REPORT OF THE
NCAA MINORITY OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERESTS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2012 MEETING

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

Association-wide.

1. New committee members. The committee welcomed new committee member Jamie Bruce, student-athlete at Benedict College and Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representative. The committee also welcomed new secondary liaison Natasha Oakes, NCAA assistant director of academic and membership affairs.

2. MOIC chart of service. Committee members were informed of the pending end of the current chair and vice chair terms. Committee members interested in moving into a leadership role as chair or vice chair were encouraged to inform the primary liaison.

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

a. **Division I**. The committee was provided an update on the work of Division I to address the current working definition of an agent and changes to proposed recruiting models being considered for men's basketball. The committee expressed concern that any model changes developed for men's basketball should also be considered for women's basketball. An update on the progress of changes being proposed for initial eligibility was shared and the committee members discussed in detail the significant impact many of the changes will have on student-athletes of color. The committee is supportive of the process that the initial eligibility committee is undergoing to identify a new chair that will remain

attentive to the diverse needs of the Division I membership. There continues to be a need to educate the membership and more specifically the public about the NCAA, who we are and what we do, as we continue to address complex issues that affect the membership.

b. **Division II**. The committee was provided an update on proposed legislation being considered for the 2013 legislative cycle regarding student-athletes being asked to contribute towards the purchase of their NCAA championship rings. Concerns were expressed regarding the impact this may have on recruiting as well as the undue financial hardship it may pose on student-athletes specifically student-athletes of color who may not have the additional funds to contribute to the award.

   The committee would like to extend accolades to the student-athletes of Division II for the considerable commitment they have shown in support of their Make-A-Wish Campaign, which already raised $405,000 for the 2011-12 academic year. The student-athletes of Division II continue to make a significant impact to the organization on an annual basis.

   The committee was informed about the upcoming Division II Spring Sports Festival to take place May 15-19 in Louisville, Kentucky, hosted by Bellarmine University.

c. **Division III**. The committee received an update on the progress of the division's identity initiative and suggests that more educational resources be developed for the public regarding the benefits of the division for both student-athlete and athletics administrators.

   The committee is supportive of continued education efforts related to proposed sickle cell testing legislation for the division. The committee intends to stay engaged on this important issue.

   The Management Council representative expressed the appreciative response of the Division III membership for President Emmert having a presence in their meetings and business session during the NCAA Convention. The committee also offers congratulations to Portia Lowe Hoeg, Division III Management Council representative, for being selected as the director of athletics at Allegheny College.

4. **Division I, II and III SAAC updates.** SAAC representatives from Divisions II and III spoke in great detail about the success of their divisionally supported fundraising campaigns for Division II, Make-A-Wish, and Division III, Special Olympics, and their continued efforts to bring national awareness to the organizations.

5. **NCAA office of inclusion update.** The committee was provided with an update on a collaboration meeting held between the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA), Black Coaches and Administrators Association (BCA) and the John McLendon Group. The committee is supportive of the groups identifying more strategic ways to work together to support the advancement of minority administrators and coaches. MOIC members actively involved within the groups will continue to address the concern with the leadership of each of the groups.

6. **NCAA Division I athletics certification program.** The committee was provided an update regarding the progress of the certification committee and changes being made to enhance the process regarding inclusion. The feedback provided by the committee will be shared with NCAA staff.

7. **NCAA Programming.**

    a. **NCAA/MOAA Award for Diversity and Inclusion.** NCAA staff provided an update on the award and the promotional campaign that was launched at the 2012 NCAA Convention. The application will be made available to the membership from May until September. The award winners will be recognized at the 2013 Convention. MOIC committee members were identified to serve on the selection committee.

    b. **NCAA Pathway Program.** The committee was provided an update regarding the participants selected for the 2012 program. The participant bios were shared including class demographics of the 12 participants. The participants of the 2012 program began at the NCAA Convention.

    c. **NCAA Equity and Inclusion Forum.** The committee was provided an update regarding changes being made to enhance the framework of the NCAA Gender Equity Forum to provide five general sessions and include breakout specific sessions on: student-athletes with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, international student-athletes, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and women in intercollegiate athletics. The forum will continue to provide

programming on Title IX and gender equity but will look to expand its outreach to new groups.

d. **2012 NCAA Woman of the Year.** The event will take place Sunday, October 14, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Committee members have been encouraged to take an active role in participating in the nomination process as representatives of their member institutions and have been invited to attend the event in October.

8. **Division III only.** MOIC is supportive of the efforts of the division around diversity and inclusion and seek to identify members of the committee to actively work with representatives within the Division III governance structure to serve in an advisory capacity on a subcommittee regarding key diversity issues for the division.

9. **Future meeting dates and sites**.

a. June 2012, TBD, Indianapolis, Indiana.

b. October 2012, TBD, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Committee Chair: *Dawn Reynolds, University of Miami*
Staff Liaisons *Kimberly Ford, Minority Inclusion*
Natasha Oakes, Academic and Membership Affairs
Jay Rossello, General Counsel

February 15, 2012	
Attendees	Absentees
Jamie Bruce, Benedict College	
Rahsann Carlton, Penn State Harrisburg	
Stanton Ching, Connecticut College	
Wayne Coito, Pacific West Conference	
Wildens Fils, Lyndon State College	
Dianthia Ford-Kee, Lincoln University (Pennsylvania)	
Alecia Shields Gadson, Coppin State University	
Keri Gaither, University of Detroit Mercy	
Irma Garcia, St. Francis College (New York)	
Chris Howard, University of Kansas	

Zak Ivkovic, City University of New York Athletic Conference	
Alejandro "Alex" Mendez, University of South Florida	
Janet Montgomery, University of West Alabama	
Dawn Reynolds, University of Miami	
William Smith, University of Utah	
Clyde McCoy, University of Miami	
Other Participants Kimberly Ford, Natasha Oakes, Chris Ruckdaschel, Jay Rossello	