

BIG 8

CONFERENCE

Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2010
San Joaquin Delta College

1. The meeting was called to order by Big 8 Conference President Bill Kaiser at 10 a.m.
2. President Kaiser asked for additional agenda items. Two items were added: Student Ed Plans/Mitch Campbell and Jean Snuggs and Swimsuits/Mary Ann Paz.
3. All in attendance introduced themselves. Attending and representing MJC: Bill Kaiser; SCC: Pres. Kathryn Jeffery and Mitch Campbell; SJDC: Pres. Raul Rodriguez and Mary Ann Paz; CRC: Pres. Deborah Travis and Liz Belyea; DVC: Pres. Judy Walters and Christine Worsley; Sierra: Dean Darlene Jackson and Scott Decker; SRJC: Pres. Robert Agrella and Jim Forkum; ARC: Pres. David Viar and Jean Snuggs; and Big 8 Commissioner, Mike Liddell.
4. President Kaiser reminded members of the meetings coming up in Anaheim which are CCCADA on June 20 and NATYCAA Convention, June 21-23. Jim Forkum reported that Commissioners Liddell and Kollenborn will be honored by the CCCADA at the convention. He also reported there will be some outstanding speakers at the convention--Chancellor Jack Scott, Scott Boris and Condolessa Rice.
5. President Kaiser introduced Raul Rodriguez, President of SJDC, who then took a few minutes to welcome the guests to SJDC and gave some history and information about the campus. Our meeting was held in the new Student Services building, erected with a “one stop shop” theme. He said the campus is designed with the gold rush era in mind, and that the college is expanding in acreage with the concept of multiple campuses.
6. **Commissioner Report –**
Minutes – There were no corrections or additions to the minutes from December 3, 2009. The minutes were approved
Budget – The budget was presented with expenses/income showing through May 2010. The budget was approved as presented.

Liability Insurance – The carrier, Student Insurance, has notified state commissioners that the broker, Appalachian Underwriters Inc., has terminated the liability insurance for all commissioners effective 90 business days from the notice of non-renewal dated 4/23/2010. The commissioners are very concerned. Student Insurance is searching for a new carrier; there may be increased costs associated with a new policy. The commissioners are very concerned; they would like to have the COA board cover the liability. This will be discussed this summer.

Decorum Report – In discussion of the decorum report, the commissioner expressed concern about poor behavior among coaches and athletes at athletic contests. He is going to monitor this very carefully beginning this fall. President Rodriquez, SJDC, said he fully supports the commissioner's hard line stand on this subject. The commissioner will email all coaches and sports groups regarding improving decorum in 2010/11. The decorum report was approved as presented.

Appeals and Eligibility – The report was approved.

Allegations/Investigations – A discussion evolved around what are allegations and some examples were cited. Mitch Campbell reminded everyone that you must self report if you know something is happening elsewhere. The campus presidents must sign Form 4A if the campus requests a formal investigation. This report was approved as presented.

Hosting Report – The hosted colleges were reviewed. No changes are anticipated for 2010/11 except Shasta College plans to bring back W/Tennis.

Conference Championships – This year's Big 8 Conference championships were acknowledged. Jim Forkum explained the NATYCAA Cup. Four colleges from the Big 8 Conference were recognized as finalists for the prestigious award in the top ten; they were Sierra College, SRJC, ARC, and SCC.

Program Review – The program reviews for SCC and DVC were completed in April. Both campuses were outstanding hosts. The final written reports will be made available late June. President Judy Walters, DVC, said that she appreciated the informal feedback from the committee and that they plan to use this completed report in future accreditation reports for the campus. Future program reviews will feature Sierra College, fall 2010, MJC, spring 2011, CRC, fall 2011, SRJC, spring 2012, SJDC, fall 2012 and ARC, spring 2013.

Leadership - The commissioner thanked President Bill Kaiser for his leadership to the Big 8 Conference for the past year and a half and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. In July 2010, Mitch Campbell will become president and Mary Ann Paz will be vice president.

Wrestling Conferences Reorganization – Jim Forkum, State Wrestling Rep., explained the reorganization. As part of cost containment, the wrestling programs

have been reorganized for the State. There are now only 20 colleges competing in this sport. This reformation makes good sense for geographical reasons and will provide the campuses with reduced costs, travel time and energy. There is a north alliance and south alliance. Mike Liddell will be the commissioner for the Big 8 in the northern wrestling alliance. The teams in this conference are: Lassen, SCC, Sierra, SJDC, and Shasta. SRJC and MJC moved to the Coast Conference.

Kathryn Jeffrey, COA Rep. - President Jeffrey, SCC, commented that she found the COA Convention in March to be very interesting as she recognized the various groups and the work that goes on behind the scenes to make athletic programs strong while recognizing outstanding performances by students and athletic faculty in the State. She also said that she agreed with the vote to drop re-conferencing.

Big 8 Constitution – The commissioner commended Jeanne Calamar, CRC, again for an outstanding job done recently to update the Big 8 Constitution. She also created an Academic All-Star Certificate for all the athletic programs to use beginning fall 2010.

On line Testing – On line testing of the COA constitution rules will be available to all colleges beginning this fall. It will be used as a tool for athletic administrators to educate their staff to comply with COA rules. It is not mandatory at this time.

Official Contracts – There will be no increase for next year.

Umpires – The Big 8 Umpires Assoc. is requesting dressing facilities before and after contests.

Sport Program Updates – Christine Worsley said that DVC has eliminated M/W cross country and M/W track; they are sponsoring 11 programs in the fall, 6 women and 5 men's. Scott Decker said that Sierra College will suspend M/W track and cross country.

Special Golf Tournament - Jim Forkum reported there is a fund raiser golf tournament in Santa Rosa for a member of his staff whose child is seriously ill. Anyone wanting to participate on June 18 is welcome.

Agenda Add-in Items

Student Ed Plans – Mitch Campbell and Jean Snuggs asked for discussion on student educational plans. After discussion and debate on the specific legislation relative to ed plans, the Conference Presidents, on a 6-1-1 vote, voted to support Bylaw 1.3.7 for the Big 8 Conference only which reads “prior to being certified eligible for competition at a CA community college, the college administrative representative shall certify that the student athlete has a comprehensive individual

educational plan on file.” For this Bylaw to become constitutional in the Big 8 Conference, it will be voted upon at the Fall Assembly.

Swimsuits – Mary Ann Paz asked for discussion on the purchase of the new high tech swimsuits. These swimsuits are extremely expensive. Big 8 colleges are not required to purchase these suits. This item will be put on the agenda for further discussion in the fall.

Commissioner Evaluation – The written evaluation, compiled by Gary Scott, SJDC, was presented to President Kaiser who distributed it to the attendees. The report is available for review by the Executive Committee and brought forth to the fall assembly meeting.

Discussion Topics

Future of CA Community College Athletic Programs: How Do We Survive?

A very lively discussion occurred regarding PE/athletic programs with many ideas and points of view from the Presidents and Deans on where PE and athletics is headed. There is great concern over recent proposals from the Governor’s office in reduction in funding for physical education classes. Discussion revolved around marketing our programs, athletic values, goals, career plans, and academic success. Colleges need to identify **who** we are serving and **what** we are offering. Many ideas were discussed about how we can improve the curriculum, add rigor to our classes and improve standards. DVC offered to host a Big 8 Conference PE/athletic curriculum meeting to discuss many of the topics discussed today.

The commissioner will begin a process this summer with the help of the athletic deans to compile statistical data on Big 8 athletes. The research departments of the Big 8 colleges will be utilized to help gather data that can be used to promote and market our PE/athletic programs and conference. The commissioner will compile the finalized data for distribution to all Big 8 colleges.

COA Conference/Cost Containment Committee – Jim Forkum reported that the COA has disbanded the conference and cost containment committee. A new seven (7) member cost containment committee will be selected with new goals.

Next meeting for the Presidents/Deans will be Thursday, December 2, 2010, at CRC.

The meeting was adjourned.

