**

The 2007-08 Centennial Conference budget calls for no institutional dues increase from the current \$20,000 assessment (\$15,000 for Bryn Mawr) or the \$1,000 assessment for wrestling associate members. The football associate assessment will be \$2,500. The Executive Committee requested that the "one-time charge" for hiring a replacement for Kim Wenger during her impending maternity leave be shown as a dues assessment.

### **II. Tuition Benefits for Conference Office staff**

At the December 2005 meeting of the Centennial Conference Executive Committee, the Executive Director inquired about tuition benefits for Centennial Conference office staff. The benefits package for the staff is currently run out of Franklin & Marshall College – the host institution. Questions raised:

- if a dependent qualifies, should he/she be admitted to any Conference member at a reduced tuition
- if so, should the reduction be an average of the Conference members' benefit

The issue was tabled by the previous Executive Committee for action by the 06-07 Committee.

Current tuition benefits for Centennial members (\* indicates tuition exchange program member):

Bryn Mawr – lesser of 50% of Bryn Mawr tuition OR 50% of tuition charged by institution in which child is enrolled  
Dickinson \* – lesser of 50% of Dickinson tuition OR 50% of tuition charged by institution in which child is enrolled  
Franklin & Marshall \* – 85% of F&M tuition should child attend Franklin & Marshall; 15% of F&M tuition elsewhere  
Gettysburg – 30% of Gettysburg tuition  
Haverford – 50% of Haverford's tuition  
Johns Hopkins – 50% of Johns Hopkins' tuition  
McDaniel – lesser of institutional tuition or \$6,565  
Muhlenberg \* - only tuition exchange  
Swarthmore – 50% of Swarthmore's tuition  
Ursinus \* - full tuition at Ursinus  
Washington \* - tuition waiver at Washington College

Jane North, assistant to the president at Gettysburg, will use her human resources background and work with another colleague to suggest a solution to the Presidents' Council.

### **III. White Paper / NCAA Membership Issues**

A group of five conference commissioners have come together to craft a "White Paper," explaining to the Division III governance structure and Working Groups our approach for how to best handle the reorganization opportunity. The "White Paper" is attached and will be discussed during the call. The group discussed the letter from the Haverford Group that questioned the need to alter the status quo. The Executive Committee wants full involvement by all delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Centennial Conference and has asked John Fry, president of Franklin & Marshall and chair of the Division III Presidents Council, to address the group. The Committee also wishes to invite Doug Bennett, president of Earlham College, and chair of the North Coast Athletic Conference presidents, to speak at the meeting.

#### **IV. Snell / Shillingford Symposium report**

The Snell-Shillingford Symposium is a weekend affair where female undergraduates from the Centennial Conference's eleven colleges and universities come together for seminars on various issues pertaining to coaching and athletics. The symposium was started in 1999 by then-Bryn Mawr College athletic director Jen Shillingford to encourage women undergraduates to enter the field of coaching. Following Shillingford's retirement as the director of the event, the symposium was re-named the Snell-Shillingford Coaching Symposium to honor her contributions to women's athletics. Symposium participants are given the opportunity to speak with a panel of mentors, recent graduates, graduate assistants, and key women in the field of athletics.

In 2007, the Symposium was held at McDaniel College with funds totaling \$16,639 from the NCAA Strategic Initiatives Grant. In 2008, these funds are not available through the grant, as stipulated by the NCAA. John Strassburger, president of Ursinus College, has suggested that each presidential office in the Centennial Conference contribute \$2,500 for the 2008 Symposium.

##### **2006-07 Participants**

Mary Kubalanza, Wallis Romzek (Bryn Mawr); Laura Williams, Stephanie Heineken (Dickinson); Brenna Dolphin, Emily Mueller (Franklin & Marshall); Jen Betts, Katie Hagan (Gettysburg); Amy Arundale (Haverford); Meagan Mattson, Connie Wuenschel, Jamie Bodden (McDaniel); Courtney Williams, Monica Sella, Jenny Rosenthal (Muhlenberg); Rachel Turner, Summer Spicer (Swarthmore); Melissa George, Abby Loefflad (Ursinus); Melanie Ruppert, Beth Anne Hartman (Washington).

Stroble spoke on the success of the 2007 program that included talks by Char West, Christine Grant and Jen Shillingford. The Symposium received \$16,000 through the NCAA Strategic Initiatives Grant (Tier II) and the member institutions covered the travel, meals and lodging for their participants (\$5,000). John Strassburger, president of Ursinus College, has recommended to the Presidents Council that each institution pay \$2,500 to fund the 2008 program, since the NCAA grant is not available to the Conference again until 2010.

The Committee wants to consider other options, including reducing the size of the program and/or holding the program every other year.

#### **V. Proposed Legislation for Eliminating Text-Messaging from Recruiting**

Division I has eliminated the use of text messaging in the recruitment of student-athletes. The practice of text messaging recruits was seen as intrusive and also an unfair expense for parents of recruits. Ulrich stated that he would like to sponsor legislation similar to that of the Ivy Group to eliminate text messaging in Division III. The Committee wanted feedback from the administrators as to the possible hardship.

#### **VI. Resurrecting the Centennial Undergraduate Research Colloquium**

The first Centennial Conference Undergraduate Research Colloquium was held at Ursinus College in 1996. Majors were encouraged to present the findings of their senior thesis or other significant research at this conference. Recently, the momentum of the early colloquiums has been lost and the event has not been held. It was the Committee's recommendation that until there is future interest from the membership, there should not be a push from the Conference Office to revive the Colloquium.

#### **VII. Agenda for Annual Meeting of Centennial Conference on May 30 at Gettysburg**

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Discussion of NCAA Reorganization White Paper</b>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Presidents-Only Session</b>
<b>12:30</b>	<b>lunch</b>