

NCTTA Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes for Thursday April 10, 2008
Face to Face meeting in Rochester, MN

In attendance: Willy Leparulo, Joe Wells, David Del Vecchio, Michael McFarland, Michael Meier, Seemant Teotia, Wassim Chao, Liang Liu (via telephone), Dan Wang (webmaster) Ralph Presley (Georgia Division) and Randy Kendle (Lindenwood University)

I. President's Report

- talk about retention of schools from year to year
- NCTTA Resume of the year list: Rockstar, Balls of Fury, added NCTTA historian, got accepted to USA Table Tennis finally
- David interjects that a newsletter has been created monthly; WL hopes that a future newsletter committee takes charge of it

League Numbers

- 121 schools, up in numbers
- David: of these 121 how many dropped out, how many dropped out, how many new schools, returning.
- Willy: Wassim did a project on "dead" schools....retention project
 - 24 first year schools in this year
 - large number of new schools, has to do with Radar's division and get them, but can't keep them
 - 89 returning schools

What to do for next year....how do we keep them from dropping out?

- fall semester schools are going to not come back
- Wassim emailed them and due to: poor leadership, money, etc.
- Seemant says: Division tournaments are not run well; VA division claims that their way is the better way
- McFarland interjects with tournament fundraising ideas to align division meets with sport festivals

Problem: Money and Leadership

- David: a lot of these teams are NOT clubs and therefore do NOT have foundations
- Willy: how to enforce club/organization affiliation vs. just random teams
- David: if we know they are not affiliated, we can help them to become affiliated

Is there a 2008-09 solution?

- McFarland interjects with Paralympic idea and coaches

-David: how many of the non returning schools did not, was not affiliated?

- Seemant: encourage B, C teams in schools to stay more involved.

League Statistics

- Do they matter?
- Don't know how it is useful.

- Spring always decreases b/c teams that don't show up for whatever reason: Money, leadership, bad timing, getting blown out.
- David: but if schedule is done NOW then they will plan around it. That becomes the thing that other things in their life become organized around
- Willy: Virginia Division—isn't real as it is run by Seemant not a division director
 - David: find 17 other people like Seemant, we should be spending far more time on that issue, we should recruit BETTER division directors
 - Willy: has accounted for the ones that are leaving (graduating)
 - MMeier should have committee or someone shadowing current division directors so that when first one leaves, the other one takes over
 - McFarland: contribute salaries
 - David: to become division director is a personal decision b/c division may die and their team may not have chance to qualify
 - how many DD's do it for the love of the game?
 - McFarland: about 6 DD's
- Liang joins the call

Division Director Problem

- getting more responsible division directors to run better tournaments
- talk about using the ACUI model not letting player be a division director
- David: what would happen with this rule?
- Willy: teams in division would want to save the division and hopefully they would find someone
- David: would the person they found be better than a student?
- Liang: talks about joining divisions rather than dividing it...talks about off topic things more specifically with Midatlantic division and getting incentive to have bigger tournaments
- Willy: how to recruit Division Directors that are good
- Liang: only vote for certain division, for less developed divisions may not work...should gradually do that. What if they can't find someone? Would we cancel the division?
- McFarland: recruit USATT tournament directors as DD's
- Seemant: they are all greedy
- David: understand where they are coming from
- McFarland: make it appealing to them..somehow
- Liang: can we get ACUI Regional Coordinators to do NCTTA DD
- group: HELL NO lol
- Liang: finding Chinese grad students to help out as Division Directors
- David: specific idea to use the ACUI idea of not letting coordinator/director be player who plays in the tournament

Motion: institute a rule that NCTTA Division Director cannot be a student playing at specific NCTTA event.

Proposed: David Del Vecchio

Seconded: Seemant Teotia

- Meier saying 2/3rds of divisions are gone
- WL: says Board can always mandate to save anything
- David: don't want to write it b/c ppl will just rely on that
- Seemant: we can take it case by case
- WL: large amount of time to find ppl for September
- McFarland last year we put them on info right after championships

Yes: 7; No: 1; Abstain: 0

Motion passes 7-1-0

-McFarland: create a Division Director manual that we will send to them*****

Incentives for Division Directors

- now they get to be umpires or get USATT membership
- training package or training handbook
- McFarland: give some sort of reimbursement for money/time

NIRSA? Getting involved with them?

- they govern sport clubs on campus
- get involved with them, maybe provide resources to help manage sport clubs
- McFarland: might be a good thing (Sheperd University has University official involved) and work on video from Jason Sun if we ever get it

Lindenwood University

Randy Kendle speaks to NCTTA Board

- part time coach with his wife and tells board about that they are big on minority sports and TT is now a sport
- submitted a proposal and they accepted it
- need to get out to highschools/middle schools as grassroots approach
- their scholarship program is different, there is no budget; what that means is they have like a grant

- Meier: tell more about Lindenwood
- Randy: they have about 15,000 students; 100 graduate/undergrad degree areas, big on education; 4,000 on campus, the rest are commuters
- Joe: NAIA?
- Randy: yes
- David: how do they get so much financial support for grants?

- Randy: an old VP came in and turned their financial system around and now the school has no debt...this is how they have a lot of money
- Randy: biggest problem right now is recruitment

Motions

Motion for Organization Design

Proposed by Willy

Seconded by McFarland

- David would they (Recruitment, PR, Registrar) be committee chairs
- WL: basically yes
- WL: Board would be 6 instead of 8
- WL: doer positions, core of the work; rather than board work
- WL: putting committees as a part of these positions for appointed positions
- Meier: changing exec. Board structure?
- WL: yes
- David: all appointed positions are non board voting positions
- WL: like Dan yes
- McFarland: why not have an appointed positions member to be on the board to break the tie of 6; a voting representative for the appointed positions
- WL: this person would have to be ANAL, on top of things

Motion Fails:

4-0-3

- Bylaw motion fails as it has to be unanimous
- Liang: to get more ppl involved, does it work
- WL: don't know if it will work or not, it is important to have full board participation and when ppl don't come it ruins the board
- Seemant: doesn't like being on the board, loves what he does, but doesn't care about board motions/votes

David proposes a change to the bylaws to say that bylaws to be changed to 2/3rds instead of unanimous

- Meier: talk about why ppl didn't vote for it

Motion: Change bylaws to 2/3rds instead of unanimous

Proposed: David

Seconded: McFarland

Motion Fails:

7-1-0 (Mike Meier votes against it)

Back to why Organizational Design failed (Mike Meier requested)

- Joe, David, Liang abstained
- not sure that it would work is what David said
- Meier brings up why not have a student athlete rep on the NCTTA board
- discussion about appointed positions choosing their own to represent on the board
- Joe brings up maybe it has to be male/female and the board decides that it does not
- board discusses that committee chair should be the appointed positions (so on the board but without a vote)

Motion: According to recent 6 person org. design, 7th position be the student/athlete representative

Proposed: Willy

Second: Joe Wells

Motion passes 8-0-0

-David still arguing that it isn't unanimous, we are looking at the bylaws and it is

Willy: Appointed positions are also committee chair leaders

McFarland: too many ppl wearing too many hats

*****Question about Appointed Positions**

Motion: Take out wording of appointed position and make all committee chairs all non voting board members

Proposed: McFarland

Seconded: Willy

Motion passes 8-0-0

Making College Table Tennis important

How?

- Liang talks about making College TT more Varsity type sports
- ppl don't go to regional meets because they don't see the point
- upgrade the image of Varsity table tennis as something more than it is
- Liang says JHU is a "ping pong club"; how many coaches are in colleges? He wants to make it more professional
- average budget for a University budget is 1000-2000; and explains how low the money is and no budget
- if we can bring up the image of better than club and almost Varsity level
- for a school to be Varsity it has to be approved by the school
- David: point is ppl that make those decisions are the school
- Liang: it is a varsity team according to NCTTA
- WL: what do you suggest to bring up image
- Liang: not sure that all 120 schools realize they are a varsity team, the ones that do realize are few
- David: other non TT players don't realize it is important

NCAA Report—Women’s College TT—What’s next?

- WL: had conversations with the NCAA recently about examples of emerging criteria
 - TT as a sport must get on “emerging sport list”
 - one of first steps for Women’s college TT
 - WL: not sure about certain elements
 - Meier: what examples do you need
 - WL: I know the definition, I need documentation, what is a non scholastic program?
- WL: we are lacking on getting this stuff done because we have had to put out fires locally in our organization; letters of support are paramount
- WL: these are the REAL issues that we need to be doing
- WL: would like to take over NCAA committee as an NCTTA committee and would need DD’s help since he is on USATT board
- David: why don’t we put up document and see what we will need. Do we need other data? Or is it just a helping hand?
- all other criteria are not specific to college, but it is grassroots pipeline, but we need to address it b/c no one else will do it, we need USATT’s help
- David: do we know of other sports that have gone thru this process:
- Willy: bowling has them and gone through the process and we should look at what they have done
- Willy: Badminton is on the list and they have highschool badminton, but their collegiates is not good at the league level, but have 20 schools at Varsity level.
 - a myriad of questions about Badminton intercollegiates
- David: how did badminton get all of these schools? Opportunities?

How to help Women’s College TT?

- 3 player teams?
- form own student association
- at 2008 championships 7 women’s teams not showing up, why?
- Willy: 9 out of 16 are not attending, why? What do we need to do that our next season is more successful?
- USATT support was good...but now there is none, is that a reason.

Incentives

- McFarland talks about the new Newgy scholarship program which could serve as an incentive for women’s college TT
- can earmark money towards women College TT
- wants to have a fundraiser with USATT at US Open with a banquet to get rest of TT community involved

Money

- ST: not a lot of money for all of them
- David: could have applied for money, but none of them applied
- ST: a struggle to get 4 women to go to a divisional meet, then bringing them to College Nationals, we jumped ahead of ourselves, it is going to take longer
 - it has stagnated

- why not 3 player teams
- Meier: hire someone that teaches us how to fundraise?
- ST: not only money, but leadership, drive, enthusiasm are lacking

Ralph Presley recognized to speak

- AAU lots of girls in the sport and have lower numbers of teams
- Davis Cup format

Less number more teams?

- yes, we would have more schools in Nationals
- is it good for right now? Yes...quick fix
- 3 player teams; different format, logistics, hope is for better stability
- David: not enough women's leaders
- Meier: poll why they didn't show up..."ask the cow"

Motion: next season, that the regional/nationals are teams of 3 people

Proposed: Seemant

2nd: Willy

- David: don't see as three people helping the stability
- WL: the dissatisfaction of never returning is solved by having 3 person teams
- WL: also don't take it as seriously as the men do
- Meier: need to survey these people why they didn't come

Motion passes: 4-2-1

David: what's the format?

Seemant: ITTF format

Willy: Dan can you readjust to this?

Dan: possibly

NCTTA League—shortening it

Willy: proposing a shortened league

McFarland: asks questions about a calendar item when is Spring/Winter, etc.

-Discussion about possibility of shortening NCTTA league system, putting in more matches

-Fall is better b/c we get new students, more general NCTTA retention

-McFarland: can't do for 2009, it should be for 2010

-WL: Pro's and Cons are tabled for the hub for 2010

-JEW: all the schools need to be competing more then just twice a year, also more frequent as well

-WL: would love to have it end on Jan. 31st and have the champs

-ST: would like to leave it the way it is

-Meier: can you break up the Fall Div meets early deadlines

-McFarland: bad, and board agrees as the college kids organizing it procrastinate

-McFarland: meets scheduled in spring are difficult because there is no time

2010 Championships

- When to have them, how to manage our league according to it
- when can we release our 2010 Championships
- WL: we want to reach our full numbers in 2010 championships and future
- Radar: knowing when they qualify and time to prepare to go is fairly small in number and it is very difficult to get it all done.
- WL: maybe sending an email to top schools of division prior to final regional meet to get going on fundraising, etc. EARLY

2008 ACUI REPORT—ACUI in FUTURE

- WL: we are the NCTTA we do everything that is College Table Tennis, so we are involved in everything that is that
- good recruitment tools
- how long are we putting them together, how long are we putting the two events together?
- Do we still promote/support ACUI? WL: say yes
- ACUI is a way to keep a relationship with College TT schools (McFarland)
- WL: would like to have NCTTA/ACUI on same weekends in same schools if it happens
- ST: set certain standards for our regionals, tables with holes, playing facility inferior
- WL: Not a TT organization, educational non for profit, so they are not TT people
- WL: may want to move it's championships to a June date and that could be an eventual reality
 - WL: if they want to do the June champs, we would be involved b/c we are NCTTA, so we still run the event for them.
- Meier: are we saying that teams that qualify are playing singles?
- McFarland: to increase money into organization, ppl that want to play in Singles have a membership fee for both; 50 dollars a person for singles membership fee

ACUI Report

- ST: let's keep on sending our ppl to their regionals
- WL: we can do our own singles, we should not forget about ACUI
- ST: if they move their event will be done, June is bad date
- DD: there is a place for recreational TT and there is a place for Competitive table tennis, there is no reason why both can't be served
- Meier: open singles championships, why qualify?

2009 Championship Bids

- 1) Rochester Bid
 - 2) New Haven, CT put in a bid
 - 3) Presley put in a bid from Atlanta Parks & Rec
- McFarland: did Disney ever put anything in
 - JEW: we are not in it for the money and as soon as that was said they dropped out
 - JEW: didn't have space, tables or they didn't have enough time to put in a bid, but a lot were interested b/c Willy put the information on Sports Commission website

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:12pm

