

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
October 11-12, 2011, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Action Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **Division III Strategic Initiative Grant.**

- (1) **Recommendation.** The committee recommends the Division III strategic initiative grant is modified to permit coaches eligibility to apply in addition to administrators.
- (2) **Rationale.** With many educational programming requiring at least minimal tuition, allowing coaches to apply for the strategic initiative grant would provide them opportunities to access this programming and assist with enhancing the women coaching experience as well as maintain the number of female NCAA coaches.
- (3) **Estimated budget impact.** Minimal.
- (4) **Student-athlete impact.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA) welcomed the following new committee members:

- a. Jill Bodensteiner, associate director of athletics at the University of Notre Dame;
- b. Timothy Hall, director of athletics at the University of Missouri – Kansas City;
- c. Brett Halvaks, student-athlete at California Lutheran University and Division III SAAC representative;

- d. Myndee Kay Larsen, associate commissioner of The Summit League, liaison from the division I leadership council;
- e. John McDonald, director of athletics at Quinnipiac University;
- f. Jessica Williams, student-athlete at Virginia Commonwealth University and Division I SAAC representative.

2. NCAA Division I athletics certification program.

- a. Troy Arthur, director of academic and membership affairs, and Diane Dickman, managing director of academic and membership affairs, provided an update on the current review of the Division I athletics certification program. The update included the framework currently being developed and the key recommendations that will be presented to the Board of Directors at its October and January meetings. It was noted that data currently being supplied by institutions to the NCAA would be compared to benchmarks in the four areas of academics, inclusion, fiscal, and student-athlete experience. This information would be the basis to produce an annual report about the status of the institution.
- b. Overall, CWA supported the new certification process' annual review of data as it provides a platform for important issues to be highlighted and evaluated. The committee expressed strong support for the proposed student-athlete survey element. However, the committee noted its continuing concern about maintaining gender equity planning requirements, as well as how benchmarks would be established and used to report on compliance with Title IX. Specifically, the committee noted that data only captures part of the gender equity and Title IX issues (e.g., only one of the three means of participation opportunities is easily measured), and that the new process needs to incorporate a way to allow institutions to provide qualitative narratives in addition to raw data. CWA is appreciative that the committee continues to be engaged and used as a resource on gender equity issues as the new certification process continues to be developed.

3. Women's professional development program updates.

- a. National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators (NACWAA) institutes annual program report.** The committee was provided an overview of the annual report on the NACWAA institutes' participant demographic information and evaluation comments of the 2011 programs.
- b. NCAA Women Coaches Academy.** Judy Sweet, co-director of the Alliance of Women Coaches, provided an overview of the Women's Coaches Academy, as well as recent statistics regarding graduates and their current positions. Over 80% of the academy participants remain in NCAA coaching positions. In addition, the Alliance and academy graduates continue to expand education programming, including Dimension Two, a new convention, and regional "We Coach U" programs. Sweet noted that the Women Coaches Academy consistently turns down hundreds of applicants due to budget limits and requested approval of a new format called "Pay Your Way to WCA" where additional individuals would attend the academy by paying tuition of \$2,450. The CWA supports the request for increased funding for its academy, continuing education programs, and a database to track graduate coaches. Specifically, CWA supports an additional \$38,300 each year for programming enhancements and a onetime \$8,000 fee for updates to the Academy's database.
- c. Alliance of Women Coaches.** Sweet also provided the committee with an overview of the Alliance of Women Coaches, developed due to requests for further continuing education and advocacy for female coaches. The organization attempts to connect women coaches as well as institutions who are looking for female coaches.

4. NCAA Divisions I, II and III legislative updates. The committee received updates on Divisions I, II and III legislative issues.

- a.** The committee engaged in a discussion regarding Division I Proposal No. 2011-11 and same concept being contemplated in Divisions II and III. The proposal would shift the oversight of the administrative functions related to the management of the Division I governance structure and Division I representation on Association-wide and common committees; and remove Bylaw 21 from the Division I Manual and specify that policies and procedures related to selection, composition, duties, term of office and operation of committees and cabinets be published on the NCAA website.

The committee opposed moving the representation requirements for committees from the manual and from the current legislative cycle, noting that the representational requirements are crucial to the professional development of women and minorities and to effective committee discussions.

b. The committee reviewed and took the following positions on the following Division I proposals that are part of the 2011-12 Division I legislative cycle:

- Proposal No. 2011-71 ELIGIBILITY -- TRANSFER REGULATIONS -- FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE TRANSFERS -- ONE-TIME TRANSFER EXCEPTION -- WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY.

The committee unanimously opposed the proposal noting that the proposal is contrary to student-athlete well being and that a student-athlete's opportunity to transfer one-time in her athletic career should not be limited, provided she has received the release from her previous institution and is academically eligible to compete. No data was presented in the sponsor's rationale that indicates that women's ice hockey student-athletes are underperforming academically as a result of transferring or that this is truly detrimental to the ongoing development of the sport. Instead, the committee noted that student-athletes, particularly female student-athletes should have the opportunity to transfer and compete without having to serve a transfer residence requirement, one time in his or her career, especially in a sport where few opportunities to transfer exist.

- Proposal No. 2011-73 FINANCIAL AID AND AWARDS, BENEFITS AND EXPENSES -- TRAINING-TABLE MEALS -- ONE MEAL PER DAY -- STUDENT-ATHLETES NOT RECEIVING FULL BOARD -- FOOTBALL.

The committee unanimously opposed the proposal. It was noted that permitting an institution to provide training table meals to student-athletes, regardless of whether the student-athlete is on financial aid or not is a benefit that should be made available to all student-athletes, not just those male student-athletes who participate in the football bowl subdivision. The committee noted that the provision of training table meals is currently often not provided now on a gender neutral basis on campuses and adoption of this proposal may exacerbate the disparate treatment of female student-athletes.

5. **NACWAA Convention.** The CWA meeting was held in conjunction with the NACWAA National Convention.
 - a. **NACWAA board of directors.** The committee met with NACWAA board of directors to provide an overview of the current issues being addressed by CWA and discuss how to develop joint programming that not only cultivated the skills of women administrators but also reaches those who make hiring decisions.
 - b. **Presidential Retreat: Transforming intercollegiate athletics update.** Committee members attended the NACWAA Convention general session where President Emmert gave an overview on the recent Presidential Retreat and the transforming intercollegiate athletics initiatives.
6. **Olympic Sports Liaison Committee and NCAA - U.S. Olympic partnership.**
 - a. **Olympic Sports Liaison Committee.** Liz Suscha, associate director, championships and alliances, provided the committee an update on the September Olympic Sports Liaison Committee meeting. Suscha noted that there was much dialogue on the NCAA Fencing Championship and the effect of a combined championship on the awards structure.
 - b. **NCAA-U.S. Olympic partnership.** Joni Comstock, senior vice president of championships, provided an update on the new partnership between the NCAA and the United States Olympic Committee to develop Olympic sport programs and explore consistent and collaborative effort in regards to Olympic sports.
7. **CWA subcommittees.**
 - a. **Emerging sport subcommittee.** The emerging sport subcommittee provided the full committee an overview of its meeting. Specifically, the committee reported on their review of the history of the program as well as program criteria. The subcommittee also discussed the changing landscape of emerging sports in light of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) guidelines. The subcommittee also reviewed the current status of the three emerging sports, as well as proposals submitted or proposed to CWA. The subcommittee discussed plans to expand rugby sponsorship in the next several years and potential legislative proposals to allow for "sevens" rugby opportunities.

- b. Strategic planning subcommittee.** The strategic planning subcommittee provided the committee an overview of its meeting. Specifically, the subcommittee reviewed the current strategic plan, and provided more detail to objectives and action steps. The committee's strategic plan for the next two years is complete and subject to amendment for joint CWA-MOIC priorities.

8. Emerging and Olympic sports.

- a. Emerging sports.** The committee reviewed the status of current emerging sports. Specifically, the committee discussed the equestrian action plan for sponsorship growth and sand volleyball initial sponsorship at fourteen schools. The committee discussed plans to grow rugby and strategies to explore additions to the emerging sport offerings.

- b. Possible emerging sports under consideration.**

- (1) STUNT and Acrobatics and Tumbling.** The committee discussed the response provided by STUNT via USA Cheer regarding CWA's request that it join with Acrobatics and Tumbling to create a single proposal, as well as its request for a written information from OCR, noting that STUNT's proposal would meet the definition of a sport. It was noted that there are some plans for the two groups to have a facilitated meeting. After in depth discussion about the current status of both proposals, the committee still encourages STUNT and Acrobatics and Tumbling to come together to submit one proposal.
 - (2) Triathlon.** NCAA staff noted that the triathlon proposal has been approved by the committee, but the group has yet to obtain the ten necessary letters of support from NCAA institutions. CWA supported expanded efforts to share information about the sport and the need for letters with NCAA conference offices.

- 9. International competition and state department programs.** Delise O'Meally, director of association-wide governance and international affairs, provided an overview of NCAA efforts to develop programs that encompass a global perspective to match the global reach of higher education. O'Meally noted that the number of international students is at all time high, reaching over 690,000 students. The NCAA will work to create

international and local educational, philanthropic, and competitive opportunities, as well as address international issues in intercollegiate athletics and promote NCAA sports worldwide. During discussions with the committee, members noted that NCAA legislation is antiquated in light of the global market and perspective. It was also noted that the committee had concerns about the concept of limiting foreign travel that resulted from the Presidential Retreat as this conflicts to the unique and educational experiences international travel and competition provides to the student-athletes.

10. **Women of the Year award.** NCAA staff provided an update on the Women of the Year award process, noting the nine finalists have been selected and the award will be presented at the awards ceremony on October 16 in Indianapolis. An overview of the demographics of nominees' sport and ethnicity was also reviewed.
11. **Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender resources.** NCAA staff provided an overview of the recent approval of NCAA policy on transgender participation, as well as the resources that were provided to institutions.
13. **Title IX update.** NCAA staff provided an overview of the decision in the University of California-Davis case, and the review of the second prong and the issue of qualified immunity for college administrators. The committee was also provided recent Title IX articles for review.
14. **National office programming updates.**
 - a. **2012 NCAA Convention.** A representative from the OCR will provide an overview of recent Title IX activity.
 - b. **Gender Equity and Inclusion Forum.** The 2012 Gender Equity and Inclusion Forum will be held April 29 to May 1 in New Orleans, Louisiana. While the forum has expanded to include broader inclusion topics, Title IX training will still be provided. CWA will finance three committee members to attend the forum.
 - c. **NCAA Regional Rules seminars.** There will be a half day devoted to Title IX training at the 2012 Regional Rules seminars.

15. Resource center updates. NCAA staff provided an overview of current projects being developed as a part of the resource center, including creating policies in regard to an institution's Title IX coordinator, developing staff-student relationship best practices, updating the senior woman administrator's brochure and NCAA gender equity manual.

16. Future meeting dates and sites.

- a. February 22, 2012, via conference call.
- b. Summer 2012, TBD, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Committee Chair: Marilyn Moniz Kaho'ohanohano, University of Hawaii

Staff Liaisons: Brynna Barnhart, Enforcement
Lynn Holzman, Academic and Membership Affairs
Karen Morrison, Gender Inclusion Initiatives