REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I AWARDS, BENEFITS, EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL AID CABINET

The NCAA Division I Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet submits this report from its September 18-19, 2008, in-person meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. [Note: All votes were unanimous voice votes unless otherwise indicated.]

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **None.**

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Informational Items.

a. Comments on Proposals in the 2008-09 Legislative Cycle Referred to the Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 5] The cabinet reviewed Division I legislative proposals assigned to it for review that will be considered by the Division I membership as part of the 2008-09 legislative cycle and offered the following comments:

(1) NCAA Proposal No. 2008-14 -- Recruiting -- Definitions and Applications -- Prospective Student-Athlete -- Enrollment and Attendance in Summer Classes Prior to Initial Full-Time Enrollment. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2008-14 as written, which would specify that an individual shall no longer be considered a prospective student-athlete for purposes of the contact limitations in NCAA Bylaw 13 and shall be considered a student-athlete for purposes of Bylaw 16 at the point in which he or she officially registers and enrolls and attends classes in an institution's summer term prior to initial full-time enrollment. The cabinet agrees with the sponsor's rationale for the proposal. (18-1-0)

(2) Proposal No. 2008-15 -- Recruiting -- Definitions and Applications -- Prospective Student-Athlete -- Institutional Orientation Session. The

cabinet agreed to oppose Proposal No. 2008-15, which would specify that a prospective student-athlete who has signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) [or, for an institution that does not use the NLI in a particular sport or for a prospective student-athlete who is not eligible to sign an NLI (e.g., four-year college transfer), the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid] and has reported to a required institutional orientation session within 14 calendar days prior to the opening day of classes of a regular academic year term shall not be subject to the contact restrictions in Bylaw 13 and shall be considered a student-athlete for purposes of Bylaw 16 as of the opening day of the required orientation. The cabinet recommends the sponsor modify the proposal to specify that a recruited prospective student-athlete who has reported to a required institutional orientation session within 14 calendar days prior to the opening day of classes of a regular academic year term shall not be subject to the contact restrictions in Bylaw 13 and shall be considered a student-athlete for purposes of Bylaw 16 as of the opening day of the required orientation. The cabinet agreed that all recruited prospective student-athletes should benefit from the same services and benefits during this period. It was also noted that the NCAA definition of a recruited prospective student-athlete should be used. The cabinet would support the proposal if modified. Further, in the event the sponsor does not accept the cabinet's recommended modification, the cabinet will sponsor an alternative proposal.

(3) Proposal No. 2008-25 -- Recruiting -- Official Visit and Letter of Intent Programs -- Requirements for Official Visit and Offers of Athletically Related Financial aid -- Completion of Amateurism Certification Questionnaire. The cabinet agreed to oppose Proposal No. 2008-25, which would specify that a high school, preparatory school or transfer (if applicable) prospective student-athlete must complete the amateurism certification questionnaire administered by the NCAA Eligibility Center before an institution may provide the prospective student-athlete an official visit; further, to specify that an institution shall not provide a high school, preparatory school or transfer prospective student-athlete a written offer of athletically related financial aid until he or she has completed the amateurism certification questionnaire with the Eligibility Center. The cabinet recommends the sponsor modify the proposal to specify that a high school, preparatory school or transfer (if applicable) prospective student-athlete must complete the amateurism certification questionnaire administered by the NCAA Eligibility Center before an institution may provide a written offer of athletically related financial aid. The cabinet is

concerned that requiring the amateurism certification questionnaire be completed prior to an official visit is cumbersome and could result in a delay of the visit. It was noted that despite adequate planning, many official visits are arranged or changed at the last minute due to schedule changes or other complications. The cabinet agreed the appropriate timing for the completion of the amateurism certification questionnaire is prior to issuing a written offer of athletically related financial aid. The cabinet agreed that this timing may address the concerns related to late registrations by prospective student-athletes currently experienced by the Eligibility Center, while still supplying institutions with important amateurism information before financial aid commitments are made. The cabinet would support the proposal if modified. Further, in the event the sponsor does not accept the cabinet's recommended modification, the cabinet will sponsor an alternative proposal. Finally, the cabinet recommends further clarification be provided regarding what is meant by "complete" the amateurism certification questionnaire. (16-3-0)

(4) Proposal No. 2008-28 -- Recruiting -- Financial Aid Agreements -- Offers of Aid Before July 1 Following Junior Year -- Women's Lacrosse. The cabinet took no position on Proposal No. 2008-28, which would, in women's lacrosse, specify that an institution shall not offer (or indicate that it will or may offer), orally or in writing, athletically related financial aid, other institutional financial aid or admissions assistance before July 1 following the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school; further, to specify that an institution shall not accept any commitment from a prospective student-athlete before July 1 following the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. The cabinet applauded the leadership displayed by the National Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association on this issue and supports the concept. However, the cabinet encourages the NCAA Division I Legislative Council to table the proposal until the NCAA Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet can review the issue of early offers of financial aid. Finally, the cabinet was supportive of a broader discussion on this issue for potential solutions applicable to all sports. (18-0-1)

(5) Proposal No. 2008-40 -- Financial Aid -- Maximum Institutional Grant-in-Aid Limitations by Sport -- Women's Volleyball. The cabinet took no position on Proposal No. 2008-40, which would, in women's volleyball, increase the maximum institutional grant-in-aid limitation from 12 to 13. The cabinet requests the Legislative Council table this legislation to provide time for the cabinet to conduct a broader examination of

maximum grant-in-aid limitations for all sports. [See Informational Item No. 2-h below.]

(6) Proposal No. 2008-41 -- Financial Aid -- Maximum Institutional Grant-in-Aid Limitations by Sport -- Baseball. The cabinet took no position on Proposal No. 2008-41, which would, in baseball, increase the annual limit on the value of financial aid awards (equivalencies) to counters from 11.7 to 14. The cabinet requests the Legislative Council table this legislation to provide time for the cabinet to conduct a broader examination of maximum grant-in-aid limitations for all sports. [See Informational Item No. 2-h below.]

(7) Proposal No. 2008-42 -- Awards, Benefits and Expenses -- Complimentary Admissions and Ticket Benefits -- Postseason Events. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2008-42 as written, which would specify that an institution may provide each student-athlete who participates in or is a member of a team participating in a postseason event (e.g., conference championship, NCAA championship, National Invitation Tournament, bowl game) with six complimentary admissions to all intercollegiate athletics events at the site at which the student (or team) participates. The cabinet agrees with the sponsor's rationale for the proposal. (14-5-0)

(8) Proposal No. 2008-43 -- Awards, Benefits and Expenses -- Housing and Meals -- Nutritional Supplements -- Fruit, Nuts and Bagels. The cabinet took no position on Proposal No. 2008-43, which would specify that fruit, nuts and bagels are classes of nonmuscle-building nutritional supplements that may be provided to student-athletes for the purpose of providing additional calories and electrolytes. The cabinet is supportive of a broader review of nutritional supplements and whole foods by the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS). The cabinet recommends the Legislative Council table this proposal until CSMAS can complete this review. (17-0-2)

(9) Proposal No. 2008-44 -- Awards, Benefits and Expenses -- Expenses Provided by the Institution for Practice and Competition -- Departure/Return Expense Restrictions -- Exceptions -- Travel Following Championships Events and Postseason Football Games. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2008-44 as written, which would specify that travel following contests in NCAA championship events, national governing body championships in emerging sports or licensed postseason

football games that take place during the institution's official vacation period during the academic year or between regular academic terms are exempt from the requirement that a student-athlete remain no longer than 36 hours following the conclusion of the competition in order to receive actual and necessary expenses to return to campus. The cabinet recommends that the sponsor clarify which expenses (e.g., transportation, meals, lodging) may be provided by the institution beyond the 36-hour period and whether the student-athlete must remain in the locale of the championship event or postseason football game in order to receive these expenses. (17-1-1)

(9) Proposal No. 2008-52 -- Playing and Practice Seasons -- Football -- Preseason Practice -- Limit on Number of Participants – Replacement of Student-Athlete Due to Injury or Illness. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2008-52 as written, which would, in football, specify that a student-athlete who sustains an injury or illness that prevents further participation in preseason practice activities may be replaced with another student-athlete without including that individual in the institution's limitation on the number of individuals who may participate in preseason practice. (18-0-1)

b. Other Legislative Comments.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Informational Items.

a. Overview of Bylaws 15 (Financial Aid) and 16 (Awards and Benefits). [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 1] The cabinet received rules education from the staff regarding the financial aid and awards and benefits legislation.

b. Orientation to New Division I Governance Structure. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 2] The NCAA governance staff presented the cabinet members with a broad overview of the new Division I governance structure, which highlighted the goals and objectives behind restructuring along with a review of the functions of the various cabinets and Councils. The cabinet was reminded of its responsibility for overseeing and evaluating the new governance structure. The members discussed the structure at length paying particular attention to how the various governance bodies will communicate with one another to ensure a more coordinated Division I agenda.

The members also discussed the importance of communicating with all 31 multisport conferences.

c. Approval of the NCAA Division I Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Policies and Operating Procedures. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 3] The policies and operating procedures were approved as amended. The cabinet directed the staff to include Figure 15-1 from the NCAA Division I Manual as an appendix to the document. The cabinet also agreed to establish a five member Administrative Committee and nominees will be submitted to the staff immediately following the September meeting. The duties of the Administrative Committee are outlined in the cabinet's policies and operating procedures manual.

d. Update from the NCAA Division I Communications and Coordination Committee. The cabinet was informed by the chair that enhanced communication is intended to be one of the hallmarks of the new Division I governance structure. To assist with the flow of communication between governance groups, the Communications and Coordination Committee, composed of the chairs of the cabinets and the Councils, has been established. This committee is charged with coordinating consideration of issues and legislative concepts between the various Division I governance bodies to facilitate a more cohesive approach to managing the Division I agenda.

e. Report from the August 2008 NCAA Division I Leadership Council Meeting. The cabinet learned that the NCAA Division I Board of Directors has identified four primary issues as being appropriate for Leadership Council examination over the course of the next year, and that the Leadership Council, with the help of the cabinets, will be asked to develop suggested recommendations. The four assignments given to the Leadership Council are:

(1) To recommend initiatives that will enhance the level of diversity in the Division I governance structure.

(2) To assess the impact of membership migration and develop reasonable philosophical expectations and legislative requirements that should be adhered to by all institutions desiring to transition to or remain in Division I. The staff noted that this review may include the review of the financial aid commitment necessary to be a Division I member.

(3) Following review by the Board of Directors, to offer recommendations concerning the report of the Task Force on Commercial Activity in Intercollegiate Athletics.

(4) To discuss appropriate strategies to consider certain Division I amateurism issues and manage consideration of these issues.

e. **NCAA Controlling Goals.** The staff reviewed the three controlling goals that are shaping the work of the NCAA national office over the next three to five years.

f. **Update on the White Case Settlement.** [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 4] The cabinet received a summary from the NCAA general counsel office on the White Case settlement. The cabinet was offered the opportunity to discuss and ask questions regarding the provisions of the settlement. The cabinet was informed that as part of the settlement, the group has been asked to review the concept of multiyear athletics aid.

g. **Review of Recent Initiatives Undertaken in Previous Governance Structure.**

(1) Bylaw 15 (Financial Aid). [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement Nos. 6 and 7] The cabinet received an overview of the following financial aid initiatives undertaken in the previous governance structure:

(a) Ad hoc study of women's head count and equivalency sports and maximum grant-in-aid limitations;

(b) February 2007 Financial Aid Workshop; and

(c) The Guide to Financial Aid (created by the Big East Conference). The cabinet encouraged the Big East Conference to explore ways to use technology to disseminate the good information in its Guide to Financial Aid.

(2) Bylaw 16 (Awards and Benefits). [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 8] The cabinet received an overview of past discussions related to rules regarding departure/return expense restrictions and agreed to place this item on the June 2009 agenda for further discussion.

h. Identification of Future Agenda Items and Determination of Priorities.

(1) Cabinet's List of Priority Items. The cabinet identified the following priority topics to address and noted that data collection will be necessary to fully examine each of these issues:

(a) Examination of maximum grant-in-aid limitations. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement Nos. 6, 9 and 11]

(i) Individual (including examination of countable aid);

(ii) Team (including examination of countable aid); and

(iii) Equivalency versus head count designations.

(b) Athletics aid hearing opportunities. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 10]

(c) Multiyear scholarships/presumption of renewal concept. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 9]

(d) Educational outreach to financial aid administrators. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 7]

Because the cabinet identified the examination of grant-in-aid limitations as its top priority, it requests the Legislative Council table any legislative proposals involving changes to legislated team grant-in-aid limits to provide time for the cabinet to conduct a broader examination of the limits for all sports. The staff will present to the cabinet research information that is currently available at the February meeting. The cabinet will have a more definitive sense of its timeline for its review; however, it is anticipated that the review may be completed by June 2010, at the earliest.

(2) Items for Staff to Explore for Future Meetings. During this discussion, the cabinet directed the staff to explore the following two items and report on its progress at future meetings:

(a) Improvements to the NCAA Compliance Assistant for the *Internet* (CA*i*) Software Program. The cabinet recommended that the CA*i* team undertake a review of the program's financial aid module to determine if it can be used to help the membership better understand and apply financial aid legislation.

(b) Incorporation of Financial Aid Information in the NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete. The cabinet directed the staff to include information related to NCAA financial aid regulations, including period of award information and information related to individual and team financial aid limits, in the 2009-10 NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete.

(3) Items Discussed but Not Prioritized. The cabinet discussed but declined to prioritize discussion on the following topics:

(a) Athletics aid to nonqualifiers. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 12] The cabinet expressed concern that permitting athletics aid during the initial year in residence may take away an incentive for prospective student-athletes to become qualifiers. For this reason, the cabinet did not prioritize the issue but is willing to discuss it at a later date if the Academic Cabinet determines it to be a priority; and

(b) Participation awards limitations. [Reference Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet Supplement No. 13]

k. Communication of Key Items. The chair reminded the cabinet members of the importance of reporting back to their conference and to the broader membership. Discussion items, which cabinet members were encouraged to share with other constituents, include the cabinet's position on specific legislative proposals and the four identified priority items**.**

Cabinet Chair: M. Grace Calhoun, Indiana University, Bloomington, Big Ten Conference
Staff Liaisons: Vanessa Fuchs, Membership Services
Brad Hostetter, Membership Services
Kris Richardson, Membership Services