REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISON I ACADEMIC CABINET
FEBRUARY 7-8, 2011, MEETING

***KEY ITEMS*.**

- **Review of NCAA Division I Academic Eligibility Requirements for Two-Year College Transfers.** The NCAA Division I Academic Cabinet continued its discussion of possible changes to two-year college transfer academic requirements. Based on membership and two-year college feedback regarding the draft package of concepts, the cabinet refined the concepts for additional input. The cabinet continues to present the modified draft concepts as a package for feedback in preparation for developing legislative proposals for the 2011-12 legislative cycle during its June 2011 meeting. The package strives to balance principles of increased academic success, simplicity of administration, access to higher education and opportunity for those prospective student-athletes who are academically underprepared while taking into account the full breadth of feedback from the membership and two-year college community.

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. Review of Two-Year College Transfer Academic Requirements. The cabinet continued its discussion of the two-year college transfer draft concepts developed during its September 2010 meeting. The cabinet reviewed significant feedback from the NCAA membership and the two-year college community. Feedback was generally supportive of the concepts developed by the cabinet. Specific feedback related to various aspects of the concepts was considered by the cabinet and as a result, the concepts were amended.

The cabinet again seeks input from both the two-year college community and the NCAA membership regarding these concepts. Provided input will be considered during its June 2011 meeting and legislative proposals will be entered into the 2011 legislative cycle.

The cabinet will be forwarding to conferences additional data and rationale supporting the concepts and the NCAA staff will be available to participate in conference meetings this spring to discuss the concepts.

- Amended Concepts for Feedback:

  (1) Qualifiers.

    (a) Increase transferable grade-point average from 2.000 to 2.250.

    (b) Expand physical education activity course limit of two credits to all sports (currently applies only to men's basketball).

    (c) All other current requirements would remain in effect.

    (d) Increase to grade-point average and limit on physical education activity courses will also apply to 4-2-4 transfers.

  (2) Nonqualifiers.

    (a) Increase transferable grade-point average from 2.000 to 2.250 (for competition purposes only – athletics aid and practice would be permissible at 2.000 grade-point average).

    (b) Expand physical education activity course limit of two credits to all sports (currently applies only to men's basketball).

    (c) Require completion of transferable core credits as follows: three math, three science, six English. Science would be the new requirement.

    (d) All other current requirements would remain in effect (e.g., earn Associate of Arts degree or equivalent academic two-year degree, 48-transferable credits, minimum of three semesters/four quarters at two year college, progress-toward-degree requirements, etc.).

    (e) Increase to grade-point average, limit on physical education activity courses and inclusion of science class will also apply to 4-2-4 transfers.

  (3) Year of Academic Readiness.

    (a) Provides additional time and opportunity for student-athletes who are academically underprepared. With increased academic standards, this year provides additional time for two-year college students who may benefit from remedial courses and other opportunities to prepare academically for the four-year college experience.

(b) No competition is allowed during year of academic readiness, student-athlete could practice and receive athletically related financial aid.

(c) Eligibility for use of the year of academic readiness would be status as a nonqualifier. Student-athlete would be required to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and be certified as a nonqualifier.

(d) The year must occur at a two-year college(s).

(e) A student's NCAA "clock" would not start for purposes of progress-toward-degree and five-year period of eligibility until after year of academic readiness.

(f) Students must attend a two-year college(s) full time for five full-time semesters/seven quarters prior to transfer to the Division I institution.

(g) On enrollment at an NCAA institution the student-athlete will have two seasons of competition, extenuating circumstances (e.g., injury) could be considered in a waiver process.

(h) Year must be used during initial year of collegiate enrollment at whatever point that occurs.

(i) Current NCAA rules remain in place related to time between high school graduation and enrollment at two-year institution (e.g., amateurism rules).

(j) Three years of enrollment must be consecutive and existing exceptions would continue (i.e., military service, peace corp, church mission).

(k) NCAA Eligibility Center would provide tracking. Student-athlete and two-year college would be required to acknowledge use of year of academic readiness during initial year of enrollment at the two-year institution.

(l) Recruiting regulations would be delayed a year and thus in-person contact could not occur until the third year of enrollment at a two-year institution. The cabinet did forward this issue to the NCAA Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet for input.

(m) Student-athletes could receive six years of athletically related financial aid within a seven year period if using the year of academic

readiness. The cabinet did forward this issue to the NCAA Division I Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet for input.

(n) Year of academic readiness will not be considered a denied participation opportunity for purposes of a five year clock extension request.

(o) Year of academic readiness and five semesters or seven quarters of enrollment at a two-year college may occur at multiple two-year colleges.

The cabinet recommends that all changes to these regulations be effective for student-athletes initially enrolling full time at a collegiate institution on or after August 1, 2013.

The cabinet also discussed the appropriate appellate opportunity for waivers related to two-year college transfer student-athletes. The cabinet noted that the evaluation of these waivers should focus on the academic preparedness of a student-athlete for success at an NCAA member institution. The cabinet recommends that all appeals be heard by an academic governance body. To this end, the cabinet recommends expanding the NCAA Division I Progress-Toward-Degree Wavier Committee from an eight-member body to a 14-member body and dividing the group into two subcommittees; one addressing progress-toward-degree requests and one addressing two-year college transfer requests. Budgetary impacts are minimal in that the Progress-Toward-Degree Committee only meets by teleconference, not in person.

2. Discussion with Representatives from National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A). The cabinet hosted its annual meeting with leaders from N4A. The association's president and president-elect highlighted N4A efforts to assist academic support systems and personnel, including individual and program certification efforts and a webinar series. Additionally, the president and president-elect noted N4A positions regarding current legislative proposals with potential impact on their membership, provided feedback regarding the cabinet's two-year college transfer concepts, noted current trends related to academic dishonesty, and suggested opportunities for continued academic reform.

3. Discussion of Full-Time Enrollment Exceptions. At the request of the Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet, the cabinet discussed potential expansion of the exceptions to the full-time enrollment requirements for practice and competition for those student-athletes who are in their final year of their degree program and are enrolled in all available degree applicable courses and student-athletes who have previously received their degree and are exhausting eligibility in the next term. While noting the financial impact of some student-athletes enrolling in credits to maintain athletics eligibility, the cabinet was not

supportive of expanding the current previsions permitting student-athletes to compete while not enrolled as full-time students. Further, the cabinet noted that there is value in pursuit of additional academic coursework. The cabinet also noted current exceptions that would allow for enrollment in less than 12 credits post graduation (e.g., last semester of second degree program, graduate school). Therefore, the cabinet determined that it would not pursue sponsoring changes to current full-time enrollment requirements.

4. Initial-Eligibility Waivers and Prospective Student-Athlete Reviews. The cabinet received a report on the number and outcome of initial-eligibility waivers and prospective student-athlete reviews processed through December 31, 2010. The NCAA academic and membership affairs staff has reviewed 515 initial-eligibility waivers, which represents a slight increase from 2009-10. In addition, the academic and membership affairs staff has processed 267 prospective student-athlete review cases.

The cabinet also discussed possible amendments to the initial-eligibility wavier policies and procedures and asked the staff to return in June with more specific information and consultation with the NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Waiver Committee. The changes related to possible elimination of the minimum threshold for review and modifications to the initial-eligibility deadlines.

The cabinet reviewed the conceptual framework for an initial-eligibility waiver directive to guide the NCAA staff and Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee's review of all initial-eligibility waivers that centered on academic preparedness of student-athletes on enrollment at an NCAA member institution. The cabinet expressed support for continued development of the directive after consultation with the Initial-Eligibility Waiver Committee.

5. Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers. The cabinet received a report regarding progress-toward-degree waivers submitted during the 2010-11 academic year. The academic and membership affairs staff has processed 334 requests to date.

The cabinet supported the recommended guidelines (reference Supplement No. 31 of meeting materials) for the Progress-Toward-Degree wavier staff and committee in the areas of personal hardship (medical and non-medical), restrictive transfer, restrictive degree program, change of degree, misadvisement, or education-impacting disability (EID), as well as those waivers for less than full-time enrollment for reasons other than EID.

6. Review of Recent Graduation Success Rate (GSR) and Federal Graduation Rate Data. NCAA research staff provided an overview of the GSR and Federal Graduation Rate data for the 2000-03 cohort for all NCAA Division I institutions. Consistent with the last two years' findings, the current results indicate Division I student-athletes continue to perform well in the classroom. The four-year Division I GSR for student-athletes is 79 percent; 72 percent

for male student-athletes and 87 percent for female student-athletes. The largest gains seen were specific to African-Americans in the sports of football and men's basketball. African-American men's basketball student-athletes' GSR increased three percent while African-American football student-athletes' GSR increased five percent.

7. Initial-Eligibility Process and Efficiencies. The cabinet was provided an update on the internal review of the initial-eligibility process and efficiencies.

8. Academic Fraud. The cabinet received an initial overview regarding the formation of a staff project team to review current NCAA legislation, interpretations and policies related to academic fraud committed by student-athletes. It was noted that this team will be seeking membership input. The cabinet will be provided with a final report from the project team in June and any recommended legislative changes will be entered into the 2011 legislative cycle.

9. Facilitating Learning and Achieving Graduation (FLAG) Update. The cabinet received an update regarding the development and implementation of the FLAG program. Specifically, the second module, an online database of support services associated with specific risk factors, remains under development by the national office staff. A pilot test program of the Support Services module is slated for spring 2011, with a currently projected release to the membership of summer 2011. Additionally, an evaluation module is projected to be developed and released fall 2011.

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