

**NEISA Executive Committee
October Conference Call Minutes**

October 22, 2015

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Executive Board (online)
3. Approval of the May Meeting Minutes
 - a. The May Meeting Minutes were approved.
4. Call for New Business
5. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees
 - a. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Assad)
 - i. Commissioner Assad discussed the following items: contingency plan for fall championships, umpires in the conference and the need to develop new teams/programs.
 - b. Scheduling Coordinator's Report (Pizzo)
 - i. Mr. Pizzo reminded those on the call where they can find the conference's rules and regulations regarding scheduling
 - ii. Mr. Pizzo also discussed the addition of a B-level team race on the weekend of the Marchiando trophy
 1. **Connecticut College and BU as potential hosts**
 - c. Jury Coordinator's Report (Rabin)
 - i. No report of the Jury Coordinator
6. Regional Representative Reports – tabled until November meeting
7. Old Business
 - a. NEISA In-Conference Draft Proposal (Whyte/Pizzo)
 - i. Mr. Whyte and Mr. Pizzo circulated the proposal prior to the call
 - ii. Mr. Shreyer: BU picked 11th and is content with their schedule.
 - iii. Mr. Bresnahan: Current system is not broken; the current sail-in system provides a lot of opportunity for teams; need to make sure we aren't eliminating opportunities for certain teams; sail-in berths also a means of improving the northern New England events.
 - iv. Mr. Wilkinson: sail-in berths allow immediate improvement; although, to Jeff's point, the northern New England events don't always fill up (eg. Barnet – 13 teams, Maine Maritime – 13-14 teams).
 - v. Commissioner Assad: Personally believes that sail-ins are helpful for the lower teams; other concern is that if you take away sail-ins, these events might drop down to 8-9 teams.
 - vi. Mr. Wilkinson: the conversation about the draft system is becoming too complicated; we can potentially have a separate conversation on sail-in berths; the proposal is a draft system, doesn't replace sail-in berth conversation.
 - vii. Mr. Whyte: Current proposal would take berths back from sail-ins, but the proposal can be modified; if you want to make B-level events more valuable, need a system to do so; it is currently difficult for marginal team to make much hay at B-level events

- viii. Commissioner Assad: back to the big question at hand, draft vs. performance ranking.
- ix. Mr. Legler: I think that the draft system is better; on the subject of sail-ins, BU is far improved team this year and one could argue that they benefited from this system.
- x. Mr. Wilkinson: In favor of a draft; but want a separate conversation re sail-ins and would possibly like to see it integrated with the draft system.
- xi. Ms. Weidenbacker: In favor of a draft, but want equity for below-bubble teams; sail-in is a separate discussion; want to ensure that the top teams aren't getting everything.
- xii. Commissioner Assad: Asked Mr. Swingly if you finish 2nd or 3rd at a B-level events consistently, where does that put you in performance rankings?
- xiii. Mr. Swingly: weight of be level events, doesn't allow you to move 15th to 2nd, but can move 15th to 8th; definitely room for movement if you only sail B-level events.
- xiv. Commissioner Assad: is there anyone who is vehemently against the draft system?
- xv. Mr. Whyte: top 10 still get all they normally get; what this proposal achieves is that below the top 8-10 cliff, you still get a convenient, predictable schedule; possibly get some a-level events.
- xvi. Mr. Legler: the sail-ins do help teams; get into better regattas and more scheduling points for next year; example: Penobscot Bay Open, harder since became sail-in for Denmark.
- xvii. Mr. Whyte: I am hopeful that we can get draft concept happening for next scheduling meeting; goal is to pass this fall without losing another year.
- xviii. Resolved that Mr. Whyte and Mr. Pizzo will look into revising the draft proposal to include a provision maintaining sail-in system.

8. New Business

- a. Hosts for 2017 NEISA Championships
 - i. Commissioner Assad: reminder that the Executive Board voted to elect NEISA Championships one year in advance; set 2016 Spring Championships in April of last year and set Spring 2017 Champs at November Scheduling Meeting; currently inviting bids for hosts.
 - ii. Commissioner Assad: reminder that the 2016 Spring championships are at the following locations:
 - 1. TR Champs: CGA
 - 2. Coed Champs: Dartmouth
 - 3. Women's Champs: Yale
 - iii. Mr. Mollicone: do we have a back-up venue if it is a harsh winter?
 - iv. Commissioner Assad: NE's will be in May so we don't expect an issue but we will pick back up
 - v. Commissioner Assad: will send out the hosting rules to the NEISA list after the conference call.
- b. Date/Time of NEISA annual Meeting and Interconference Draft

- i. Commissioner Assad: proposal is to split two meetings, annual meeting in the evening during the weekend and draft/scheduling meeting conducted via conference call during the week
 - ii. Mr. Bresnahan: I proposed this; issues are that it may mean that it may limit undergraduate involvement; why can't scheduling be online?; proposes rather than weekend, we do a Friday at noon.
 - iii. Ms. Weidenbacker: will be easier for students if our meetings are on the weekends, not in the evenings; students are supposed to prioritize academics.
 - iv. Commissioner Assad: if student leaders cant make phone calls or week nights, how much input are we getting at the end of the day?
 - v. Mr. Florio: undergraduates need to put in the time that is required of them; Friday afternoon or nighttime meeting is best; students do not work during the day on weekends.
 - vi. Mr. Whyte: we need to preserve our face-to-face opportunities; would be a shame to lose this.
 - vii. Commissioner Assad: agree, face-to-face is very important.
 - viii. Mr. Shreyer: I agree with a phone call during the week; also think that a weekend meeting is very valuable.
 - ix. Mr. Wilkinson: business of conference happens during the annual meeting, agrees to face-to-face; we need to have full representation at the one opportunity for us all to meet.
 - x. Commissioner Assad: seems like the consensus is that we would like to move scheduling meeting to conference call or some other remote format. Commissioner Assad proposed that we move the scheduling meeting to virtual meeting via conference call or some other format and that is move to a week night in December
 - xi. Mr. Swingly seconded but we do not have a quorum; the proposal was rescinded, can't even put it on the table without quorum.
 - xii. A straw vote was taken on Commissioner Assad's proposal with an amendment to also move the annual moving to a weekday, either in the evening or the workday.
- c. Proposal to shorten the fall season and decrease the amount of interconference competition during the fall (Mr. Wilkinson)
- i. Mr. Wilkinson: there seems to be support for:
 - 1. Shortening the fall regular season; and
 - 2. Decrease in the amount of interconference competition during the fall.
 - ii. Mr. Wilkinson: the end result would be to strengthen competition within the conference; imagine college sailing where interconference competition is not the end all be all of competition; more weekends like the Schell/Urn weekend; have more NEISA teams competing, not fewer.
 - iii. Mr. Wilkinson: would build out short inter-conference schedule with 3 weekends; MAISA discussed this on recent call and is in touch with Commissioner Assad to work on this.

- iv. Mr. Legler: surprised that other conferences would go for this; would be good for NEISA.
- v. Mr. Whyte: I understand the concern of NEISA teams being excluded but think road trips earlier in the season is attractive; would not like it if all interconference competition was only later in the season, see value in early season interconference competition.
- vi. Mr. Legler: would hate to give up the Truxton (Navy Fall).
- vii. Mr. Bresnahan: would be in favor of this.
- viii. Ms. Weidenbacker: doing this might increase people attending a variety of events in conference
- ix. Commissioner Assad: Agrees, NEISA teams not as hard pressed for interconference berths; there is a trickle-down effect for the lower teams.
- x. Mr. Wilkinson: newer development is that Ward Cromwell (CofC) questioning the value of ACCs; has ACC become a less valuable event?
- xi. Mr. Leonard: disagrees about this view of ACCs; for the initial proposal, but not eliminating the ACCs.
- xii. Commissioner Assad: agree with Mr. Leonard; moving to just three interconference events is a drastic change so having one more to qualify for is a positive.
- xiii. Mr. Shreyer: change regarding interconference regattas is okay, but not thrilled about losing two weeks of the season.
- xiv. Mr. Whyte: support Mr. Shreyer's take on the matter; perhaps we could taper the spring season; opposed to shortening fall season
- xv. Mr. Pizzo: in support of shorter fall season.
- xvi. Commissioner Assad: in support of shorter fall season.
- xvii. Mr. Wilkinson: if anyone wants more information on this, they can contact him; asked that Commissioner Assad appoint a few NEISA people to work with MAISA on this.
- xviii. Commissioner Assad: appointed Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Pizzo to look into this and work with MAISA.

9. Announcements, Time of Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. The next conference call of the NEISA Executive Committee will be Thursday, November 12th at 7pm.
- b. Commissioner Assad made a motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned.