

## 2013 NEISA Annual Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2013

1. Call to Order (President – Alex Rudkin '14 RWU)
2. Roll Call (Rudkin): 1 Graduate and 1 Undergraduate per team
3. Additions to the Agenda
  - A. John Ingalls (Salve Regina) requested a discussion of the NEISA Match Race Championship
4. Approval of 2013 Fall Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
  - A. Mr. O'Connor proposed a **motion to accept the Minutes of the 2013 Fall Executive Committee Meeting**, which had been distributed via email. Mr. Rudkin seconded the motion. **It passed.**
5. Commissioner's Report
  - A. Mr. O'Connor reminded those in attendance that in this Annual Meeting every Regular Member School is allowed two votes; one graduate and one undergraduate. He also requested that everyone in attendance sign the attendance sheet. And he reminded everyone that each school is only allowed one vote in matters that pertain to the schedule.
    - i. Mr. O'Connor indicated that our conference is still growing with the addition of three new teams today.
    - ii. He also thanked John Ingalls and John Mollicone for hosting outstanding ICSA Singlehanded Championships and NEISA Match Race Championship.
    - iii. O'Connor warned that increases in our expenses will continue to grow; thus all teams should be prepared for increased fees in the near future.
    - iv. Mr. O'Connor indicated that there are changes to the Executive Committee. He thanked Mr. Bresnahan for his tremendous contribution to the conference as our outgoing Treasurer. He brought NEISA up to date in billing and accounting practices.
    - v. Mr. O'Connor also thanked Mr. Assad for his tireless work in coordinating the schedule. And he thanked Mr. Legler for writing the schedule.
    - vi. Finally he thanked our outgoing President, Alex Rudkin, for all his tremendous work in rewriting the NEISA Regulations and Procedures Manual.
6. President's Report (Alex Rudkin-RWU)
  - A. Mr. Rudkin congratulated Erica Reineke, Juan Carlos Perdomo and Christina Frost for their strong performances at ICSA Singlehanded Nationals. He also congratulated Dartmouth for winning Women's Nationals and Yale for winning Team Race Nationals. He also pointed out that several teams have bought new fleets, and that Tufts will open their new boathouse soon. Mr. Rudkin also thanked everyone who helped him in the process of updating our Regulations and Procedures Manual.
7. Treasurer's Report (Jeff Bresnahan)
  - a. Mr. Bresnahan distributed copies of his report
  - b. He recommended that NEISA should continue to use the billing agency.

- c. Teams were billed for the fall, but we haven't received many payments because the bills went out a bit late.
    - i. The checking account balance does not reflect approximately \$9,000 in bills that are yet to be paid.
  - d. Mr. Bresnahan reminded everyone that billing comes from the schedule with adds and drops factored in.
    - i. Mr. Lindblad asked if teams could get itemized lists, so they can check the accuracy of their bill. He suggested that an electronic method would be best.
    - ii. Bresnahan stated that we have only sent out bills in the amount of \$24,000 because several teams are not set up on the Aging List (including BC, Dartmouth and Fairfield). Therefore we are due a total of approximately \$32,000.
8. All New England Committee Report (Frank Pizzo)
- A. Mr. Pizzo thanked the following for their work on the committee: Jeff Bresnahan, John Mollicone, John Storck and Greg Wilkinson.
  - B. He suggested that nominations for the Sailors of the Week Awards should come from sailors and coaches who aren't on the committee. More nominations would make the process better.
    - i. Said nominations should be sent to Chairman Pizzo with photos whenever possible.
    - ii. Mr. O'Connor suggested that sailors need to nominate players in team racing regattas especially.
  - C. Pizzo informed us that there is a new plan in place to rotate people onto and off of this committee. After a member has served for 5 years, they can be rotated off.
  - D. Pizzo closed by stating that the committee is using a template for the weekly releases so as to remain consistent.
9. Old Business
- A. Performance Ranking System Committee Report (Brian Swingly)
    - i. Mr. Swingly stated that his committee feels the system is pretty accurate and complete.
    - ii. The system will be outlined in the pending Regulations and Procedures Manual.
    - iii. Mr. Bresnahan suggested that we should consider counting fewer scores. He proposed that we count 5 scores plus the conference championship. He also suggested that we count fewer scores (4) so as to enable coaches to give students more weekends off.
    - iv. Mr. Lindblad suggested singlehanded results have too much impact on the PRS, because 1 sailor can have a big impact in selecting team race regattas.
      - a. Lindblad cited Harvard's Juan Perdomo as being a major factor in their ranking.
        - 1) However, it was pointed out that those singlehanded results actually were not a large factor in Harvard's PRS.
        - 2) Lindblad suggested that we have a separate PRS for team racing.
    - v. Mr. Assad asked what the committee decided to do with the Hap Moore Trophy Team Race?
      - a. Swingly stated that no change was made in the Hap Moore's value in PRS.

- vi. Mr. Legler stated that Middlebury would like to change the PRS value of the Stuart Walker Open from C to B level.
    - a. Swingly pointed out that a regatta must have at least 16 boats to be considered for B level.
  - vii. **Mr. Swingly made a motion to count 5 scores plus the Fall Conference Championship for the Coed PRS, and 5 scores in the Women's PRS.**
    - a. O'Connor seconded the motion
    - b. Bresnahan suggested that 4 scores plus the championship would give coaches more leeway in giving sailors time off.
    - c. The motion came to a vote. Only 1 was opposed. **The motion carried.**
  - viii. **Swingly proposed** that the name of the Wellehan Trophy be changed to the "Peak Foliage Regatta", and **to accept the slate of regattas to be counted in the PRS as outlined in his report.**
    - a. O'Connor seconded the motion; **the motion carried.**
  - ix. Swingly stated that we need to re-write the program used in the PRS to bring it up to date. After having been transferred to several different computers the program does not always work. He suggested that for a nominal fee, we could get someone to write a new program in Excel Pro. **Swingly proposed a motion to allot \$300 to pay someone to re-write the PRS program using modern software. O'Connor seconded the motion; the motion carried.**
  - x. Mr. Swingly thanked the current members of the committee, and he suggested that anyone who wants to serve on the committee should contact him.
- B. NEISA Competition Committee Report (O'Connor gave the report because Chairman Wilkinson could not attend). Mr. O'Connor stated that the committee met on 12/3/13. They considered 4 main issues about which they have recommendations.
- i. Scheduling of Team Race Regattas with particular emphasis on the Staake Trophy (which qualifies the 12<sup>th</sup> team for the NE Team Race Championship)
    - a. **O'Connor proposed a motion to move the Staake Trophy to Spring weekend 8; it was seconded by Mr. Lindblad.**
    - b. Skip Whyte stated that URI cannot host the Staake during spring break.
    - c. Lindblad emphasized the importance of the Staake as the last qualifier for TR Champs. He also stated that we need to develop more fleet races for weekends 9 and 10. It is not realistic for teams to spend so much time team racing in the spring, when they only have a chance to qualify for fleet race nationals. He feels Staake should be weekend 8, Marchiando-9 and TR Champs -10.
    - d. Mr. Pizzo says that moving the Staake earlier to weekend 8 will hurt northern teams, because they don't have time on the water to prepare adequately.
    - e. O'Connor pointed out that an earlier qualifier will give the Staake winner more time to prepare for NE's.
    - f. After much discussion the motion to move the Staake Trophy to spring weekend 8 was put to a vote. **The motion carried by a score of 8 to 7.**
  - ii. Expansion of NEISA Spring Team Racing Berth Allocations beyond the top 8 teams.

- a. The Competition Committee proposed the following motions presented by Mr. O'Connor , and seconded by Mr. Assad:
  - 1. **Increase the number of berths at the Wood Trophy TR by 2**
  - 2. **Increase the number of NEISA berths at the Friis from 7 to 8.**
  - 3. **Teams are not allowed to schedule more than 2 team race regattas in a single weekend. They are allowed to sign up as an alternate in a third team race regatta.**
  - 4. After Mr. O'Connor suggested that every team should try to have a representative in the room whenever the NEISA Competition Committee has an Open Meeting, the motion was brought to a vote; **the motion carried** (all in favor).
  
- iii. Regatta Regulations limiting the amount of time spent competing
  - a. The committee feels that we demand too much time spent competing. It is disproportionate with most other sports. Therefore the **Committee is proposing a motion to limit the number of races that can be sailed in any division to ten races per day. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bresnahan.**
    - 1. There was much discussion about the need for such limits.
    - 2. Mr. Leonard suggested that 14 races is a good sample size for any regatta. We do not need to get in 18 races in order to fairly determine a winner.
    - 3. Mr. Ingalls asked how the number of 10 races was arrived at.
    - 4. Mr. Lindblad suggested that such a rule is likely to be adopted by ICSA in the near future.
    - 5. Mr. Charles stated that any guideline that protects our students' ability to do their academic work is good.
    - 6. **The motion came to a vote; it carried**
  - b. **Mr. O'Connor then made a motion to require a 6:00pm cutoff time on Saturday at all NEISA Regattas.**
    - 1. Because much of the discussion on this topic already happened, the motion came to a vote. **The motion carried.**
  
- iv. Eligibility of Transfer Students to compete is NEISA/ICSA
  - a. **Mr. Bresnahan proposed a motion to require that a student who transfers they must sit out one semester of competition either immediately prior to or immediately after the transfer. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor.**
    - 1. Mr. Bresnahan pointed out that it is difficult for the teams that lose the transfers.
    - 2. Some of the undergraduates expressed the fact this makes the life a transfer student more difficult.
    - 3. Mr. Leonard suggested that we should not create rules that we cannot enforce.
    - 4. The motion was brought to a vote; **it failed.**

5. Mr. Bresnahan asked that this topic be discussed again at the next NEISA Competition Committee Meeting.

C. Special Projects Report

- i. Website update: the ICSA Webmaster has requested \$4000 to create a NEISA website using the current ICSA model as template.
  1. ICSA will pay for half of the cost. It could be set up this spring
- ii. **Mr. O'Connor made a motion to accept the ICSA Webmaster's proposal and to allot \$3000 to the new website.**
  1. Mr. O'Connor stated that this type of work is too time consuming for a volunteer, so we should pay someone to handle it for us.
  2. Mr. Legler asked who the webmaster is? Is he any good?
  3. Mr. Lindblad stated that we do have a relationship with him through ICSA. He will not take our money and run.
  4. Mr. Lindblad also asked that anyone who is willing to help compile and download the content, they should get in touch with him.

**5. The motion was brought to a vote; it passed unanimously.**

D. Report from the ad hoc Jury Coordinator Committee

- i. Mr. Farrar gave the report in lieu of Ms. Callahan. He started by stating that people need not be certified to be qualified.
  1. We need to make judging and umpiring more glamorous and fun to increase incentive for our recent graduates to get involved.
  2. Money can solve most problems. We need to increase the amount and number of stipends we can give out. He suggested that each team could have their own fund to pay judge/umpire stipends.
  3. We need to increase our number of available umpires to handle our team racing needs.
  4. The current system is not working well enough.
  5. Mr. Lindblad stated that simply hiring a new coordinator will not solve the problems. We need to put a new system in place in order for the Coordinator to have a chance to succeed

E. Schedule Changes (Assad)

- i. **Mr. Assad proposed a motion to change the host of the 2014 ACC from BC to USCGA, it was seconded by Mr. O'Connor. The motion carried unanimously.**
- ii. **Motion to remove the Victorian Urn from the ICSA Interconference Schedule as 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor; it carried unanimously.**

F. **Mr. Bresnahan proposed a motion to increase the annual stipend for the Schedule Coordinator to \$3000. (\$1500 per semester) and to pay the Schedule Writer \$400. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Connor**

- i. Mr. Bresnahan pointed out that MAISA pays their schedule coordinator this much, yet they do less work than our coordinator.
- ii. **The motion carried**

10. New Business

- A. Membership Update
  - i. **Mr. O'Connor made a motion to transition UMass Dartmouth, Sacred Heart and Holy Cross from Provisional Membership status to Regular Member status. Mr Assad seconded the motion; it carried.**
  - ii. **Mr. O'Connor made a motion to transition Colleges of the Fenway from Associate Membership status to Provisional member status. Mr. Assad seconded; the motion carried.**
- B. Revised NEISA Regulations and Procedures Manual (Rudkin)
  - i. Mr. Rudkin stated the document he has presented should be used as a rule book style reference guide. This system should enable us to make changes more efficiently.
  - ii. Mr. O'Connor stated that our goal is to get this document finalized as soon as possible. It will be an important piece of our new website. He encouraged everyone to analyze it thoroughly, so we get it right this time. When we do get it finalized the Executive Committee can vote to adopt it any time.
- C. The following teams are looking for coaches:
  - i. Sacred Heart (Asst Coach)
  - ii. UConn (Head Coach)
  - iii. Mitchell College (Head Coach)
- D. Head Injury Prevention Study (Charles)
  - i. Sailing is beginning to come under the spotlight because of the increased number of significant heads injuries.
  - ii. FJs seem to cause more head injuries than 420s
  - iii. We need to educate people better on dealing with these injuries, and we need to educate our players better on how to avoid them.
  - iv. Possible preventive measures:
    - 1. Raise the height of the mainsail and gooseneck.
      - a. MIT and Harvard have already experimented with this process. It is easy and cost effective to add axtrusions to our current rigs.
      - b. We might be able to get a sponsor to pay for the process
    - 2. Carbon fiber booms, which are much lighter, but more expensive.
    - 3. Mr. Charles conducted a straw poll to see if NEISA feels this should be brought to ICSA. The consensus was yes.
- E. NEISA Annual Awards
  - i. Honor Roll
    - a. **Taylor Canfield '11- BC: Match Racing National Champion**
    - b. Bill Widnall '53- MIT: IOD World Champion
  - ii. MacArthur Service Award
    - a. **Alex Rudkin '14 Roger Williams.**
- F. NEISA Executive Committee Elections
  - i. Commissioner: O'Connor
  - ii. President : Ian Storck '15 Dartmouth

- iii. Vice President : Peter Bailey '15 Brown
  - iv. Secretary: Jake Bradt '16 Harvard
  - v. Treasurer : Alden Reid
  - vi. Schedule Coordinator: Assad
  - vii. Northern Regional Director: Pizzo
  - viii. Central Regional Director: Wilkinson
  - ix. Southern Regional Director: Mollicone
  - x. Director of Boats and Safety: Fran Charles
  - xi. Director of Special Projects : Brian Swingly
  - xii. Northern Regional Representative: Nate Greason '17 Dartmouth
  - xiii. Central Regional Representative: Hannah Lynn '17 BC
  - xiv. Southern Regional Representative: Alex Giordano '15 Conn College
  - xv. At Large Representative: Chloe Lepert '15 MIT
  - xvi. At Large Representative : Vicky Zeamer '15 Wellesley
- G. Tentative Date of next meeting: 4/26/14
- H. Straw poll by John Ingalls to see if NEISA supports moving 2015 NEISA Match Race Champs earlier in the fall season. The consensus was yes.
- I. Adjournment 12:39pm