

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
February 5, 2009, CONFERENCE CALL**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. New Committee Members.** The committee welcomed Barbara Hannum, Faculty Athletics Representative, Hawaii Pacific University.

2. Emerging Sports for Women Program Updates.

- a. Equestrian:** At the 2009 NCAA Convention, Division III withdrew the portions of Division III Proposal No. 2009-7 which related to equestrian being added to the emerging sports for women list. Equestrian will reach the 10 year mark of being on the emerging sports for women list for Divisions I and II in the near future. The committee will begin to engage in discussions with the equestrian community about its continued plans for sponsorship growth during its May and September meetings. In addition, it was noted that the Division III Presidents Council would like an educational session about the emerging sports for women program at a future in-person meeting.

b. Sand Volleyball:

- i. Division I sent NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2008-59 (as it relates to the addition of sand volleyball to the emerging sports for women list) out for membership comment, effective August 1, 2010. The Division I Legislative Council will consider the proposal at its April meeting.
- ii. Division II adopted NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2009-5 which included the addition of sand volleyball to the list, effective August 1, 2010. The Division II governance structure, in consultation with the

AVCA, is beginning its work to develop the necessary regulations (e.g., financial aid, playing and practice seasons, minimum contest/participant requirements) for the sport. Those legislative concepts will be considered at the 2010 NCAA Convention.

3. **NCAA Fellows Program.** The committee discussed the inclusion of athletics directors or conference commissioners in the fellows program. The sense of the committee was to maintain the current approach of limiting participants, who at the time of their application, are at positions below athletics directors and conference commissioners, unless the applicant pool is too small to fill the openings allotted. The committee was supportive that a fellow could continue in the program, even if after the application process, he or she obtained an athletics director or conference commissioner position.
4. **Updates of On-Going Committee Initiatives.** The committee discussed and was provided updates on the following initiatives:
 - a. **Work Life Balance Issues.** Resources are now available on the NCAA web site. Handbooks and facilitator tools are being mailed to campuses and conference offices this winter.
 - b. **Gender Equity Resource Projects.** Gender equity planning best practices and web based training programs are being developed as recommended by the Diversity Leadership and Strategic Planning Committee.
5. **Divisional Updates and Review of Issues Affecting Women.** The committee reviewed the following divisional issues:
 - a. Division I:
 - i. Allocation of Special Assistance Fund and Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund dollars among men and women and sports.
 - ii. Post-Season Participation Data and Opportunities.
 - iii. Review of financial aid individual and team limits, including designation of head count and equivalency sports by the Division I Financial Aid, Awards and Benefits Cabinet.
 - b. Division II:
 - i. Review of gender and diversity issues within the division and, in particular, leadership positions.
 - ii. The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's consideration of strengthening the role of the senior woman administrator within its conference by requiring that administrative titles and responsibilities be phased in on member campuses.

- c. Division III:
 - i. Ongoing review of membership issues and Presidential white papers and issues such as sports sponsorship.
 - ii. Initial discussions about branding and marketing initiatives.
 - iii. Review of Division III grants programs and their impact (e.g., retention of individuals within the profession).
 - d. Association-wide:
 - i. Review of the Olympic Sports Liaison Committee October report.
 - ii. Minority Opportunity and Interest Committee schedule and appointment of the new Director of NCAA Diversity and Inclusion.
- 6. **Review of Gender Equity and Diversity Programs.** The gender equity and diversity programs are being reviewed for performance and efficiency. Division-specific and association-wide initiatives have been requested to provide information about accomplishments and success based on measurements outlined in a matrix feedback form. The committee will review this information at its May meeting.
- 7. **Additional Information.** The committee reviewed information in the following areas:
 - a. 2008 NCAA Perceived Barriers Research Report.
 - b. Recent Title IX athletics cases; the Supreme Court decision in *Fitzgerald v. Barnstable*; recent news articles relating to Title IX and women in sports.
 - c. Appointment of Russlynn Ali as the secretary of the Office for Civil Rights.
 - d. Women's Sports Foundation research and Title IX educational campaign.
 - e. NCAA Women Coaches Academies.
- 8. **Upcoming Events and Relative Dates.**
 - a. **Beyond the Baseline:** in conjunction with the Division I Women's Final Four Events. April 6, 2009, St. Louis, Missouri. Preparations are underway for a pilot "legacy program" which matches business-women as mentors ("coaches") with at-risk girls from the local community.
 - b. **Women's Leadership Symposium.** Designed as an educational experience for professional women new to working in intercollegiate athletics administration and coaching and students aspiring to a career in college athletics, the new NCAA Women's Leadership Symposiums will begin with a regional event in Boston March 20-21, 2009 in conjunction with the NCAA Women's Frozen Four Ice Hockey Championship. The two-day, affordable program will focus on the following areas of skill development: Leadership Skills; Management Strategies; and Career Advancement. The mission of the

program is to further the participants' skills, expand their professional network and promote the recruitment and retention of women in athletics administration and coaching.

- c. **Gender Equity and Issues Forum.** April 27-29, 2009, San Diego, California.
- d. **2009 Regional Rules Seminars.** May 13, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia and June 3, 2009, Anaheim, California. Two gender equity sessions will focus on Work-Life Balance and Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act and Title IX Coordinators.
- e. NCAA Woman of the Year Award nominations will be live online later in February. The CWA selection process will begin in July and August, and the award dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 18, 2009, in Indianapolis.

9. Future Meeting Dates and Sites.

- a. CWA Budget Subcommittee conference call, TBD.
- b. CWA Strategic Planning Subcommittee conference call, TBD.
- c. May, 18-19, 2009, Indianapolis, IN.
- d. September, 15-16, 2009, Indianapolis, IN, (Joint meeting with the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee).

Committee Chair: Patrick Nero, America East Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Kimberly Ford, Diversity and Inclusion
Lynn Holzman, Academic and Membership Affairs
Karen Morrison, Gender Initiatives