

Dave Osanitsch calls the meeting to order.

John Papa calls roll:

Members present: Dave Osanitsch (Shippensburg), John Papa (Slippery Rock), Mark Misch (Colorado Springs), Jen Michel (Western) Jim Vahrenkamp (Queens), Ryan Dall (Texas A&M Kingsville), Kevin LaSure (Univ of New Haven), Dana Schwarting (Lewis), Lorne Marcus (St Thomas Aquinas), Mike Rohl (Mansfield)

Members not present: all present

Approval of 2014 Convention Minutes: Kevin LaSure moves to accept 2014 convention minutes, Ryan Dall Seconds the motion. All in attendance agree.

Committee Reports :

Law and Legislation: John Papa. No report, this committee does not currently meet. All laws and legislation in good order.

Awards: Mark Misch: Among Division II Cross Country, Indoor and outdoor track we distributed 3283 awards. We added second team All-American awards this past year as well as the medals that we distributed. We have had some difficulty handing out our medals at National Championships, we may need to get a bylaw changed in order to allow for handing out USTFCCCA medals at NCAA Championships.

Hall of Fame: Kevin LaSure. Last minute nominations are being taken. The wrong e-mail address was on the original nomination form, so, some of the nominations may have been misplaced. The nominations stay on for 5 years.

Meet Enhancement: Dana Schwarting. There are 12 applications for track and field meet enhancement and there is \$5,000 available. \$3,000 of which will be used for track and \$2,000 will be spent on cross country. There were requests from four different regions in track and field. So, the money will be split among the four regions. Approximately \$700 per meet. The effort is to try to give more money to fewer meets in order to make the money more impactful. The money also is to be used on meets that focus on Division II competition.

Old Business:

A. Change in Early signing: The new signing date in November is a big help, but the later signing period that was moved from February to April is not desirable. When we requested an early signing week in November, we did not know that they were going to move the February date to April.

B. Division I Sports Sponsorship Issue: This issue has somewhat resolved. This is a battle that we actually won.

C. Structure of an Outdoor track and field meet: This is an all division proposal. An outline has been established to hold a track and field meet. The outline needs to be followed in order for the meet to count for National Qualifying and sport sponsorship. There is also an outline for a "Relay" type meet. Multi events are permissible, there is a proposal that the multi event needs to be attached to a regular track meet, and it needs to occur within eight days of the regular track meet. There is an appeal process available if there needs to be a situation that warrants a change in outline. However, some of the established big meets will be grandfathered in such as Penn Relays and Prefontaine Classic. Not sure if NAIA will also follow that outline.

D. Unattached Student-Athletes. The unattached proposal states that if unattached athletes are not eligible to compete, then they will not be permitted to compete unattached in any competition during the academic year. Ineligible athletes are not permitted to compete over break periods or anytime during academic year. Summer is OK for any competition. Road races and turkey trots during the academic year are not permitted by ineligible student/athletes during academic year. If unattached athletes compete during the school year, they will lose a year of NCAA eligibility. We need to make ineligible student/athletes aware of this proposal if it passes.

E. Strength and Conditioning Legislation. Every school must have a designated strength and conditioning coach. In order to monitor athletes workouts in off season, you need to be certified in strength and conditioning. Our association now has an accredited course through USTFCCCA. You also need to be CPR, ADD, First Aid certified and have an undergraduate degree in order to take the course and become certified. This does not affect any during the season training.

F. Talking points for Administrators to justify track and field/cross country programs have been developed.

G. Cross Country Course Requirements. Mark Misch . There have been some minimum course requirements developed for regional courses as well as national courses.

#### New Business

- A. Determine teleconference times for 2016 (currently 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 10:30am CST& bimonthly) Ryan Dall moves to continue to use this format and it is seconded by Dana Schwarting. All in attendance agree.
- B. Developing a Division II Regional track and field qualifier meet. There is proposal being developed to start the conversation on possible improvements in national qualifying procedures. There is growing support for using regional meets and using some of the results to qualify to nationals.
- C. Last Chance Meets. Potentially having one last chance per region. Each Division II team would need to attend their region last chance meet in order for it to count for national qualifying. There would be a bid process to apply to host this event. This idea was developed because some last chance meets are thrown together in a few days and there may be some dishonest behavior by coaches concerning performances.

- D. True National Championship. Dave Osanitsch feels that there should be a true team national track and field championships. We should have two national championships like tennis has. We would still have the individual national championships like we currently have but we would be more selective with entries. Then we would have a team national championships a week later. Do this by region. Have a system where we would bring 8-12 teams to the team national championships. Each team would select 20-25 athletes from there team and use strategy to figure out how best to score the most points. In our current system, a team could win a team championships with just a few people and this in Dave's opinion is not a true national championship team.
- E. 2015 Division II National Cross Country Championships. Problem, they ran out of food at the banquet, there was also a question about the awards.
- F. Division II National Cross Country Qualifying procedure. A working group of 10 persons from all regions of the country. This group put together a proposal to change the existing process. The new system will have 16 automatic bids and 16 at large bids.
- G. Scholarship allotment. Ryan Dahl. Recently NCAA added sand volleyball. NCAA also added scholarships that will be counted separately from court volleyball. These two sports have a relationship similar to what we have with cross country and track and field. They are two different sports in the eyes of the NCAA and have same athletes doing both sports. We are being treated differently in terms of scholarship. If a person does beach volleyball only there scholarship doesn't also count against court volleyball. In our sport, if an athlete does cross country only, then there scholarship counts against track and field. We need to look at this in order to potentially get some separation between track and cross country scholarships. This could be a step in the direction of asking for more scholarship money. This also could eliminate programs that give all scholarship to distance runners or programs that give all scholarship to non-distance events. This could be good for the sport.

Ryan Dall moves to adjourn meeting, Lorne Marcus seconds the motion

Meeting Adjourned 2:35 CST

USTFCCCA Division II General Session 3:15pm 12/16/15 130 People in attendance

Motion was made to accept the minutes from 2014 USTFCCCA Division II General Session by Ryan Dall, and a second made by Mike Rohl. The body unanimously agreed to accept minutes

#### Committee Reports:

1. Meet Enhancement Committee Report : Dana Schwarting. Cross Country meet enhancement applications due April 1<sup>st</sup>. here are 12 applications for meet enhancement and there is \$5,000 available. \$3,000 of which will be used for track and \$2,000 will be spent on cross country. There were requests from four different regions in track and field. So, the money will be split among the four regions. The four schools will be informed soon. Approximately \$700 per meet. The effort is to try to give more money to fewer meets in order to make the money more impactful. The money also is to be used on meets that focus on Division II competition.
2. Coaches Scholarship Committee Report : Adrienne Wonderlich. We had 12 applicants for the technical certification and 13 for the specialist certification; all the applicants will get scholarships.
3. Hall of Fame Committee Report : Kevin LaSure. Last minute nominations are being taken. The wrong e-mail address was on the original nomination form, so, some of the nominations may have been misplaced. Hope to pick by tomorrow. The committee members are Kevin LaSure, George Williams, Alery Best and Dana Schwarting.
4. Law and Legislation Committee Report : John Papa. There is not report because there have not been any changes.

#### Old Business:

- 2014 Proposal for NCAA Cross Country Qualification was turned down by the NCAA Sport Committee
- Clarification on Unattached/Partial Qualifier Competition
- Implementation of an Early Signing Period

Cross Country Qualification procedures. Tonight, this topic will be discussed at the cross country meeting

Clarification on ineligible athletes competing unattached. In eligible athletes cannot compete unattached without using a year of eligibility in a collegiate event or a non collegiate event. Athletes that have used all eligibility can compete unattached as well as athletes with remaining eligibility. Discussion Kevin Gehrke, his question is "can a non qualifier who is not on your roster compete unattached?" Answer, no!

Implementation of the early signing period. We got our early signing period, however, our February date was pushed back to April. Does anyone wish to put a proposal forward to get our February signing date back.

#### New Business:

1. Proposal for qualifying for Cross Country Nationals. Division II Cross Country National Championship Qualifying Working Group:

Mark Misch Chair, University Colorado-Colorado Springs, Sam Seemes USTFCCA CEO, Kevin Curtin Bentley University, Nate Garcia University of California –San Diego, Rick Hammer Edinboro University, Scott Lorek Northwest Missouri State University, Kent Reiber Saint Leo University, Aaron Russell Lock Haven University, Austin Shelby Trevecca Nazarene University, Jim Vahrenkamp Queens University

Division II Sport Committee NCAA Liaisons Morgan DeSpain& Rachel Seewald Chair Amber Feldman

Kim Miller Shaw University, Amber Feldman Mid America Athletic Association, Lorne Marcus St Thomas Aquinas, Kelly Kish Nova Southeastern, Ryan Dall Texas A&M Kingsville, Preston Grey Azusa Pacific, Andy Towne Hillsdale College, Matthew Van Lierop University Of Mount Olive

2. Guest Speaker Bob Podkaminer. This is a rules change year. There are no new rules this year. Most important thing is to follow the existing rules. Total reorganization of 2017 rule book, buy one for \$6 or download for free. This is Pod's last year because NCAA has a 4 term limit on rules committee, and he is on term # 12 right now. The group applauded him for his service.

3. Guest Speaker Morgan Despain. Talking about bid process will be opening.:

**Regionals:**

November 17 or 18, 2018

November 9 or 10, 2019

November 7 or 8, 2020

November 6 or 7, 2021

**Finals:**

November 23, 2019

November 21, 2020

November 20, 2021

\*Note, the 2018 DII Cross Country Championship will be part of the Division II Fall Festival.

**Indoor Track and Field:**

March 8-9, 2019

March 13-14, 2020

March 11-12, 2022

\*Note, the 2021 DII Indoor Track and Field Championship will be part of the Division II Winter Festival.

**Outdoor Track and Field:**

May 23-25, 2019

May 21-23, 2020

May 27-29, 2021

May 26-28, 2022

Tentative bid timeline

**2016**

**February 1:** Bid specifications published on [ncaa.org/bids](http://ncaa.org/bids)

**May 4-5:** NCAA Championships Hosting Symposium

**June 6:** Bid portal opens

**June 27:** Bid intentions due

**August 12:** Bid responses due

**September:** Committee deliberations  
**October:** Finalists (3) announced per championship  
**November:** Recommendations from sport committee made to approving body  
**December:** Site selection announcement

If you are interested in hosting , this is your bid timeline. If there are any questions call or send or e-mail.

#### 2015 Proposals Submitted for consideration

4. Proposal: Create a Regional Qualifying Round for the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Meet submitted by Tom Eisenhauser
  - Eight Regional Championship meets shall be contested on the weekend two weeks prior to the NCAA-II Outdoor National Championship (what is currently the last qualifying weekend).
  - The eight regions shall be the same regions that are currently in place for the Cross Country Championships.
  - Entries to the Regional Championship shall be limited to the top 24 declared individuals in each region.
  - There shall be twenty-four entries per event at the NCAA-II Outdoor Track & Field Championships.
  - Greater emphasis on head to head competition,
  - Greater emphasis on performing at the end of the season and at specific times (“when it counts” or “at the right time”),
    - Reduces the need for schools to “chase” qualifying marks throughout the season
    - Creates additional recognition for teams and individuals to earn Regional Championships, All-Region Honors
    - Establishes a set number of qualifiers per event which is beneficial for meet management purposes when seeding
      - Provides a system that is more easily understood by administrators and those not familiar with the sport
  - Creates additional promotional opportunities
    - Eliminates the need for Last Chance meets as well as any speculation surrounding the performances at such meets
    - Schools located in a climate with less favorable weather are provided a more equitable opportunity to qualify.
  - Individual selection to the Championships shall be determined by meeting one of the following criteria:
    - Finishing first or second in any event at the Regional Qualifying meet
    - Individuals that have a time or mark on the national performance list that ranks in the top eight after the sixteen regional qualifiers have been removed.
    - A time or mark set at the regional qualifying meet may be used to satisfy criterion number 2 in the event an individual does not meet criterion number
  - Notes: • Controlling for regions that may be stronger or weaker in certain events is accomplished by selecting individuals based off of placement and by ranking on the national list, • Seeding for the National Championships would be based on performances at the Regional Championships with priority given to those who advance through placement.

5. **Proposal:** During the final qualifying weekend of the outdoor season only a conference championship meet or one certified meet per region may be contested. A region may have a certified meet in addition to a conference meet in that same region.

**Rationale:**

- Last chance meets have been an issue in parts of the country in terms of meet quality and concern for fairness. This addresses that.
- Creates head to head competition within the region.
- Promotes Division II
- Gives more clarity to Regional award voting.
- The meet is scored to promote team competition. People outside of T&F (administrators) like scored meets.
- Promotes great performance at the end of the season “when it counts”.
- We have regional rankings for Track and Field. This gives that ranking some meaning by allowing head to head competition.
- Can create some regional rivalries in our sport that exist in ball sports at our schools.
  - **How is the site/host selected and certified?**

**Site selection is by discussion and vote within each region.**

- **How is it paid for?**

**Possible Meet Enhancement Funds. Teams will pay entry fees like any other meet we go to.**

6. Structure of an outdoor track meet proposal. -10-2-2 (Passed) by the Executive Committee. Proposal concerns the structure and defining of a meet.

We are trying to define what a track and field meet is. The proposal is out there and we are looking to make this a universal all division proposal. There was a modification in the multi event as to how it relates to a track meet. The proposal states that a multi event must be attached to a regular meet and start within 8 days of the meet to which it will be attached.

Separate track and field from cross country scholarships. Ryan Dall. NCAA recently added sand volleyball as a sport. They also added scholarships that will be counted separately from court volleyball. These two sports have a relationship similar to what we have with cross country and track and field. They are two different sports in the eyes of the NCAA and have same athletes doing both sports. We are being treated differently in terms of scholarship. If a person does beach volleyball only there scholarship doesn't also count against court volleyball. In our sport, if an athlete does cross country only, then there scholarship counts against track and field. We need to look at this in order to potentially get some separation between track and cross country scholarships. This could be a step in the direction of asking for more scholarship money. This also could eliminate programs that give all scholarship to distance runners or programs that give all scholarship to non-distance events. This could be good for the sport. We currently have 12.6 scholarships available for track and field cross country combined as one. Schools with only cross country are permitted 5 scholarships. Schools with track only are permitted 12.6 scholarships. The proposal would hope that now there would be a total of 17.6 scholarships available to schools that have both track and field and cross country. Some argue that if

scholarships are split between track and field and cross country that cross country will be permitted 5 scholarships and that track them would be then be 7.6.

7. Talking Points about our sport. These points illustrate about the value that track and field and cross country bring to your institution. Some generate revenue, students, diversity, and do other positive things for our campuses. This information will be valuable to help promote our sport. This information will put in Techniques magazine and will be on our website. Whereas, the Board of Directors of the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association recognizes that the intercollegiate athletics landscape is in a state of unprecedented uncertainty. We believe that substantial, proactive change must occur within our sports in order to preserve and maintain our relevancy on our campuses.

Therefore, the Board of Directors charges the membership, to identify the key values that make cross country and track and field relevant over other sports; to develop specific steps that will elevate our sports; and to work together respectfully while facing upcoming obstacles. Our immediate task is to establish who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Therefore, through your efforts, we will produce a list of talking points on the strengths and values of our sports to be utilized in conversations with our institutions, administrators, sponsors, community members, and other stakeholders.

Voting Devices. Make sure you pick up your voting devices on Friday between 7:30am till 9:30am in this room. Cibola Canyon #1-5.

Two General Sessions. There will be two general sessions one for track and field and one for cross country held later today.

Cross Country Executive Committee. Please stay after this meeting and come to the front of the room.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 CST



Division II General and Voting Session 12/18/15 9:45am CST

Presentation Russ Jewitt Univ Pittsburg, KS. Host of 2016 Indoor National Track Championships

- Membership Vote
  - Every member may cast a vote
- Unit Vote
  - One person per program
    - One vote for a men's program, one vote for a women's program, and two votes for a combined program
    - Only the first person from program who scans will have vote counted
    -

MOTION: NCAA Cross Country Executive Committee Proposal for Future NCAA Division II Cross Country Championships Qualifying.

Yes 161

No 32

Abstain 4

MOTION: Combined Event Competition may be contested as separate entities and do not have to be attached to a larger track and field competition.

Yes 117

No 25

Abstain 7

MOTION: to amend rule 17.23.8 to read:

A coach may be present during voluntary individual workouts in the institution's regular practice facility (without the workout being considered as countable athletically related activities) when the student-athlete is engaged in field events, and steeple and hurdle events. The coach may provide safety or skill instruction but cannot conduct the individual's workouts.

Yes 139

No 7

Abstain 2

MOTION: To Amend rule 17.23.8.

Yes

No

Abstain

MOTION: Structure of an NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Competition

Yes 83

No 35

Abstain 20

MOTION: That the rules committee separate the scholarship allotment from Cross Country and Track and Field. Currently, schools who sponsor Cross Country and Track and Field are allotted 12.6 scholarships. In this proposal we would like to separate Cross Country (5 for men, 6 for women) Scholarship Equivalencies from Track and Field Equivalencies (12.6 for men and women). The idea would be that Track & Field and Cross Country would function as two distinctly separate sports.

Yes 81

No 57

Abstain 7

MOTION: To have a rule change in sport sponsorship and NCAA Championships for the outdoor season to require only 10 people to compete in one meet for it to count for Sport Sponsorship purposes as well as NCAA Championship Requirements.

Yes 87

No 52

Abstain 8

MOTION: For Division II Track and Field to adopt the Division III model for Certification of a last chance meet hosted by a Division II Institution. This would be effective as of 2016-2017 season.

Yes 101

No 35

Abstain 9

Meeting Adjourned 10:16am (CST)