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 February 5-6, 2009, in-person meeting in Los Angeles, California.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **None.**

KEY TAKE AWAYS.

1. Review of Current Financial Aid Model. The cabinet prioritized financial aid items to be reviewed over the next several meetings. It is anticipated that this review may be completed by June 2010. Further, the cabinet expressed its appreciation to the NCAA Division I Legislative Council for following its recommendations in September 2008 on legislative proposals related to team limits while it conducts this review. The cabinet has prioritized the following topics for further study: (1) countable aid versus noncountable aid (e.g., government grants, institutional merit aid, state grants); (2) examination of issues related to determining counter status; (3) head-count versus equivalency designations; and (4) team financial aid limits.

2. Best Practices for Conducting Financial Aid Hearing Opportunities. The cabinet revisited the recommendations related to the financial aid hearing opportunity legislation and determined that no legislative changes were necessary at this time. The cabinet requested that the staff develop a comprehensive best practices document related to the application of the financial aid hearing opportunity legislation and renewal/nonrenewal process. This resource will be made available to the Division I membership on the NCAA Web site. The cabinet also requested the staff work with the staff liaisons for the athletics certification and the compliance review processes to determine if there are ways to ensure institutional policies and procedures for conducting financial aid hearings are reviewed on a regular basis.

3. Outreach to Financial Aid Community. The cabinet reviewed the February 2007 Financial Aid Workshop recommendations related to outreach (e.g., communication, education) to the financial aid community and prioritized next steps for the staff. Specifically, the cabinet directed the staff to develop a plan for NCAA staff to serve as a liaison to the financial aid community [e.g., partnership with National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)] to discuss the best methods to enhance dialogue between the NCAA and NASFAA on financial aid issues. Potential outreach efforts may include, but will not be limited to, a coordinated effort to develop educational resources for use by NASFAA members and greater interaction during NCAA Regional Rules Seminars. The cabinet will receive an update on the staff's progress with these initiatives during its June 2009 meeting.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Informational Items.

a. Comments on Proposals Currently in the 2008-09 Legislative Cycle.

(1) NCAA Proposal No. 2008-15-B -- Recruiting -- Definitions and Applications -- Prospective Student-Athlete -- Institutional Orientation Session. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2008-15-B, which would specify that a recruited 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 an institutional orientation session that is open to all incoming students 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 NCAA Bylaw 13 and shall be considered a student-athlete for purposes of Bylaw 16 as of the opening day of the orientation session.

(2) Proposal No. 2008-25-D -- Recruiting -- Official Visit and Letter of Intent Programs -- Requirements for Official Visit and Offers of Athletically Related Financial aid -- Completion of Amateurism Certification Questionnaire – Delayed Effective Date. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2008-25-D, which would specify that an institution shall not provide a high school, preparatory school or transfer (if applicable) prospective student-athlete a written offer of athletically related financial aid until he or she has completed the amateurism certification

questionnaire administered by the NCAA Eligibility Center. The cabinet noted that this amendment mirrors its sponsorship of 2008-25-B but delays the effective date to August 1, 2010.

(3) Proposal No. 2008-43 -- Awards, Benefits and Expenses -- Housing and Meals -- Fruit, Nuts and Bagels. The cabinet agreed to oppose Proposal No. 2008-43, which would specify that an institution may provide fruit, nuts and bagels to student-athletes at any time. The cabinet supported the concept of access to nutritional foods to provide the caloric and fluid replacement permitted at present through supplements. However, the cabinet was not convinced that the current proposal is the best way to address the identified problem, and noted the likely interpretive issues related to the proposal. The cabinet agreed to engage in a broader review of nutritional supplements and whole foods with the NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet and the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports to determine if the current legislation warrants change. [See Informational Item No. 2-a below.]

b. Other Legislative Comments.

- **Review of Noncontroversial Legislative Recommendation from the NCAA Research Committee**. The cabinet reviewed a noncontroversial legislative recommendation from the NCAA Research Committee to the NCAA Division I Administration Cabinet that would amend Bylaw 16.11.1.11 (NCAA research studies) to permit compensation of participants in institution-based student-athlete only research studies under the specified conditions. The cabinet supported the legislative concept and, in particular, noted that institutional review boards are the appropriate authority to approve such research studies and related compensation.

2. Nonlegislative Informational Items.

a. Review of Information Provided by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Related To Nutritional Supplements. The cabinet reviewed and discussed information provided by Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports related to student-athletes' use of nutritional supplements. Specifically, the cabinet was provided with: (1) the committee's December 2008 executive summary related to nutritional supplements and nutrition; (2) 2007 Student-Athlete Nutrition Survey

results; and (3) 1989-2008 historical timeline of policy actions related to feeding student-athletes versus nutritional supplements. The cabinet believes that this issue has student-athlete well-being ramifications and agreed to engage in a broader review of nutritional supplements and whole foods with the Championships/Sports Management Cabinet and the committee to determine if the current legislation warrants change. Specifically, the cabinet would like to explore legislative options that would provide flexibility for institutions to provide nutritional whole-food options to their student-athletes immediately following participation in countable athletically related activities to replace calories and fluids lost during that participation.

b. **Review of Issues Related to Midyear Enrollees and the NLI.** The cabinet reviewed an issue related to prospective student-athletes who have signed an NLI during the early signing period, yet enroll in the academic year prior to the period of the award that accompanied the NLI (e.g., midyear of the current academic year). The cabinet agreed to take no action at this time, noting there is currently a permissible way to provide athletics aid to these student-athletes during the academic year prior to the year noted in the NLI (i.e., not sign the prospect to an NLI). Further, when truly extenuating circumstances are presented, institutions may consider submitting an NCAA Division I Legislative Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief waiver on the student's behalf. Finally, the cabinet directed the staff to provide education to the membership on this issue so institutions can better educate student-athletes and prospective student-athletes on the applicable financial aid regulations.

c. **Update on Staff Initiatives Identified by Cabinet in September 2008**. Based on the cabinet's requests in September, the staff provided updates on additional financial aid information to be added to the NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete and enhancements to the Compliance Assistant Software Program and resources.

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