

Minutes of Liberty League Spring Meeting May 30-31, 2018 – Otesaga Resort Hotel – Cooperstown, N.Y.

Present: Kris Hall (Bard); Steve Yianoukos, Laurel Kane (Clarkson); Brian Miller (Hobart & William Smith); Susan Bassett (Ithaca); Lee McElroy, Kevin Beattie, Karen Hansen (RPI); George VanderZwaag, Andrea Golden, Jacob Lees, Kristine Shanley (Rochester); Lou Spiotti, Scott McVean (RIT); Bob Durocher, Fran Grembowicz, Randy LaBrake (St. Lawrence); Gail Cummings-Danson, Megan Buchanan (Skidmore); Jim McLaughlin, Joanne Little, Beth Tiffany (Union); Michelle Walsh, JoAnn Acquarulo, Kaitlin Leach (Vassar); Deb Steward (William Smith); Tracy King, Katie Meline (Liberty League).

I. Call to Order

Steve Yianoukos (Liberty League President) called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Review of Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2018 meeting at the NCAA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., and the February 21, 2018 conference call were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted.

Motion: A motion (McElroy, Steward) to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2018 meeting and February 21, 2018 conference call was APPROVED 10-0-0.

III. Financial Report

Liberty League treasurer Deb Steward reported that the transition of treasurer duties from Mike Hanna to Steward has been smooth and was completed in February. An Accountant's Review Report prepared by CPA Dennis Hayes for CY17 was reviewed. No modifications to financial statements were recommended. Steward also reported that while several outstanding expenses remain, a positive balance is projected for FY18. The proposed FY19 budget will be finalized over the summer. Dues for FY19 will be \$20,000, but will need to be determined for FY20 and beyond. Steward has applied for corporate credit cards for herself and Tracy King, which will yield a percentage of cash back on purchases. Investment opportunities were discussed along with a history of bank balances. Investing in a CD would provide a return on reserve funds.

Motion: A motion (Walsh, McElroy) to invest \$50,000 of Liberty League reserve funds in a one-year CD was APPROVED 11-0-0.

IV. Commissioner's Update

- A. Recap of 2017-18 Champions / League Success:** Katie Meline reviewed a document highlighting the academic and athletic accomplishments of Liberty League student-athletes and teams during the past academic year. Four Liberty League teams – Rochester field hockey, Ithaca women’s volleyball, Ithaca softball and RIT men’s lacrosse – reached at least the quarterfinals in NCAA competition. In addition, Clarkson University captured its third NCAA Division I championship in women’s ice hockey. Nine different institutions captured Liberty League championships. Additionally, a total of 1,735 student-athletes qualified for the Liberty League All-Academic Teams (3.30 cumulative GPA or higher) in their respective sports – the highest number in the league’s history. It was recommended that the document be posted on the league website.
- B. Conference Self-Study Guide:** Tracy King reported that the Liberty League’s NCAA Conference Self-Study Guide (CSSG) has been completed and uploaded to the NCAA website. A copy of the CSSG as well as previous submissions from 2013 and 2008 have also been uploaded to the Liberty League administrative web page for future reference.
- C. Report on Hardship Waivers Granted:** A total of 16 hardship waivers have been granted during the 2017-18 academic year. Several additional waivers are being processed. The Executive Committee has requested that the medical documentation required under NCAA Bylaw 14.2.5.2.2 clearly state that the student-athlete has suffered a season-ending injury or illness. It is not the physician’s role to recommend that the student-athlete be granted a ‘medical redshirt’ season. The physician simply needs to determine that the injury was season-ending in nature.
- D. NCAA Strategic Initiatives Grant Usage Guidelines:** King reviewed a document detailing how NCAA Strategic Initiatives Grant (conference grant) funds are disbursed. Institutions would be reimbursed up to \$850 in Tier 1 to support administrative advancement of designated constituent groups. Institutions will also be reimbursed IRS mileage for student-athletes who attend the Liberty League SAAC meeting. In Tier 2, each institution will be provided an allocation of approximately \$2,000 to support on-campus initiatives that are supported by the grant. In Tier 3, each institution will be supported with an allocation of \$500 for any of the approved uses in the tier. In total, each institution may be reimbursed at least \$3,350 (\$850 + \$2,000 + \$500) with additional funds possible based on unused allocations.
- E. Championship Handbook:** King sought feedback on the production of a Liberty League championship handbook. For institutions that have hosted or participated in NCAA championships, are there items that are included in NCAA championship handbooks or participant manuals that would be helpful include in a league championship manual? The concept of securing hotel room blocks was discussed. Some institutions have reserved room blocks for participating teams. Schools have different needs and preferences when

booking hotels, so some would prefer to not be required to utilize designated hotels. The consensus was that each institution should be responsible for securing its own lodging accommodations, but assistance can be sought from the host school. In cases where hotel room blocks are secured, it is appreciated if schools utilize them in order for the host to maintain a positive relationship with the hotel. It was suggested that championship guidelines could also be included for athletic trainers and sports information directors.

- F. RPI Office Lease Agreement:** The current Liberty League office lease agreement with RPI is expiring June 30, 2018. RPI has offered to extend the lease an additional year. Support was expressed for extending the agreement.
- G. SME Strategic Branding Proposal:** King was contacted by SME, the company that assisted the Liberty League with its rebranding efforts in 2004. SME inquired as to the league's interest in a strategic brand positioning and messaging development campaign. The project fee in the proposal was \$77,500. There was no interest in the SME proposal at the present time.

V. Conference-Wide Web Streaming Proposals

As a follow-up to the discussion from the January meeting, King solicited proposals for a conference-wide web-streaming agreement from BoxCast, SIDEARM and Stretch Internet. BoxCast provided pricing levels per school for different plans, but did not appear to offer a conference-wide discount. SIDEARM offered a conference package of \$18,000 based on 1,200 total streamed events. Stretch Internet offered pricing plans based on the number of conference schools that signed on. Annual costs ranged from \$2,999 for 6+ schools to \$1,999 (50 percent discount) if all 11 schools signed on. According to Kevin Beattie, the companies offer similar services, but quality of web streams is largely dependent on the equipment that each school utilizes. While the SIDs were not opposed to the concept of a league-wide streaming agreement, most indicated that they were satisfied with their current streaming provider. There was no consensus to pursue a league-wide streaming agreement at the present time.

VI. Awards Committee Report

As a follow-up to a discussion at the January meeting on the possible expansion of All-Liberty League teams and honorees, an ad hoc committee consisting of Kevin Beattie (RPI), Bill Jones (Skidmore), Jamie Chagnon (Vassar), Jim Sheahan (Bard), Justin Lovell (Bard) along with King and Meline was formed to review the league's awards program. Beattie reported that the committee reviewed the composition of all-league teams, all-tournament teams, academic awards and the weekly awards program. With regard to the all-league awards, the committee recommended that the all-league team in each sport consist of the number of starters in that particular sport plus specialists (e.g., football placekicker and punter, long-stick and short-stick midfielder in men's lacrosse, etc.). Basketball, which recognizes an all-rookie team, and men's lacrosse, which recognizes an extra attack, midfielder and defender on each of its all-league teams, are outliers with more than the

regular starting lineup recognized. In comparing the number of All-Liberty League honorees with the number of individuals selected in other conferences (the NESCAC was provided as an example), the Liberty League appeared to recognize considerably more individuals when the honorable mention selections were included (in order to be recognized as honorable mention, an individual needs to receive votes from a minimum of two coaches). Also, the committee recommended that the practice of selecting all-tournament teams be discontinued, but added emphasis should be placed on recognizing a most outstanding performer at league championships with that person receiving an actual award. The committee believed that the all-tournament teams added little value to the championship, were a challenge to coordinate and that individuals selected from teams not in the championship game were not present to be recognized. Beattie will work with King to draft official proposals from the awards committee.

VII. Review of Sport & Committee Reports

- A. Changes to Sport / Committee Liaison Assignments:** King indicated that new sport committee liaisons would be needed for men's golf (Andrea Golden retiring) and women's golf (Deb Steward assuming treasurer duties). Beth Tiffany (Union) agreed to take over the women's golf responsibilities. George VanderZwaag indicated that Rochester would be willing to continue serving as liaison for men's golf. Susan Bassett, who had indicated a willingness to take on an additional sport, agreed to serve as liaison for soccer. Sport and committee liaisons serve four-year renewable terms. Those terms conclude at the end of the 2018-19 academic year and will be reviewed next spring.

- B. Single-Site Championship Dates and Host Rotation:** King reviewed the single-site championship dates and sites for 2018-19. The women's golf coaches voted last spring to conduct their championship on the final weekend preceding NCAA selections. For 2019, the weekend preceding NCAA selections is May 4-5. Some coaches were unaware that the NCAA championship AQ declaration date for 2019 had moved from the final Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. As a result, some favored conducting the Liberty League championship the final weekend in April. The concern with doing so was that other in-season tournaments (i.e., Amherst and Williams) in which Liberty League teams participate may determine their dates based on the NCAA declaration date, resulting in league teams being unable to participate. Because the coaches proposed utilizing the weekend immediately preceding NCAA selections and the administrators voted to support it, it was agreed the tournament would be conducted on the weekend immediately preceding NCAA selections, May 4-5 (or 3-4 if Friday-Saturday is utilized).

- C. Reports from Sport Groups:**
 - 1. Sports Information (Kevin Beattie):** Action item: to eliminate the All-Tournament Teams while increasing emphasis on team champion and Most Outstanding Performer award. Discussion items: SIDs who have

hosted league tournaments have recognized the challenges in assembling all-tournament teams and announcing them immediately following championships. The group felt the all-tournament teams have not enhanced the post-championship awards celebration. SIDs also discussed the concept of a league-wide streaming option. While not opposed to the concept, SIDs were largely satisfied with their current streaming providers. With regard to post-game statistical updates provided by coaches, SIDs have worked together to correct errors, particularly with regard to scoring, goals, assists, etc. Women's lacrosse coaches have expressed concerns with the accuracy of statistics at certain schools, which they felt could impact voting for awards such as All-America. Beattie indicated that he can work with the SIDs on developing an FAQ sheet that can be shared among the league to address areas of particular statistical concern.

2. **Cross Country / Track & Field (Tracy King for Lou Spiotti):** Because the format of the Liberty League indoor and outdoor track and field championships had changed from one-day meets to two-day season-ending championships in 2018, the coaches reviewed a number of potential adjustments to the track and field guidelines. Action items include: 1.) establishing a squad size of 14 runners for the Liberty League men's and women's cross country championships; 2.) approving proposed rules for indoor track and field; 3.) establishing qualifying standards for the indoor track and field championships; 4.) establishing a standard number of officials to be utilized for Liberty League indoor and outdoor championships; 5.) to utilize an assignor to assign officials for Liberty League indoor and outdoor championships; 6.) to establish an entry fee of \$300 per gender for Liberty League indoor and outdoor championships; 7.) to specify that late entries will not be accepted in Liberty League indoor and outdoor championships once the meet performance list has been published. Regarding the squad size for the cross country championship, the coaches felt that this was consistent with postseason championships as the squad size is reduced to seven runners for the NCAA regional championship. Liberty League swimming and diving has established a squad size while the track and field championships have limited entries through a performance list. A squad size in cross country may also reduce the potential for a bottleneck at the start of the race. The officiating and assigning proposals were intended to establish a consistent officiating standard for league championships at all sites. Concern with utilizing an assignor was the familiarity with the officials in the region in which the championship was being conducted and the potential cost if the assignor needs to utilize individuals from outside the region. Regarding entry fees, the teams previously paid an entry fee when they participated in the NYSCTC Championship, which the Liberty League meets replaced. For RIT, the cost of hosting the two-day outdoor track and field

championship exceeded \$17,000 with timing services alone costing in excess of \$5,000. Not all institutions have the facilities to host the championship, so the hosting burden is not shared equally by all schools.

3. **Field Hockey (Joanne Little):** Action item is to specify that the all-tournament team shall consist of 4-3-2-2 with the championship team receiving four representatives (including Most Outstanding Player), the runner-up team receiving three players and the remaining two teams receiving two players each. The coaches agreed that it was important to establish representation from all teams. Being recognized for all-tournament honors could potentially aid a player under consideration for All-America honors. The coaches also expressed concern with a shrinking pool of field hockey officials and agreed that efforts are needed to recruit and train new officials. Practice time requests prior to games were discussed. The consensus was that the decision would be left up to host schools to determine if they could accommodate such requests. The coaches also supported the concept of a change to the non-traditional season in which teams could play two or three games on separate dates as opposed to the current legislation that permits two games on one date.
4. **Soccer (Beth Tiffany):** Action items include: 1.) changing the format of the Liberty League soccer tournament from Tuesday-Saturday-Sunday to Tuesday-Friday-Sunday; 2.) having the Liberty League act as a co-sponsor for NCAA legislation, increasing the number of allowable spring contest dates from 1 to 3. The coaches expressed unanimous support for moving the league championship weekend away from a back-to-back model. While the league has moved away from back-to-back weekends for soccer (now only one back-to-back weekend), the coaches felt the most important game of the year is now played in a back-to-back format. Moving away from the back-to-back format would also eliminate the conflict of one institution potentially hosting both tournaments, with one gender needing to play on an alternate field. With the coaches' proposal, the higher seed would host in each round. Regarding NCAA legislation, the coaches supported an NSCAA survey in which participants favored an increase in the number of competition opportunities in the nontraditional season. Any possible NCAA legislative proposal might be best served to include other sports.
5. **Volleyball (Kris Hall):** Action items include: 1.) changing the tie-breaking criteria to include "overall winning percentage multiplied by strength of schedule rating at the conclusion of the league schedule." 2.) increasing the first and second all-league teams from seven to ten members each. Discussion items include a potential change in the league schedule for 2019 with the possible inclusion of William Smith.

Coaches prefer to maintain a league schedule in which the number of league dates with multiple matches on the same date is minimized. Four potential scheduling models have been reviewed. Coaches have expressed concern with the timing of a William Smith announcement and the need to finalize their 2019 schedules. In order to include William Smith for 2019, the consensus was that a decision would need to be made by July 1. Also, Mara Wager has agreed to serve as Liberty League assignor and has reached out to coaches to collect schedules and begin making assignments for 2018.

6. **Football (George VanderZwaag):** Action item includes: 1.) replacing the “fullback” on the All-Liberty League team with an “additional offensive player (position undesignated)” and to recognize the selected player based on their primary designated position once selected. Discussion items: feedback from the coaches has been generally positive on officiating coordinator Bill Schuster, who the coaches find professional and responsive. Coaches also feel confident in their abilities to implement halftime video review of targeting ejections and will test their systems to ensure proper implementation.
7. **Men's Squash (JoAnn Acquarulo):** Action items include: 1.) establishing a three-year host site rotation of St. Lawrence (2019), Rochester/Hobart and William Smith (2020) and Vassar/Bard (2021) for the Liberty League men’s and women’s squash championships; 2. permitting the participation of club squash teams at Liberty League member institutions to participate in the league championship. Discussion items: coaches support the concept of a three-year host site rotation, giving all league members an opportunity to host the championship. Concern with the Rochester/HWS site is that Rochester only sponsors varsity men’s squash. What would a proposed schedule look like? Would Rochester host only men’s matches? Further development of a championship schedule will be needed. Regarding the inclusion of club teams, Rochester, which has a women’s club team, is the only institution that would be impacted by such a proposal. The athletics department does not oversee the Rochester women’s squash team and cannot guarantee that the team meets NCAA eligibility guidelines or follows NCAA rules.
8. **Swimming & Diving (Susan Bassett):** Action item includes: adding a Liberty League Diving Coach of the Year award to the swimming and diving awards program. Discussion items: coaches extensively discussed possible changes to the relay finals due to the fact that only one (men’s) or two (women’s) teams swim in the “B” relay finals. While the coaches preferred to maintain the status quo since this was the first year of the Liberty League championship, Bassett proposed a possible change to the relay finals to eliminate the heats in which only one or

two teams swim. The coaches also proposed adding synchronized diving as an exhibition event at the championship. Participation is optional and an opening exists in the meet schedule to allow the exhibition event to be conducted. Regarding the diving coach of the year award, the coaches supported the award, which mirrors an award presented by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America. The current coaching staff of the year typically places greater emphasis on the success of the swimmers rather than the divers. It was noted that no other sport recognizes an individual member of a coaching staff.

9. **Basketball (Brian Miller):** Action items include: 1.) changing player pre-game introductions away from NCAA championship policy to announcing the visiting team followed by the home team; 2.) requiring a printer at the scorer's table to provide three copies of stats to coaches after each quarter; 3.) changing the starting times for all Friday Liberty League games to 5 p.m. (women) and 7 p.m. (men); 4.) adopting a 14-game Liberty League schedule beginning with the 2019-20 season along with a scheduling agreement for two games against SUNYAC teams; 5.) changing the format of the Liberty League tournament from Tuesday-Saturday-Sunday to Tuesday-Friday-Sunday. Discussion items: The coaches felt the 14-game schedule format would lessen the number of long weekend trips while also providing teams with more flexibility to schedule non-league games, thus improving the chances of qualifying more teams for the NCAA tournament (additional Pool C bids). To address concerns with teams needing to find four additional non-league games (11 total), the coaches were supportive of exploring a scheduling agreement in which all teams would play two games against SUNYAC teams. A concern with the schedule, in addition to finding non-league games, was in its unbalanced format in which teams would play five opponents twice and four opponents once. Additionally, two teams would have 6 home games and 8 away games while two others would have 8 home games and 6 away games (six teams would have 7/7). The coaches acknowledged the inequities in the schedule, but felt they would balance out over a four-year period. While baseball has moved to an unbalanced scheduling model due to a limited number of weekends, the baseball coaches have sought to change the model because of concerns with inequities created by format.
10. **Rowing (Tracy King for Nekisha Henry):** Action item: specifying that the Liberty League NCAA Automatic Qualifier (AQ) will be determined by the place finish in the Varsity Eight race ONLY, but the team must also race a Second Varsity Eight boat in order to receive the AQ. Discussion items: The coaches felt that by determining the AQ based on the Varsity Eight only, it will ensure that teams are racing their best possible V8. Concern with the current V8-2V8 point system is that a team may attempt to manipulate its crews – take rowers from the V8

and race them in the 2V8 – in order to gain the points needed to win the AQ. While teams should always strive to field their fastest possible V8 boat, the consensus among the administrators was that the league should not attempt to regulate ethical conduct through rule changes. The coaches also felt the awards ceremony was poorly executed and needed to be better organized. If a league representative cannot be present, then the awards ceremony should be handled by the designated host rather than Saratoga Rowing Association.

- 11. Men’s Golf (Andrea Golden):** Action item is to move the Liberty League fall preview tournament and spring championship to Turning Stone – Kaluhyat Course. Discussion items: coaches have been exploring options for a different course for the league championship. There have been challenges with Timber Banks (Baldwinsville, N.Y.), including having start times pushed back or needing to start on the 10th hole in order to accommodate other groups or individuals. With the Turning Stone proposal secured by Rochester coach Dan Wesley, proposed fees were \$50 per person per round for the fall and \$40 for the spring – slightly higher than Timber Banks (\$30), but very reasonable for a high quality venue. Turning Stone is also able to offer lodging beginning in 2019-2020 at the Inn at Turning Stone, which is not connected to the casino property. Turning Stone staff would assist in hosting the event. The league would be interested in pursuing a three-year contract if Turning Stone is willing.
- 12. Women’s Golf (Tracy King for Deb Steward):** Action item is to discontinue the requirement of providing live scoring through Golfstat at the Liberty League championship. Discussion items: The primary concern among the coaches regarding the live scoring requirement is finding the personnel needed to staff the championship. In men’s golf, an individual in each threesome is responsible for entering the scores for the group via a smartphone. In women’s golf, host schools have had personnel take the scores from the players every three holes and enter them via smartphone so the players do not have to do it. Women’s coaches would prefer to have the players focus on their rounds rather than their phones. The concern among administrators with eliminating the live scoring requirement is that it would represent a step backward for women’s golf. Host institutions should look to resolve personnel issues rather than eliminate live scoring. Coaches also reviewed the procedure for cancellation of play and were comfortable with the tournament committee making the decision in conjunction with the course pro and league representative.
- 13. Softball (Karen Hansen):** No action items at the current time. An in-person meeting with the coaches is planned for August or September to discuss regular-season rescheduling and championship policies. Hansen

shared that the tournament was a challenge to host due to the involvement of the coaches in weather-related decisions. While the league has an inclement weather policy, the coaches were seeking to change the tournament schedule due to potential rain (weather did not impact the tournament).

- 14. Tennis (Tracy King for Fran Grembowicz):** Action item is to conduct the 2019 Liberty League men's and women's tennis championships at the Reis Tennis Center (Cornell University) ONLY on Friday-Sunday, May 3-5 with four matches Friday, four matches Saturday and two matches Sunday. Discussion items: with the expansion of the tournament from four to six teams in 2018, the coaches had proposed playing matches at both Cornell and Ithaca in an effort to play all matches outdoors. The two-site setup created some logistical challenges. First, if rain forced teams indoors to Cornell's six courts, one match might be forced to wait while the other concludes. Also, if a school has one head coach for both a men's and women's program (the current staffing for five schools) and the teams were playing simultaneously at the two sites, the head coach would have to decide which team to coach. By potentially shortening the match times and having teams warm up on the indoor courts at Cornell, the schedule could be condensed to allow all teams to play outdoors. A schedule of 8:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:15 p.m. and 5 p.m. should allow for adequate daylight to complete four matches. Coaches also discussed regular-season scheduling. While there was interest among some coaches in establishing a league schedule, there was not a consensus to move away from the current practice of scheduling matches by mutual agreement.
- 15. Women's Lacrosse (Laurel Kane):** Action item is to revise the Liberty League tournament schedule to follow the NCAA schedule of game times for Saturday and Sunday – semifinal games at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday with Sunday's championship game held at 1 p.m. Discussion items: with the previous Friday-Saturday schedule, the game times were 2 and 5 p.m. on Friday and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. If those times were utilized for Saturday and Sunday, there could be challenges in completing the championship game prior to the 6 p.m. NCAA AQ declaration deadline in the event of a weather delay. Moving to a 1 p.m. championship game will provide a better opportunity to complete the contest. The coaches also discussed Saturday game times when the same institution is hosting men's and women's games on the same field. While the coaches discussed a possible policy of one gender having scheduling priority in odd years and the other having priority even years, administrators agreed schools will continue to determine game times by mutual consent. Some coaches also expressed concern with the accuracy of statistics being kept at some league schools (discussed earlier in SID report).

- 16. Men's Lacrosse (Gail Cummings-Danson):** No action items. Discussion items: the coaches agreed to utilize Hudl rather than Krossover to exchange video. The IMLCA had reached an agreement with Hudl where the company would be the official video exchange provider of the coaches' organization. Schools that do not utilize Hudl will not be able to exchange video with Hudl users. The coaches also agreed that Brian Praetorius (Bard) would serve on the IMLCA All-America committee along with Paul Wehrum (Union). Possible reseeding of the league tournament following quarterfinal games was discussed, but doing so may create challenges with securing hotel rooms. Coaches also discussed whether there should be a policy for determining game times when men's and women's teams share a field.
- 17. Baseball (Jim McLaughlin):** Action items include: pertaining to the 2020 season, 1.) establishing a default schedule of two 9-inning games Saturday and one 9-inning game Sunday; 2.) specifying that if the first game of a Liberty League doubleheader goes extra innings, the second game would remain nine innings; 3.) specifying that the final day for make-ups prior to the crossover series in week 7 will be Tuesday prior to the crossover series (which begins Saturday) while the final day for make-ups from the crossover series prior to the four-team double-elimination tournament will be Monday (league tournament begins Thursday). If the crossover series cannot be completed, the higher seed will advance; 4.) specifying that divisional and overall league winning percentage will be calculated for all teams. Divisional games count in divisional win percentage and will be utilized to determine crossover weekend matchups based on winning percentage. All games, including results from the crossover weekend, will be factored into League winning percentage and will be utilized to determine tournament seeds for the four teams advancing from the crossover weekend. The site of the 5 vs 5 matchup on the crossover weekend will be determined by League winning percentage. Discussion items: the coaches primarily discussed changes to the baseball guidelines that would occur in 2020 when Ithaca enters league play and the league schedule would be structured in the form of two five-team divisions. Since the action items pertain to 2020, the consensus was that administrators have the opportunity to further discuss the items with the coaches prior to voting, which can be conducted at the fall meeting.
- 18. Sports Medicine (Michelle Walsh):** Actions items include: 1.) replacing "trainer" with "athletic trainer" in the Team & Sport Guidelines and Sports Medicine Handbook; 2.) In the Sports Medicine Handbook, to change knee immobilizers, spine boards and blankets from mandatory emergency equipment provided by the host institutions during events to optional. Discussion items: the focus on the

athletic trainers' call was information sharing and best practices. The group also sought to define what items should be required as opposed to optional.

19. SAAC (Megan Buchanan): No action items. Discussion items: SAAC conducted an in-person meeting in Utica on Sunday, October 22, and included best practices and round-table discussions. Topics included sportsmanship and game conduct; priority registration for athletes; block scheduling; involvement of FARs and faculty mentors; quality meals after games and on the road. Campus SAACs also collected \$3,568 in support of the Liberty-League-Empire 8 SAAC "Change War" during Division III Week. Funds are collected to benefit Special Olympics.

D. League Scheduling With Respect to NCAA Qualification: The basketball coaches proposed an unbalanced 14-game schedule, a reduction of four games from the 18-game double round-robin schedule. A primary reason for the proposed change was the belief that a schedule with fewer league games would provide teams with a greater opportunity to bolster their resumes and earn at-large (Pool C) bids to NCAA championships. When drafting league schedules, what consideration should be given to compiling schedules that enhance the ability of teams to earn Pool C bids? In 2016, the league drafted a set of scheduling principles that focused on: minimizing the educational impact on student-athletes; commitment to student-athlete welfare; commitment to gender and sport equity; minimizing budget impact; awareness for support staff scheduling. The consensus was that league play, rather than non-league competition, should be a priority and scheduling decisions should not be driven by access to NCAA championships. The appropriate number of league games shall be determined on a sport-by-sport basis.

E. Tournament Entry Fees: The track and field coaches have proposed entry fees for the Liberty League indoor and outdoor championships in an effort to defray the cost of hosting the championship. In 2012, the league reviewed and agreed to eliminate entry fees in a number of sports as it was determined that in some cases, the expenses paid by traveling teams (buses, hotels, meals, etc.) exceeded the cost of hosting the championship. Currently, the Liberty League golf and swimming and diving championships have entry fees. Swimming currently utilizes a model of a base fee plus a fee per competing athlete, so teams with smaller rosters pay less than teams with larger rosters, which may be an option for other sports. In the future, entry fees will be evaluated on a sport-by-sport basis. The proposed entry fees for track and field will be revisited at the fall meeting when additional data is presented.

Meeting adjourned for the evening at 5:33 p.m.

Thursday, May 31

Meeting reconvened at 8:32 a.m.

VIII. Vote on Sport Action Items

- A. **CROSS COUNTRY / TRACK & FIELD: Motion** to establish a squad size limit of 14 competitors for the Liberty League cross country championships (14 for men, 14 for women). PASSED 9-1-1.

Motion to approve the proposed Indoor Track Rules as revised/amended. PASSED 7-0-4.

Motion to establish qualifying standards for Liberty League Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Each institution will continue to receive two automatic entries per event. The performance list will continue to list the top 20 competitors indoor and top 24 outdoor, but qualifiers must achieve a certain standard to be ranked on the performance list (similar to NYSCTC "B" standard). Each school's two automatic qualifiers per event do not need to achieve the qualifying standard. For a school to qualify more than two competitors in any event, all must achieve the qualifying standard and be ranked on the performance list. PASSED 8-0-3.

Motion to establish a standard number of officials to be utilized for Liberty League indoor and outdoor track and field championships. PASSED 8-0-3.

A follow-up proposal will be needed once the appropriate number of officials has been determined.

Motion to utilize an assignor (individual to be determined) to assign officials for Liberty League indoor and outdoor track and field championships. FAILED 0-7-4.

Motion to establish an entry fee of \$300 per gender for Liberty League indoor and outdoor track and field championships (fee to be collected by the host institution to defray the cost of meet operations – primarily timing services). TABLED.

Will be revisited at the Fall meeting in order to determine appropriate fee structure consistent with other league sports.

Motion to specify that late entries will not be accepted in the Liberty League indoor and outdoor track and field championships once the meet performance list has been published. PASSED 8-0-3.

- B. **FIELD HOCKEY: Motion** to specify that the all-tournament team will be 4-3-2-2 (Most Outstanding Player is included in the 4). League champions have 4

representatives (including MOP), League runner up has 3, remaining two teams each have 2.

No vote conducted due to the vote to eliminate all-tournament teams across all sports.

- C. **SOCCER: Motion** to change format of Liberty League Soccer Tournament from Tuesday-Saturday-Sunday to Tuesday-Friday-Sunday. FAILED 2-8-1.

Soccer will be provided with an option of either a Saturday-Wednesday-Saturday format presented in conjunction with a revised schedule, or a four-team tournament, or retaining the current format.

Motion to have the Liberty League act as co-sponsor for NCAA legislation, increasing the number of allowable spring contest dates from 1 to 3. FAILED 0-10-1.

Proposal would need further discussion of sports other than soccer in order for the league to consider co-sponsorship.

- D. **VOLLEYBALL: Motion** to change the tiebreaking criteria for the tournament as follows:

- a. Overall league record;
- b. Head-to-head results;
- c. Record vs. conference opponents in descending order;
- d. ***Overall winning percentage multiplied by strength of schedule rating at the conclusion of the league schedule. (proposed addition).***
- e. Winning percentage vs. common opponents in non-conference play;
- f. Coin toss.

PASSED 8-0-3.

Motion to increase the first and second all-league teams from seven to ten members each.

No vote conducted due to the decision to standardize all-league teams across all sports.

- E. **FOOTBALL: Motion** to replace the “fullback” on the All-League Team with an “additional offensive player (position undesignated)” and to recognize the selected player based on their primary designated position once selected. PASSED 6-0-5.

- F. **SQUASH: Motion** to establish a three-year host site rotation of St. Lawrence (2019), Rochester/Hobart and William Smith (2020) and Vassar/Bard

(2021) for the Liberty League men's and women's squash championships. TABLED.

The proposal will be revisited when the coaches provide a proposed tournament schedule for 2020.

Motion to permit the participation of club squash teams at Liberty League member institutions to participate in the Liberty League Championship. FAILED 0-5-6.

- G. SWIMMING & DIVING: Motion** to add a Liberty League Diving Coach of the Year award to the swimming and diving awards program. FAILED 2-6-3.

Motion to specify that the top 8 "A" relays and top 8 "B" relays shall advance to the finals and score in all relay events. PASSED 10-0-1.

- H. BASKETBALL: Motion** to change the player pre-game introductions away from the NCAA Championship policy of alternating teams with a handshake at center court, to the traditional procedure of announcing entire starting lineup of the visiting team ... followed by the home team. PASSED 6-4-1.

Motion to require a printer at the scorer's table to provide three (3) copies of statistics directly to coaches at the conclusion of each quarter (women) and at halftime (men). PASSED 9-1-1.

Motion to change starting times for all Friday Liberty League games to 5 p.m. (Women) and 7 p.m. (Men) ~~during the 2018-19 season~~. Game times for Saturday league games will remain 2 p.m. (Women) and 4 p.m. (Men). PASSED 10-0-1.

Motion to adopt a 14-game Liberty League schedule beginning with the 2019-20 season contingent upon a scheduling agreement for 2 games per school with the SUNYAC. FAILED 0-8-3.

Motion to change the Liberty League Championship format to have quarterfinals Tuesday, Semifinals Friday and Championship Sunday ... all at the site of the highest seeds. For Ex., Tuesday #6 @ #3 and #5 @ #4; Friday Winner of 3/6 @ #2 and Winner 4/5 @ #1; Sunday Championship at Highest Remaining Seed.

No vote conducted as the soccer proposal with the same format was defeated.

- I. ROWING: Motion** to specify that the Liberty League NCAA Automatic Qualifier (AQ) will be determined by place finish in the Varsity Eight race ONLY, but a team must also race a Second Varsity Eight boat at the Liberty League Championship in order to receive the AQ (this is because the

automatic qualifier requires two boats at the NCAA Championship). PASSED 5-1-4.

- J. **WOMEN'S GOLF: Motion** to discontinue the requirement of providing live scoring through Golfstat at the Liberty League Championship. FAILED 0-5-6.
- K. **MEN'S GOLF: Motion** to move the fall preview and spring championship to Turning Stone – Kaluhyat Course. PASSED 6-0-5.
- L. **WOMEN'S LACROSSE: Motion** to revise the Liberty League tournament schedule whereby semifinal games are held Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. with Sunday's championship game held at 1 p.m. PASSED 11-0-0.
- M. **TENNIS: Motion** to conduct the 2019 Liberty League men's and women's tennis championships at the Reis Tennis Center (Cornell University) ONLY on Friday-Sunday, May 3-5, 2019, with four matches Friday, four matches Saturday and two matches Sunday as outlined in the proposed schedule. **(PASSED 9-0-2)**
- N. **BASEBALL:** Beginning in 2020, **Motion** to establish a default schedule of two 9-inning games Saturday and one 9-inning game Sunday. TABLED.

Beginning in 2020, **Motion** to specify that if the first game of a Liberty League doubleheader goes extra innings, the second game would remain nine innings. TABLED.

Beginning in 2020, **Motion** to specify that the final day for make-ups prior to the crossover series in week 7 will be Tuesday prior to the crossover series (which begins Saturday). The final day for make-ups from the crossover series prior to the four-team double-elimination tournament will be Monday (League tournament begins Thursday). If the crossover series cannot be completed, the higher seed will advance. TABLED.

Beginning in 2020, **Motion** to specify that divisional and overall league winning percentage will be calculated for all teams. Divisional games count in divisional win percentage and will be utilized to determine crossover weekend matchups based on winning percentage. All games, including results from the crossover weekend, will be factored into League winning percentage and will be utilized to determine tournament seeds for the four teams advancing from the crossover weekend. The site of the 5 vs. 5 matchup on the crossover weekend will be determined by League winning percentage. TABLED.

Baseball items will be revisited at the Fall meeting to provide further opportunity for campus discussions with coaches.

- O. SPORTS MEDICINE/ATHLETIC TRAINING: Motion** to replace “trainer” with “athletic trainer” in the Team & Sport Guidelines and Sports Medicine Handbook.

No vote conducted – editorial changes will be made as requested.

Motion, In the Sports Medicine Handbook, to change knee immobilizers, spine boards and blankets from mandatory emergency equipment provided by host institutions during events to optional. TABLED.

Will be revisited at the Fall meeting to clarify whether items are no longer mandatory or not needed at the site of competition (but must have available).

- P. SPORTS INFORMATION: Motion** to eliminate the selection of All-Tournament Teams at Liberty League championships. PASSED 8-0-3.

Motion to present a Most Outstanding Performer award, including the addition of a trophy/plaque, at the conclusion of Liberty League championships. The selection of the Most Outstanding Performer will be the responsibility of sports information personnel in conjunction with league officials, when applicable. PASSED 10-0-1.

Motion to standardize All-Liberty League Teams based on the number of on-field participants within each particular sport with exceptions permitted for specialty positions (long-stick midfielder; punter, starting pitchers, etc). PASSED 11-0-0.

Motion to specify that All-Liberty League Honorable Mention qualification requires three votes (instead of 2) without being chosen to the First or Second Team. TABLED.

Will be revisited at the Fall meeting in order to determine the appropriate standard for determining Honorable Mention.

IX. Tiebreakers for Liberty League Championship Seeding

Tracy King noted that the Liberty League previously had one set of tiebreaking procedures for determining seeding for Liberty League championships. During the past 6-7 years, different sport groups have proposed their own sport-specific tiebreakers. While the traditional league tiebreakers don't work in sports like baseball since teams do not play a full round robin schedule, other sports have adopted tiebreaking procedures that have added criteria that prioritize league results over non-league criteria such as winning percentage versus all teams with an end-of-season record of .500 or above. Should the league utilize a consistent set of criteria to determine tournament seeding across all sports?

Consensus among administrators was that sport-specific criteria do not pose a concern and tiebreakers do not need to be standardized across all sports.

X. NCAA / National Issues

- A. Management Council Update:** NCAA Management Council rep Gail Cummings-Danson provided an update on items of interest in Division III including a proposal to standardize the first permissible practice date in football, proposed mandatory graduation rate reporting, a revised social media proposal and Division III membership dues increase.

- B. NCAA Woman of the Year / Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year:** NCAA Woman of the Year nominees must be submitted via the NCAA online portal by June 11. King will conduct an email vote for the Liberty League Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year. These awards are presented to graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence in academics, athletics and leadership/service. The individual selected as Liberty League female scholar-athlete of the year will be the league's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year award. Because the nomination packet for each Woman of the Year nominee is approximately 8-10 pages, King will provide a list of the nominees in the email so that all candidates are given proper consideration.

XI. Campus Safety / Security Training

Kris Hall raised the issue of campus safety and security training on league campuses. Bard athletics staff members have undergone on-campus training. Consideration is being given to educating student-athletes as well. As the league looks to standardize and establish league championship guidelines, it may want to consider how safety and security can be enhanced at league venues.

XII. Site Changes – Funding / Staffing Responsibilities

When host sites change due to weather or field conditions, particularly with baseball and softball games in the spring, staffing becomes a challenge when a contest is switched from one institution to another. In some cases, a school may not be able to provide its typical level of staffing, such as live stats, walk-up music, etc., which coaches need to understand. If an institution needs to hire a per-diem athletic trainer or other personnel to staff the contest, then those expenses should be factored into the expenses reconciled between the two institutions. Switching host sites requires a high level of communication and a spirit of cooperation.

XIII. Anticipated Institutional Sport Sponsorship Changes

Administrators were polled to gauge potential changes in institutional sport sponsorship. No additions other than William Smith volleyball are currently being considered. The

league's greatest need would be sports in which the league currently relies on associate members in order to secure NCAA bids – football, men's golf and women's golf.

XIV. Future Meeting Sites / Dates

Meeting dates for 2018-19 were reviewed.

- A. Fall Meeting:** Tuesday, Sept. 18 at Turning Stone.
- B. Winter Meeting:** Friday, Jan. 25 at NCAA Convention (Orlando). NCAA Convention dates: Jan. 23-26.
- C. Spring Meeting:** May 29-30 at Cooperstown, N.Y. (Otesaga Resort Hotel).

XV. Other Business

Steve Yianoukos, who completed his term as Liberty League president, was recognized and thanked for his efforts during the past two years. Kris Hall, who concluded her term as a member of the Executive Committee, was recognized and thanked for her six years of service. Additionally, congratulations and well wishes were extended to Andrea Golden, who is retiring at the conclusion of the academic year.

XVI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned and the athletic directors conducted an executive session to evaluate the performance of the Liberty League staff.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

ATTACHMENT #1: Proposed Rules for Indoor Track & Field

LIBERTY LEAGUE INDOOR TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP RULES FOR PRELIMINARY AND FINAL HEATS

A. The number of finalists for all field events shall be nine (9) (ties per NCAA rules). The time before flights and between preliminary flights and finals should begin as soon as the qualifiers are announced at the competition venue with a cap of 15 minutes. This announcement should be made as soon as possible following the completion of the final preliminary flight.

B. Track event finals shall qualify finalists as follows:

1. Events with preliminaries.

a. 60M & 60M hurdle = 1 section of 8.

b. Runners will advance to finals in accordance with NCAA Rule 10-5.1d.

2. Finals only events.

a. Mile, 3000M and 5000M: finals only, sections based on time, fast section runs last, one section for 15 or fewer competitors; two sections for more than 15 competitors with 12 in the fast section.

b. Distance Medley Relay: 1 section.

c. 4 X 400M Relay: 1 section if 6 or fewer teams declare otherwise 2 sections split evenly, fast section runs last.

Relays with an odd number of teams shall seed the larger number of teams into the fast heat (e.g., seven (7) teams participating would require four (4) teams in the fast heat and three (3) teams in the slow heat).

C. All oval races shall start as follows:

1. 400M and 4 x 400M Relay: 2 turn stagger by lanes.

2. 800M: 2 turn stagger by alleys.

3. Distance Medley Relay: waterfall.

4. Mile 3000M and 5000M: double waterfall.

D. Seeding the running events:

1. All running events (prelims and finals) contested at the indoor championships shall be seeded in accordance with NCAA Rules 5-10, 5-11 & 10-5.

2. If any performance marks are tied, for seeding purposes, the descending order on TFRRS will be used. The higher rank will receive priority for placement.

E. Seeding of combined events:

1. All combined events are to be grouped and seeded in accordance with NCAA Rules 9-2.4 and 9-2.5.

2. Individual event marks can be used to seed wild card entries into combined events.

F. Seeding field events:

1. The number of flights and the seeding for all field events shall be done in accordance with NCAA Rule 6-4.

2. Field events with 30 or fewer entries are limited to two flights with an additional flight added if there are more than 30 entries.

G. HJ/PV Progressions:

1) Starting heights will be within 3cm of 3.85m(men's PV), 2.45m(women's PV), 1.65m(Men's HJ), 1.40m(Women's HJ).

2) On the Monday before the championship the meet host will send out the progressions. Heights will be based on the 12th seeded athlete on the NCAA list (the "NCAA height"). Heights will proceed down from the NCAA height on 15cm/5cm progression and then proceed up from the NCAA height on 3cm/10cm progression.

H. The indoor championships time schedule (**see Attachment #1**).