

**2015 NEISA Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**December 5, 2014**

1. Call to Order (President: Jake Bradt '16, Harvard)
  - a.) President Bradt called meeting to order at 9:02 AM
  - b.) Roll Call (Bradt):
    - i.) 1 Graduate and 1 Undergraduate vote per every Regular Member School.
    - ii.) Paper sign-in sheet circulated
2. Additions to the Agenda (Assad)
  - a.) Long agenda, try to stay on topic and keep the conversation moving
3. Approval of November Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Assad)
4. NEISA Committee Reports
  1. Commissioner's Report: Justin Assad, Dartmouth College
    - a.) Working on getting more traffic to website; call for input on the website
    - b.) Thank you to Mike for helping get smaller programs up and running
    - c.) Membership status is a concern, especially because of implications for nationals berths
    - d.) Many have helped put on some great women's events, boon to the conference
    - e.) Jeff Bresnahan (Conn College): Membership concerns need to be addressed in an aggressive fashion
      - i.) We are a large conference but still losing nationals berths
      - ii.) Assad: We are looking into having a committee to explore issue
      - iii.) Weidenbacker (UNH): We can put more effort into that area,
  2. President's Report: Bradt
    - a.) Congratulations to NEISA on a great season, top finishes at national championships and ACCs from NEISA teams
    - b.) Encourage undergraduates to consider running for executive committee
    - c.) Assad: Bradt has been working with former NEISA President to compile a document of rules and regulations for reference at events. Good example of undergraduate involvement.
  3. Treasurer's Report: Assad
    - a.) See report on website

- b.) Reid unable to attend meeting, Assad summarized report
    - i.) Approximate balance of \$75,000 anticipated at end of year
    - ii.) Deficit from Spring Nationals was only \$4,000 for conference
  - c.) 2016 Slate of Events that will incur an Umpire Surcharge
    - i.) Participating teams at certain regattas will pay \$100 per team
    - ii.) Events include: SNETR, Friis, Marchiando, Staake, NE TR Champs, NE MR Champs
    - iii.) O'Connor: Umpires are worth every penny at those events
    - iv.) Assad: Motion to charge \$100 per team attending above events
    - v.) Motion seconded, motion approved
  - d.) Increase the Regatta Entry Fee Cost for Teams Scheduling 1-16
    - i.) Reason for increase in cost is to be able to pay judges at conference championships
    - ii.) Teams in positions 1-16 attend most of these regattas and have means to pay increased fee
    - iii.) Fee increases are small and proportionate to ranking position
    - iv.) Assad: Motion to increase entry fee cost for teams scheduling 1-16; proposed cost of \$100, seconded
    - v.) John Ingalls (Salve Regina): Does this guarantee umpires at events?
    - vi.) O'Connor: No, but won't charge fee unless umpires are there
    - vii.) Motion passes
  - e.) Establishing a NEISA Investment Committee
    - i.) Treasurer Reid proposed establishing a committee, Assad decided to table a vote for a meeting of the Executive Committee
    - ii.) Wilkinson: Need to appoint someone to address 501(c)(3) status and investments
      - 1.) Major tax exposure but no filings
      - 2.) Stan Shrier (BU) agrees to take on responsibility
4. NEISA Scheduling Coordinator's Report: Frank Pizzo, Bowdoin
- a.) Look at NEISA 2016 Google Doc, not too much to update
  - b.) Ken Legler: Does NEISA want him to make his booklet again?
    - i.) Assad: Worthwhile endeavor, has been beneficial
    - ii.) Zach Leonard (Yale): Should be a PDF and add more to it
    - iii.) Matt Linblad (MIT): Schedule is almost immediately obsolete because so many changes, but other information is very useful
    - iv.) Assad: Lots of information in there that people don't know to look for

v.) Ken: Email me suggestions on what to include

5. NEISA Awards Committee Report: Frank Pizzo in place of Amanda Callahan

- a.) All releases go to NEISA webpage,
- b.) Changes in All-America committee (Adam Werblow stepped down)
- c.) Committee does well at ensuring NEISA well represented at national award level
- d.) NEISA sailor of the week can be nominated by anyone by email (Sailors, coaches, etc.)
  - i.) Discussions take place on Mondays
- e.) Crew nomination forms in the spring
- f.) All-America committee considering increasing size of All-America Crew award (up to around 25)
  - i.) Skip Whyte: Debate over how many crews should be named All American. What are rules on that?
  - ii.) O'Connor: There is a firm maximum but not always met
- g.) Bresnahan: We do have rotation in place for this position. Who is rotating off?
  - i.) Greg Wilkinson: "Not sure, but I hope its me"
  - ii.) Pizzo: Not sure who's rotating off, but let me know if you are interested in rotating on. Should be coaches of sailors who will be at a lot of top events, need to be able to see crews sail the boats and not go numbers alone.
  - iii.) Linblad: I've been on the committee and it's a lot of work.
  - iv.) Pizzo: Not bad in the fall but big time commitment in the spring, conference call or two every week, lots of time spent around conference championships, several hours per night at nationals
  - v.) Assad: Thank you to everyone who has worked on committee

6. Boats and Safety Report: Commissioner Assad in place of Fran Charles (MIT)

- a.) Fran is very passionate about head injuries. All teams should consider wearing helmets
- b.) Cold weather decisions are prerogative of host
  - i.) Weather determined, depends on conditions and level of preparedness, many sailors have sailed with inappropriate drysuits
  - ii.) Whyte: Need consistent protocol on drysuits vs wetsuits
  - iii.) Assad: Up to host, drysuits accepted at all events
- c.) O'Connor: Experience at MIT and Bowdoin with helmets?
  - i.) Pizzo: Raised booms have been helpful
  - ii.) Linblad: Was a doubter but it seems we have had fewer

concussions

- d.) Wilkinson: Concussion survey emailed around, not scientific, hard to read into it
- e.) Assad: We should consider raised booms, more accepted than helmets
  - i.) Could be quick adjustment
  - ii.) Long leech on LP sails, so booms are essentially the same height
  - iii.) Leonard: LP won't redesign sails, big part of the problem, will be redesigned in next few years
  - iv.) Ken: Larks coming in spring will have slightly higher booms, leeches should be parallel to water, similar to uneven stairs at night

Assad: Let's send around roll call sheet for people who came in late

- a.) No bathroom breaks scheduled
  - i.) Everyone can leave for bathroom trips when they desire
- b.) Informal discussion format OK unless it gets too heated
  - i.) O'Connor: Clarification on procedure?
  - ii.) Assad: Need to make a proposal, get it seconded, then have discussion
- c.) Linblad: No food/drink allowed in room, we will all break that rule, clean up after yourself

7. Judge Coordinator's Report: Assad in place of Dan Rabin, Brown

- a.) Proposal to Extend Judge Pay to include Men's and Women's Singlehanded, Schell and Urn, and Spring New England Fleet Racing Championships
  - i.) Assad: Motion to extend judge pay to the Men's and Women's Singlehandeds, the Schell and Urn, and the Women's and Coed NE Fleet Race Championships
  - ii.) Seconded, motion passed unanimously
- b.) Proposal to Increase Officer Stipends
  - i.) Assad: Stipends not commensurate to time and effort spent on officer roles
  - ii.) Legler: It's about respect
  - iii.) Assad: Motion to increase the officer stipend for the Treasurer and Commissioner to the level of the Scheduling Coordinator at \$1500/semester
  - iv.) Seconded, passed unanimously (28-0)

8. Performance Ranking Committee Report: Brian Swingly, CGA

- a.) Swingly: Report on website

- b.) Womens ranking working well
- c.) Always discussions about tweaks on coed side:
  - i.) Number of scores to be kept
  - ii.) Removing a few weekends from the rankings
  - iii.) Not counting any weekends after weekend 9
  - iv.) Conclusion: No matter what you end up doing, things shake out roughly the same
- d.) Who would be in favor of ending the performance-ranking season after weekend 9?
  - i.) Some merit to stop counting after Wknd 9 because qualifying teams get a double boost from ACCs, other teams don't have a chance to move up if you don't make ACCs, recent example is Dartmouth dropping in rankings after not qualifying this fall
  - ii.) Legler: Changes incentives, story about potentially sitting on Bowdoin, didn't do it and then didn't make team race champs, so supports stopping scoring after week 9
  - iii.) Bresnahan: Disagree, performance throughout the entire season should be considered and those few events after week 9 don't change that
  - iv.) Linblad: Stopping after week 9 would make sense because that weekend determines entire season after that point, more fair to stop then
  - v.) Whyte: Should stop after week 10 because should include B-level Sister Esther Regatta
  - vi.) Swingly: Very few teams use ACT score, getting ACT spot gives a score bump to qualifying teams that non-qualifying teams don't get, unfair playing field
  - vii.) Swingly: straw poll for committee
- e.) With the number of competition weekends decreasing, is there a need to count fewer weekends than our current 5 + Fall Champs?
  - i.) Swingly: Always discussion about what scores are kept, committee strongly favors keeping number of scores as is
  - ii.) Bresnahan: Not much movement in rankings if remove a score
  - iii.) Whyte: No drops at regattas in college sailing but have unlimited drops in performance ranking. Teams going to lots of events should declare in advance which events they want to count to have parity between teams in NEISA
  - iv.) Wilkinson: Adding more throwouts by reducing number of scores that count change incentives and distort rankings

- v.) Leonard: We should pick weekends that just don't count at all, let everyone rest
- vi.) Jeff: Having to compete on specific weekends tie teams hands, other events occurring on campus with students so forcing teams to compete on certain weekends hurts smaller teams
- vii.) Swingly: straw poll, 5 + Schell or 6 + Schell scores
  - 1. 10 in favor of 5
  - 2. 17 in favor of 6
- f.) ACC/ACT Score
  - i.) Issue with format of the previous straw poll, committee will still use it despite score numbers getting conflated
  - ii.) Bresnahan: Winning ACT should not put you above any team that made the ACC, you made different tournaments and that hierarchy shouldn't be changed by performance at ACT
- g.) Slate of Regattas
  - i.) Committee recommends the following changes:
    - 1.) Remove Stuart Walker Trophy (low participation, insurance)
    - 2.) Add Sacred Heart Trophy
    - 3.) Remove Protest Trophy (low participation)
    - 4.) Remove Middlebury Cup (low participation)
    - 5.) Add Central Series at Boston College
  - ii.) Swingly: Motion to accept slate of regattas as proposed by committee, seconded
  - iii.) Jade Forsberg '17 (Middlebury): Stu Walker is the only event we host every year, not fair to take away only event from a small team because other teams drop it
    - 1.) Swingly: I agree, we have tried to help improve regattas by increasing their ranking point implications. Every event is up for debate every year and hosts should do what they can to bolster their event if they want it to be a ranked event.
  - iv.) Assad: Teams should consider talking to Scheduler about which weekends work best to host events
  - v.) Assad: Conversation has gone on for too long, close discussion
  - vi.) Motion passed with 28 in favor, 8 opposed
- h.) Swingly: Bern Noack rotating off committee, contact Assad or me if interested in joining committee

9. Competition Committee Report: Greg Wilkinson, BC
  - a.) Contingency plan for nationals qualification is to use resumes. ICSA president asked that NEISA reconsider that. Better contingency plan is having another regatta, but changing schedules at the last minute creates the problem of no-show penalties, which ICSA indicated would not be waived.
    - i.) O'Connor: Mitch Brindley says that other conferences won't support a no-show penalty waiver? Other conferences may have to deal with a similar problem.
    - ii.) Wilkinson: No-show penalties are levied by ICSA president. I was told that a waiver could be considered if all other options are explored and ruled out, but looks very unlikely that they would grant an exemption.
    - iii.) Spring contingency plan is using performance ranking --Re-visit spring TR rules, will be addressed in scheduling meeting
  - b.) Competition committee considered whether to keep 10-race daily limit. Committee believes ICSA should keep/adopt 10-race daily limit.
    - i.) Wilkinson: Motion to recommend to ICSA to keep/adopt 10-race daily limit, seconded
    - ii.) O'Connor: Very few opportunities to go over 10 races in a day
    - v.) Call to vote, proposal passes 30-1
  - c.) NEISA MR Champs
    - i.) Wilkinson: Majority of committee does not support proposed format change to NEISA Match Race Champs.
    - i.) Ingalls: Seeding round robin on day 1 doesn't really matter, might as well just not show up. Yale was seeded 8<sup>th</sup> a few years ago and won the event. It's basically a practice event.
    - ii.) Assad: There aren't that many opportunities to match race in college sailing, so we should mimic the format that college sailors will use after finishing college sailing
    - iii.) Leonard: We don't exactly mimic other post-college formats, so there's no need to stick in that rationale when determining match racing format
    - iv.) Wilkinson: We should have some sort of elimination format
    - v.) Assad: Can you take that back to the competition committee?
    - vi.) O'Connor: In the committee, we want to ask ICSA to change it first before we change NEISA's format.
    - vii.) Wilkinson: Procedural rules say NEISA should mimic ICSA format wherever possible, asking ICSA to change first allows us to then adopt the format we want while fulfilling

our obligation to mimic ICSA's

- d.) Owen Trophy
  - i.) Wilkinson: Committee wants to remove some schools from Owen Trophy host rotation to make it more centrally located
  - ii.) Mollicone: Owen is for ICSA's founding teams, basically Ivy League schools and service academies. Teams are considering not going because it will be at Cornell
  - iii.) Wilkinson: Motion to remove Dartmouth and Cornell from the hosting rotation to keep event more centrally located, seconded
  - iv.) Motion passed unanimously
- f.) Linblad: Motion to change report on Saturday to 10:30am for NEISA events with two fleets.
  - i.) Saves teams cost of Friday hotel rooms
  - ii.) Teams can save money without changing the racing, because wind doesn't fill until later in the day for most venues anyway
  - iii.) Assad: When coaching at UVM, we changed our report time to later and it worked well.
  - iv.) Stan: Any team can also change their own event's report time of their own accord. It need not be a rule
  - v.) O'Connor: To clarify, the motion only applies to 2-fleet regattas
  - vi.) Wilkinson: You can make up for the lost time with efficiency, and this will save Bowdoin \$5,000 per semester and Dartmouth \$3,000 per semester. We waste a lot of time in the morning anyway.
  - vii.) Ingalls: We could consider having race-limit regattas. If you finish all X number of races in one day, then you don't come back on Sunday and have the day off.
  - viii.) Leonard: 10-race rule was instituted because Navy would try to run all the races in one day so Charleston could get home earlier. When sailors got off the water, they couldn't even keep the different races straight. There was no learning.
  - ix.) Forsberg: Smaller and student run teams would appreciate the later start time because we don't have the money for Friday hotels.
  - x.) Middlebury guy: Being forced to stop racing due to a race limit when everyone wants to sail is less fun for everyone. We want to be sailing, so why not do a time limit?
  - xi.) Assad: This is all good discussion but we need to stay on the

topic of this motion.

xii.) Assad: Clarified motion. Motion passed 35-6.

xiii.) Assad: Intent of the motion was that regattas with two or more fleets have later start time. Regattas with three fleets should follow suit despite the vote specifically pertaining to two fleet regattas.

g.) New Fall Schedule Ideas

i.) Wilkinson: We have been asked to look into changing to a new fall schedule. Trying to have a slightly shorter fall schedule, improve conference and interconference competitions, preventing conflicts between conference championships and interconference events. Having in-conference and interconference parts of the schedule.

ii.) See Excel sheet

iii.) First 3 weekends of the season would not include any out of conference teams, huge reduction in interconference competition

iv.) At first glance, fewer interconference regattas sounds like worse sailing, but particularly in NEISA this isn't a problem

1. Assad: This is complicated, but will benefit the teams in NEISA that would normally be shut out of these events

2. Wilkinson: I've talked with other conferences and some support it.

3. Ken: This is good for our conference, some other conferences wouldn't benefit but we need to consider ourselves first.

4. Whyte: This will be a major change but it will be nice to have NEISA compete against each other early in the season

v.) Next idea: eliminate ACCs

1. Shorter season can't work with ACC included because so many conflicts between conference championships and national championships

2. Could replace with series of ACC/ACT-like events

vi.) Weidenbacker: What are the implications for performance rankings?

1. Swingly: If we adopt this change, we would likely have to redo the performance ranking system.

**Old Business:**

5. Election of NEISA Executive Board for 2015

- a.) Assad: We really need to get this done first because this needs to happen today

**Commissioner:** Justin Assad - Dartmouth

**President:** Undergraduate

- a.) Nominations: Jade Forsberg '17 (Middlebury), Hannah Lynn '17 (BC), Walter Florio '18 (Conn College)

- b.) Hannah Lynn was elected

**Vice-President:** Undergraduate

- a.) Nominations: Jade Forsberg '17 (Middlebury), Walter Florio '18 (Conn College), Jen Lee '17 (UConn)

- b.) Jade Forsberg was elected

**Secretary:** Undergraduate

- a.) Nominations: Walter Florio '18 (Conn College), Kevin Coakley '18 (Harvard)

- b.) Kevin Coakley was elected

**Treasurer:** Alden Reid - BC

**Schedule Coordinator:** Frank Pizzo - Bowdoin

**Northern Regional Director:** Diana Weidenbacker - UNH

**Central Regional Director:** Mike O'Connor - Harvard

**Southern Regional Director:** John Mollicone - Brown

**Director of Boats and Safety:** Fran Charles - MIT

**Director of Special Projects:** Brian Swingly - CGA

**Northern Regional Representative:** Undergraduate

- a.) Nominations: Ryan Gershunny '18 (UNH)

**Central Regional Representative:** Undergraduate

- a.) Nominations: Tyler Paige '18 (Tufts), Peter Lynn '19 (BC), Charlie Welsh '18 (BU)

- b.) Charlie Welsh was elected

**Southern Regional Representative:** Undergraduate

- a.) Nominations: Walter Florio '18 (Conn College), Jen Lee '17 (UConn)

- b.) Walter Florio was elected

**At Large Representative/Scheduling Coordinator Administrator:**

Undergraduate

- a.) Nominations for both At Large Representative: Jen Lee '17 (UConn), Tyler Paige '18 (Tufts)

- b.) Both elected, positions to be decided later

**At Large Representative/NEISA Awards Administrator:** Undergraduate

- a.) Motion to approve Board, seconded, passed

6. Date of Team Race New England Championship: John Mollicone, Brown
- a.) We should move TR New Englands later in the season because it's too early and teams don't have enough time to prepare
  - b.) Proposal is for 2017, not this coming spring
  - c.) Call for input
    - i.) Wilkinson: NEISA has done very well at TR nationals, so the right teams are going to nationals
    - ii.) Stan: It's too early in the season, there's a lot of bad boathandling at the event because there isn't enough time to prepare for it
    - iii.) Mollicone: We moved the championship earlier in the season to match SEISA and SAISA, but they can get on the water much earlier than we can due to weather
    - iv.) Stan: Doesn't allow sailors weekends off when there are so few weekends to prepare before championship

7. Scheduling/Annual Meeting Format Change Proposal: Weidenbacker/Swingly  
UNH/CGA

- a.) Weidenbacker: Annual meeting should be a business meeting and have all the scheduling completed beforehand. Midweek meetings don't work due to scheduling conflicts, so Saturday is best for both small teams and large teams with professional coaches.
- b.) Motion to do NEISA annual meeting on first Sat. of December, done no later than 12:30PM, NEISA scheduling meeting to take place via teleconference or Internet conference
  - i.) Whyte: Proposal sounds great, but whatever happens with scheduling must be clearly communicated so people can weigh in and participate.
  - ii.) O'Connor: Do we need contingency if we don't finish scheduling on Thursday night?
  - iii.) O'Connor: We need Swingly in the room to weigh in on this, he can give us perspective on how what we do fits into ICSA scheduling timeline
- g.) Leonard: How about we say that the scheduling meeting will take place by teleconference?
- h.) Motion changed to reflect this
- i.) Call to vote, passed with 1 opposed

8. Flag System: Skip Whyte, URI

- a.) Whyte: Easier for spectators to know what's going on at the start when flags are used. Easy to do and only laziness prevents it.
- b.) Motion to adopt 1-flag system with warning/preparatory flag to go up at 2

minutes, to be dropped at 1 minute, to be added to existing starting protocol. Still require that we use the X flag and hail. Seconded.

i.) Wilkinson: Horns are primary and have final say over flags, per rule book.

ii.) Jeff: I see this as a luxury, if everyone just tries it instead of making it a rule it might work better.

iii.) Stan: Some horn boxes don't have digital readouts, so having to put up a flag at 2 minutes is difficult.

iv.) Weidenbacker: Some schools don't have boats that can easily raise flags

c.) Straw Poll

i. Not too much support for adopting mandatory flag system

d.) Whyte: Rescind first motion

e.) Whyte: Asks that NEISA make an effort to use flags at events

#### 9. New Business:

a.) NEISA Membership Status Upgrades:

- Wentworth Institute of Technology, Associate to Provisional

- University of New England, Associate to Provisional

- UMass Amherst, Associate to Provisional

- Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Provisional to Regular

- Emmanuel College, Provisional to Regular

i.) O'Connor: Motion to approve slate of upgrades, seconded

ii.) Motion passed unanimously

b.) Appointing of ICSA Committee Reps:

**Hall of Fame:** Ken Legler

**Procedural Rules:** Stan Schreyer

a.) Mollicone: I've been doing that, not Stan

b.) Stan: Yes, he has

**All-America:** Amanda Callahan and one rep as selected by the NEISA Awards

Committee

**Eligibility:** Jeff Bresnahan

**All-Academic:** Matt Lindblad

**Membership and Development:**

**Afterguard:** Skip Whyte

**Championships/Competition:** Greg Wilkinson

**Communications:** Chris Klevan

**Interconference Regattas:** Frank Pizzo

**Appeals:** Mike Kalin

- i.) Motion to accept slate of committee representatives, seconded
  - ii.) Motion passed unanimously
- c.) NEISA Annual Awards
  - NEISA Honor Roll
    - i.) Nominated: Charlie Enright '08 (Brown) and Mark Towill '11 (Brown), Ryan Richards '98 (Tufts)
    - ii.) All three will be honored with NEISA Honor Roll distinction
  - MacArthur Service Award
    - i.) Nominated: Ken Legler '77 (URI)
    - ii.) Ken Legler will be honored with MacArthur Service Award
- d.) Date of Next Annual Meeting:
  - i.) Early January executive committee conference call
  - ii.) Second Thursday of every month
- e.) Adjournment
  - i.) Seconded, passed