

**NEISA Executive Committee Conference Call Meeting Notes**  
**May 27, 2019**

Action Items

**1. NEISA Specific Action Items**

- a. Reach out to Taylor Martin if you have alternative site suggestions for Singlehanded Nationals 2020
- b. Review the [final draft](#) of the NEISA COVID-19 plan and send in edits or suggestions to Matt Lindblad
- c. Reach out to Mike Kalin if you're interested in filling any open NEISA committee spots

**2. NEISA Action Items involving the ICSA**

- a. Continue to update the ICSA [survey](#) and the ICSA [poll](#) on whether or not your institution is available to sail/train/travel in the Fall

**3. ICSA Action Items**

- a. None

Motions

1. Motion to adopt Lindblad and committees' [report](#) about COVID-19 contingencies as a NEISA guideline that is subject to be updated as new information becomes available.
  - a. Proposed by Kalin
  - b. Voted on and left open for more schools to vote, but seems to be a "yes" unanimously by enough schools to reach quorum. Official results TBA.

**Next Call:** July 15th at 2 PM

**Meeting Notes:**

**I. Call to order at 2:01PM**

- A. [Roll Call](#): Mike Kalin (Commissioner), Frank Pizzo (Graduate Secretary), Jeff Bresnahan (Conn College), Justin Assad (Dartmouth), Greg Wilkinson (BC), Bill Healy (Yale), Brian Nelson (Undergraduate President), Caroline Patten (UVM), Carter Brock (Northeastern), Chris Lash (BU), Cori Radtke (Bowdoin), Diana Weidenbacker (N. Region Rep), Doug Clark (Coast Guard), Emilie Blinderman (Conn College), Emmet Smith (Tufts), Jack Valentino (Undergraduate Secretary), Fran Charles (MIT), John Mollicone (S. Region Rep), Ken Legler (Tufts), Matt Wordell (Mass Maritime), Moose McClintock (URI), Preston Anderson (At large Undergraduate Representative), Dave White (FF/SHU), Taylor Martin (Scheduling Coordinator), Raymond Huffman (MIT), Zachary Leonard (Yale).

**II. Commissioner's Report - Mike Kalin**

- A. Anecdote about an MIT-wide meeting where a professor seemed to be overwhelmingly in support of opening colleges across the country.
  - 1. Mike notes that he hopes this is based in fact and that the death rate will continue to go down.
- B. Mentioned and shared this [resource](#) from the CDC.
- C. At the end of the call, an MIT student will present an automated scheduling system. So if anyone would like to stick around and provide feedback, please stay on the call after this.
- D. We're short on some committees, so if you're interested in serving NEISA... [audio cut out]... please reach out to me.

### III. ICSA Executive Committee Update - Greg Wilkinson

- A. Mitch Brindley said that all ICSA Board Activity that would cost any money to ICSA teams is temporarily put on hold
  - 1. The work of the committees continue, but the decisions on their work are on hold
  - 2. Examples of things on hold:
    - a) Addition of Women's TR National Championship
    - b) Approving funding for Executive Director
- B. ICSA Executive Committee has put their foot down on ICSA legislation
- C. *Clark*: Who's on the Executive Director Committee?
  - 1. *Wilkinson*: Blaine Pedlow (Chairman), Jeff Bresnahan, Fran Charles, Scott from the Midwest, Dana Maglioli, and Molly Carapiet.
- D. *Martin*: Any news on the new tiered schedule?
  - 1. *Wilkinson*: No pause on that progress, except no interconference regattas will be added and dues are frozen
- E. *Assad*: Will this affect the motion to change nationals to a competition-based berth instead of a participation-based berth?
  - 1. *Wilkinson*: It doesn't have to, but if those proposals cause cost increases they will not be given a timeline and will be put on hold.
- F. *Martin*: Do you think the executive committee is going to adopt them without implementation or will ICSA will hold adopting them?
  - 1. *Wilkinson*: They're on hold adopting them.
- G. *Assad*: What does "significant increase in cost to ICSA teams" mean? Is there a number or formula threshold?
  - 1. *Wilkinson*: There is no set definition, but it's anything that is deemed to significantly increase cost that is distributed to teams.
- H. *Clark*: Where does conference realignment fall on that "significant increase test"?
  - 1. *Wilkinson*: The only thing that's been approved is that only 5 conferences have a guaranteed birth at nationals, nothing else.

2. Bresnahan: Executive director committee understands what ICSA is saying, but we're giving them more information about alternative ways to fund this project. This legislation pause is causing us to discover great revenue streams for the future anyways.
- I. Wilkinson: The ICSA COVID-19 Committee has been working hard at preserving the health of the constituents, the conference, and the higher-education environment (cost containment). They've announced that any changes due to COVID will be proportionally applied to team racing and women's racing. Teams must be allowed by their schools to compete. ICSA is saying that remote sailors cannot compete without school permission. Continue to update the [survey](#) and the [poll](#) on whether or not your institution is available to sail/train/travel in the Fall. ICSA will make Fall 2020 decisions on or before July 15th. More than 90% of schools report are facing budget cuts, so we're also evaluating that in the decision. The committee is looking at all scenarios in the fall: business as usual, limiting interconference competition, postponing the Fall ICSA championships, changes or no changes to hourly limits, etc.
  - J. Wilkinson: There is a philosophical position some members in the ICSA take where they evaluate the public perception of our decisions as well. It is no longer an individual philosophy, but also an ICSA guiding principle.
  - K. ICSA action since March
    1. March 11 – Interconference competition suspended
    2. March 13 – All competition suspended
    3. March 18 – Conferences distributed awards, ICSA moved Tulane nationals to 2021
    4. March 20th - Eligibility rules updated to give an extra season to those who lost Spring 2020 sailing
    5. April 18 - Bylaw change to reflect eligibility rules update
    6. May 14 - Formed "Return-to-Racing Task Force"
    7. May 21st - Announced cost containment options for Fall 2020
  - L. Clark: Is a return to sailing committee separate from the ICSA executive committee? Who is on it?
    1. Wilkinson: It's the ICSA executive committee plus Blaine Pedlow and Mike Callahan

#### **IV. Scheduling Coordinator - Taylor Martin**

- A. Martin: We're looking for a host for singlehanded in the Fall. Possibly Niantic YC. Reach out to me if you know somewhere else that's an option.
- B. Healy: If someone else wants to run the event from the shore, that would be great.
  1. Clark volunteers.
- C. Assad: What is going to happen, Greg, with the Fall national championships?

1. *Wilkinson*: I don't know at this time.
2. *Kalin*: We are technically the hosts for Fall Singlehanded Nationals this year.

D. *Kalin*: David, can you explain the Awards Committee status.

1. *Thompson*: ICSA All-Americans Awards will be a video presentation. Announcements are at the end of next week.

## V. COVID Report from previous May Executive Committee Conference Call - Matt Lindblad

A. The [final draft](#) was sent out yesterday, so please review that and let us know if you have any suggestions or edits.

B. These are ways to revamp our regattas with COVID in mind

C. Changes to the document since the last time we talked about it:

1. Committee struggled with creating a competitive balance in the scenarios
  - a) Might be hour-limits to competition and things like that to keep schools relatively even
2. Committee struggled with finding a word for "scrimmage" because that word doesn't exist in our bylaws or procedural rules

D. ICSA has the eventual oversight of the plan and we can limit ourselves further than the ICSA does, but we cannot ignore what they recommend.

E. *Bresnahan*: The only two things that jumped out to me and I'd love information about is: (1) if Conn is not in session as a school and we're not allowed to sail, I don't think Bowdoin and MIT should be penalized for Conn as a school not sailing (2) limiting subs doesn't save money, but limiting two day regattas is how we save money. I don't think limiting substitutions save you that much.

1. *Pizzo*: The subs requirement is based on various state guidelines on social gatherings.
2. *Lindblad*: Most people would agree that they don't want to prevent other programs from sailing if their school cannot sail. It's tricky with our geographic distance because traveling would be restricted and that would affect farther teams. There needs to be some limits to prevent some teams from fully training and others from being on the sidelines.
3. *Leonard*: Sailing is so important for their mental health, so the point about mental health is an important factor that might override the hourly limits.

F. *Wilkinson*: The only thing I'm curious about is the possibility of returning to normal/close-to-normal scenarios in the Fall and then to contain costs, could we do more one-day regattas?

1. *Lindblad*: There are five guiding principles. (1) Safety of student-athletes (2) Role of the sport of sailing to student-athletes (3) Role of teams to growing NEISA (4) Fair play (5) NEISA teams will have large budget cuts

that need to be evaluated. Our committee needs to talk more about one-day events, we have however addressed reducing hotel costs just not the structure of events.

- G. Lindblad: Anything in this plan is not in effect without a vote. This plan will become future legislation, not a blanket plan. We'd like this voted on as a non-binding guideline. This will allow us to send a document to our school athletic administrators and include them in the thought process of NEISA.
- H. Legler: There is no timeline on this and ICSA will announce on July 15th, so this is an updating document not a draft. This is a living document and is therefore non-binding.
- I. Kalin: Motion to adopt this document as a non-binding, living document (will be updated) based on information as of May 27th
  - 1. Vote opened and held.
    - a) Unanimous "yes" vote as of May 28th and quorum appears to be reached.

## VI. New Business

- A. Assad has a motion item he's suggesting at this upcoming ICSA meeting on Saturday
  - 1. "NEISA would like to implement a term limit of 5 years for chairing the ICSA All-American Committee. This rule would be enforced retroactively for the actively serving committee chair."
- B. Kalin: How long has Ian had it for?
  - 1. Assad: I think 5 seasons, but I'm not sure.
- C. Assad: Best practice for any non-profit is to rotate leadership.
- D. Leonard: Didn't we pass legislation at the winter meeting that would do this for all the committees?
  - 1. Wilkinson: That only established term limits for the ICSA President and restructured the contents of the other committees, no term limits for the other committees.
- E. Pizzo: The chair on the All-American Committee is very powerful and some people think there shouldn't be a term limit on that chair because of his/her institutional knowledge. But I disagree, I think that the role can change with a transition of knowledge. There's a lot of subjectivity especially for the crews, so that role must rotate.
  - 1. Leonard: Are you worried about there being a chairman from a conference that doesn't compete interconference or watch high-level competition.
    - a) Thompson: With the influx of having NEISA and MAISA members on the committee, I don't think that position has too

much power. Justin is that to rotate conferences or people within a conference are allowed from term to term?

(1) Assad: I think I suggested conference rotation, not people rotation from within a conference.

- F. Wilkinson: There might be an easier solution. The bylaws say you can't serve on a committee for more than 5 years (with a one-year extension). If we think it's Ian's fifth year, should we just talk to Mitch, Mike Calahan, and Ian about if another MAISA rep will volunteer? Because if they don't volunteer then there is a one-year extension.
- G. Kalin: I prefer that method over calling out Ian in front of the ICSA.
- H. Bresnahan: When we kicked Justin off our committee, we did it not because he was bad but because it's healthy for an organization to rotate leaders.
- I. Assad: I agree, maybe we should approach a less-invasive way to impose a limit. I think NEISA evaluates crews differently from other conferences and NEISA has been snubbed because of that lack of rotation.
- J. Clark: The ICSA All-American Committee is a huge job and there are not many people who are qualified to do that role, so we need to be careful what we wish for. Change for the sake of change is not good.
1. Pizzo: If the conference is doing their work, the ICSA All-American Committee isn't really doing that much work. I disagree with Clark's reasoning. I think there is an old-guard in ICSA that should not be allowed to continue to choose the All-Americans forever. I argue that more people would want to do the job if there was a term limit.
- K. Kalin: Is there anyone we can think of to chair the All-American Committee? David Thompson?
1. Thompson: No, thanks.
- L. Weidenbacker: Why don't we just talk to Ian directly? We should get him on our team to progress the organization.
1. Kalin: Yes, we should certainly give him a heads up.
  2. Leonard: Ian thinks he's doing community service (which I agree with). If we tell Ian we're switching, he'd probably be happy with the free time. We should loop Ian in.
  3. Greg said he will follow up with Ian and ICSA.
- M. Mollicone: I have one more thing for the ICSA meeting on Saturday. Brown is considering doing trimesters and student's won't be able to choose which two of the three semesters. Eligibility wise what happens if someone is in the second trimester? Can they sail in the nationals in the third trimester if they're not allowed to be in school?

1. Wilkinson: Type that up and send it to the executive committee and eligibility committee. I wouldn't worry about it for the meeting, just get it to the eligibility committee of ICSA.

**VII. Meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM**

**VIII. Next Call is July 15th at 2 PM**

A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>Voting Sheet</b>		<b>ROLL</b>		<b>Adopt non-binding report on COVID-19 response from NEISA and their member institutions</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>CALL</b>		<b>Yay</b>	<b>Nay</b>
Commissioner	Mike Kalin	1		1	
Graduate Secretary	Frank Pizzo	1		1	
President	Brian Nelson	1		1	
Vice President	Eric Marshall				
Secretary	Jack Valentino	1		1	
Treasurer	Ryan Mullins				
Schedule Coordinator	Taylor Martin	1		1	
Boats and Safety	Fran Charles	1		1	
Competition Comm	Greg Wilkinson			1	
N. Region Rep	Diana Weidenbacker	1		1	
C. Region Rep	Mike O'Connor				
S. Region Rep	John Mollicone	1		1	
N. U. Rep	Finn Bascio				
C. U. Rep	Thomas Jagielski				
S. U. Rep	Julia O'Connor				
At Large	Lizzie Russell				
At Large	Preston Anderson	1		1	
				<b>10</b>	
<b>Other Attendees</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>		<b>Proxy?</b>		
Doug Clark	Coast Guard				
Jeffrey Bresnahan			Yes		
Matt Wordell	Mass Maritime				
<b>Dave White</b>	SHU/FF		Yes		
Moose McClintock	URI		Yes		
Carter Brock	NU		Yes		
Justin Assad	Dartmouth		Yes		
Ken Legler	Tufts		Yes		

**Results of Vote as of 6/1 at 11am**