

Minutes

Long Range Planning Committee of the Southern Conference

AGENDA

Teleconference

September 9, 2019

This teleconference was called to order by Commissioner Jim Schaus and chair Steve Angle at 9:02 a.m. (EDT). Those participating on the call included:

Steve Angle, Chattanooga
Nayef Samhat, Wofford
Sybil Blalock, Mercer
Jody Smith, UNCG
Jason Donnelly, Furman
Randy Eaton, Western Carolina
Michelle Durban, Samford
Tim Hodges, VMI
Scott Carter, ETSU
Chip Taylor, Citadel
Jim Schaus, Southern Conference

1. Topic: Purpose and goal of strategic plan

Discussion: Dr. Angle opened the meeting by sharing his support for a new strategic plan and his thoughts that this would be beneficial in guiding the future decisions for the conference. Commissioner Schaus shared that the plan will assist in building consensus, determining future priorities and action steps to meet future goals.

2. Topic: The role of the committee with the plan

Discussion: Mr. Schaus explained that the committee's role was to provide guidance and input to the process. Also, that the plan would involve all constituents and be done in a transparent and methodically process that is to completed at the spring meeting.

3. Topic: Review project timeline and process

Discussion: The Commissioner shared the how and when different constituents would be involved with the process and asked for committee feedback. Mr. Hodges asked about whether a meeting or call would take place around the fall meeting. Mr. Schaus responded that he thought it best to have a teleconference after the fall meetings and CEO retreat to review progress before a planned in person meeting of the committee in December. Ms. Blalock inquired about how student-athletes would be involved. Mr. Schaus replied that they would be involved during on campus visits by the commissioner this fall and with a questionnaire that all SAACs are to fill out this fall. Ms. Blalock stated how important it would be to address the topic championships in the plan. Mr. Easton expressed his concern that we be patient to wait on all feedback received before locking into certain positions. Dr. Samhat shared that the championships have a unique model that addresses key issues.

4. Topic: Discussion on plan foundational steps / future direction

Discussion: Mr. Schaus discussed each of the foundational topic and stated that the information was produced by the conference staff working group and was a placeholder to prompt further

discussion and that it will change over time. The Commissioner asked for general feedback on the various elements. Dr. Samhat, Dr. Angle and Ms. Durban commented that a concise mission statement is best. Dr. Samhat shared that the vision statement should strive to be “premier” and be concise. Dr. Angle echoed that it needs to be concise and covers all the key aspects needed. Mr. Taylor presented that the topic of mental health will be the major topic by the FARs at the fall meeting. Mr. Carter stated we need to ensure that we address our national perceptions in the plan and that 100th Anniversary can help with this. Mr. Donnelly commented that developing our conference brand and how it is different from other conferences should be a priority in the plan. Ms. Blalock expressed that although our national perception is not bad, that we need to focus on drawing attention to the current membership and their accomplishments in addition to the past. Mr. Carter agreed and that we need to celebrate who we are as a league. Ms. Blalock shared that we need to realize that football does a lot for the campus and not just focus on men’s basketball and the revenue it generates.

5. Topic: Next steps for plan and committee

Discussion: Mr. Schaus shared that future steps for the plan included: sending out the questionnaire, fall meeting discussions, this committee’s follow up call in preparation for the in-person December meeting. He thanked the group for their time.