

DRAFT

BIG EAST Conference
Sub Committee Meeting
October 1, 2003

PRESENT: Kenneth Shaw, Jake Crouthamel, Syracuse University; John J. DeGioia, Joseph Lang, Georgetown; Jeffrey Fogelson, Seton Hall University; William P. Leahy, S.J., Boston College; Mark A. Nordenberg, Pittsburgh; Robert E. Mulcahy, III Rutgers; Edmund J. Dobbin, OSA, Villanova University; Donald J. Harrington, C.M., St. John's University; Kevin O'Malley, TV Consultant; Michael A. Tranghese, John M. Marinatto, BIG EAST Conference.

An informal gathering opened the day with the athletic directors, Kevin O'Malley, Mike Tranghese and John Marinatto in order to review the status of the groups future football and basketball television rights situation. Jake Crouthamel outlined the myriad of potential faces the BIG EAST Conference could have -- especially in football. When the group would actually jell was also questioned. Kevin O'Malley suggested a two-part approach -- one for the immediate future and another for the long term. General discussion ensued and the limited time shorted the discussion. This topic will be addressed in more depth over the course of the next several months.

At 10:00 am the formal meeting began with both Father Dobbin and Chancellor Shaw asking if the agenda listed on the September 23 memo is in priority order since some members need to leave today's meeting early. Some liberties are granted given the time restraints present.

FINANCIALS: Chancellor Shaw asks if there are any new issues, developments or changes that the group needs to know relative to the revenue sharing plan accepted at the September 3rd meeting. Noting that nothing significant has changed, he moves the agenda along.

ENTRY FEES: Tranghese reviews for the group the discussions that have occurred to date regarding the entry fees for both the new 1-A football and non 1-A basketball candidates. Specifically, the Louisville and Cincinnati \$2.5 entry fee (\$5M) is to be shared by the six football schools while the \$2.5M fee from Connecticut will be shared by the five current 1-A football schools and the Marquette and DePaul \$2M entry fee (\$4M) will be shared by the existing twelve members. All agreed. Tranghese then advised the group that Connecticut has a concern with the football revenue sharing plan as it relates to them.

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NOTRE DAME: Tranghese updates the group on the issue of the September 25th meeting with Notre Dame Athletic Director Kevin White and references the talking points provided to the group earlier. He explains that although Notre Dame has several issues that require discussion, they are specifically and primarily focused on the issue of future membership security and stability. Mark Nordenberg echoes Tranghese's analysis and adds his thoughts on the September 15 meeting he and David Hardesty had with Notre Dame President Father Malloy. Discussion focuses on the primary issue of security and how it can be achieved through a prohibitive exit penalty that would be designed to retain membership stability for the foreseeable future.

Father Leahy then speaks to the potential of a possible marriage between Boston College and the ACC. He explains that because of recent media reports -- and at his board's urging -- he must determine how genuine the ACC's reported interest in Boston College as a potential 12th member is before he is willing to commit BC to an exit penalty larger than the already agreed to \$5M.

For the sake of clarity, Chancellor Shaw repeats for the group his interpretation of Father Leahy's position -- specifically the point that like the others, BC is committed to the \$5M/27-month withdrawal penalty. Given this understanding, Chancellor Shaw adds that he too then sees no compelling reason to increase this commitment.

Kevin O'Malley transitions the discussion to how valuable membership security is to our television partners. He speaks about the viability and television view a 16-team league with stability and a big market footprint versus a more compact smaller football-only model. He believes that the larger model is more ideally positioned to take advantage of the television marketplace than any other conference in the country. In response to a question from Father Dobbin regarding the value of the Boston marketplace specifically, Kevin explains that each conference member in a large market represents an individual incremental value to television.

WITHDRAWAL/DISSILLUSION CLAUSES: Mike Tranghese then refocuses the discussion to the withdrawal and disillusion clauses that currently exist in our constitution and suggests that the group include language in the new constitution that allows for the two groups to break-up with no penalty after five years together. The group agrees that a general \$5M/27-month penalty similar to the one that the current six football schools have amongst themselves should also exist to all 16-members. Basically, if any school leaves before the 5-year term, they would be subject to the penalty. The lone exception would be if a school should downgrade their program. In that case, they could leave without penalty. Chancellor Shaw then proposes that the current disillusion clause be modified and contain a stipulation that requires at least ten members votes to dissolve.

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EXPANSION CANDIDATES: Father Harrington asks for a short executive session to discuss some pertinent issues relative to potential new members. Once the entire group reconvenes, Chancellor Shaw reports that a 1-A CEO will meet with the University of Cincinnati CEO and share the entire groups feelings relative to NCAA compliance in their basketball program. This concept is later modified and extended. Accordingly, it is eventually agreed that Michael Tranghese and a 1-A CEO will meet with the two new 1-A CEO's to discuss global conference issues and expectations. The same would be done for the non 1-A schools. Similarly, Michael and one AD from each respective group would meet with each of the four named candidates AD's separately to discuss operational and logistical expectations. Further, Fathers Dobbin and Harrington suggest that Stan Wilcox conduct a compliance audit of the four institutions to alert the group of any potential NCAA issues.

Father Leahy adds that there is also some concern about both Louisville and Cincinnati's graduation rates. The basketball schools similarly have some concerns about the depth and breath of programs of their potential identified new members. Both groups will do due diligence on their respective candidates before actually formally committing themselves to these candidates. It is stipulated, however, that the non 1-A group is committed to adding two additional non 1-A members.

TIMETABLE: It is confirmed that the timetable established September 3rd with a formal resolve at the November 4 CEO meeting is anticipated an expected. Mark Nordenberg adds that he hopes that he and David Hardesty hope to have a new constitution available to be voted on at that meeting.

The group asks that the office prepare an outline of issues and items already agreed upon for both reference and presentation purposes to potential new members. They asked Tranghese to arrange a pre-November 4 conference call so that positions are known prior to the annual Presidential meeting.

ROBINSON, LERER and MONTGOMERY PROPOSAL: Discussion ensues about the possibility of retaining the PR firm of Robinson, Lerer and Montgomery to assist the conference office. After some discussion, the group asks that Michael ascertain whether or not to hire RLM -- with or without a combination of interaction with Kevin O'Malley. If hired, Father Dobbin and Mark Nordenberg will serve as the point of contact with the office to approve releases and potential action plans.

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ENTRY DATE: Jake Crouthamel raised the issue of possibly accelerating the entry timeline of new members. Chancellor Shaw suggested and the group readily agreed that the only set of circumstances under which an accelerated timetable would be considered would be if Conference USA specifically requested that the BIG EAST reconsider its original timeline and CUSA request that we accept their members earlier -- specifically for the 2004/05 season rather than the 2005/06 season. Jack DeGioia commented that any action that stabilizes the conference would be a positive step.

PRESS RELEASE: Attached is a copy of the approved press release that was provided to the media and membership.

BIG EAST CONFERENCE CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2003

PROVIDENCE, RI – The BIG EAST Conference today continued the ongoing discussions about its future with a sub-committee group of representative leaders appointed for the specific purpose of recommending a course of action.

"I am very pleased to report that our group had a very productive meeting today to discuss the future of the BIG EAST Conference," stated BIG EAST Conference Commissioner Michael Tranghese who continued. "Our membership is very excited about the future of the conference."

The group expects to continue to meet over the course of the upcoming weeks and months to complete its work.

"Our current members have been extremely supportive over the course of the past several months and have recommitted themselves to each other as we move forward together," stated BIG EAST Conference Commissioner Michael Tranghese. "We will now focus our collective energies on reconfiguring a league which continues to maintain the national academic and athletic presence that the BIG EAST Conference has long represented."

"Our primary objective is to develop a model that keeps everyone together, provides stability and best serves the diverse interests of our various constituencies," Tranghese continued. "We will specifically focus our sights on retaining our longtime status among the top six basketball and football conferences in the nation and consequently maintaining our automatic berth to the Bowl Championship Series."

Further meetings are scheduled and it is anticipated that the process will conclude by December 1.

--BIG EAST--

BEC 02364

Big East Conference "Talking Points"

1. Membership Security (minimum seven years through '09-'10; preferably 10 years)
2. Membership Invitation(s)
 - Notre Dame's role
3. Level of member institution engagement/commitment
 - a. Number of "Core" sports (required)
 - b. Athletic financial aid minimums
 - c. Other resource minimum thresholds
4. Identify number of Big East opponents Notre Dame will "consider" to play in football (on an annual basis)
 - a. Fixed schedule (start date)
 - b. Meadowlands concept
 - c. Selection of opponents (by Notre Dame)
5. Secondary Bowl Package
 - a. Cotton/Holiday
 - b. Gator (as well as other Big East relationships)
6. Football Officials
 - a. Big East
 - b. Michigan Issue (Big Ten)