**REPORT OF THE**
**NCAA DIVISION I AWARDS, BENEFITS, EXPENSES AND**
**FINANCIAL AID CABINET**
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2011, MEETING**

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **Examination of Maximum Grant-in-Aid Limitations/Equivalency Versus Head Count Designations.** The NCAA Division I Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet reviewed information that included an overview of statistical data provided by the NCAA research staff related to Division I current participation numbers, current trends in awarding aid and models indicating possible pressure on scholarship limits. The cabinet also reviewed feedback from their campuses and conferences on whether current designations (head count or equivalency) and team financial aid limits are appropriate. After reviewing the feedback and information provided by the NCAA research staff, the cabinet agreed the topic warrants additional consideration. However, the cabinet decided to revisit the topic at its February 2012 meeting so it would have the benefit of knowing what changes to financial aid were supported by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors.

2. **Review of Equivalency Computation Method.** The cabinet reviewed the current equivalency computations legislation in Division I, including feedback cabinet members received from their campuses and conferences on suggestions for calculating equivalencies. The cabinet remains supportive of NCAA Proposal No. 2011-76 and agreed not to pursue other alternative equivalency computation methods at this time.

3. **Departure/Return Expense Restrictions – Women's Golf.** The cabinet discussed a proposed exception to the departure/return expense legislation for women's golf. The cabinet reviewed current departure/return legislation and agreed to solicit feedback from their member conferences and institutions and determine whether changes are necessary. The cabinet also noted that this issue may be affected by the potential outcomes of the Presidential Task Force. The cabinet will review the information at its February meeting.

4. **Room and Board – Unlimited Meal Plans.** The cabinet discussed unlimited meal plans and current room and board legislation. The cabinet agreed to propose legislation to allow an institution to provide a student-athlete who eats in institutional facilities financial aid that includes a board allowance that consists of the maximum board plan available to all students at the institution. Further, if the maximum board plan available to all students at the institution represents less than three meals per day, to provide a board allowance that includes three meals per day.

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

**1. Comments on Proposals in the 2011-12 Legislative Cycle Forwarded to the Cabinet.** The cabinet reviewed Division I legislative proposals forwarded to it for review that will be considered by the Division I membership as part of the 2011-12 legislative cycle and offered the following comments:

a. Proposal No. 2011-26. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2011-26, which would include the World University Championships in all bylaws that apply to the World University Games. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale.

b. Proposal No. 2011-43. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2011-43, which would set an annual limit of 25 on the number of prospective student-athletes who may sign a National Letter of Intent or institutional offer of financial aid from December 1 through May 31; further to specify that a prospective student-athlete who signs a National Letter of Intent or an institutional offer of financial aid and becomes an initial counter for the same academic year in which the signing occurred (e.g., midyear enrollee) shall not count toward the annual limit on signings. Although the cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale, it expressed concern that the proposal does not address the issue of over signing in other sports or the issue of offering aid the institution does not expect to have available. Consequently, the cabinet agreed to review the issue at its February meeting and consider sponsoring legislation to prohibit an institution from offering aid that the institution does not have available.

c. Proposal No. 2011-73. The cabinet agreed to oppose Proposal No. 2011-73, which would, in bowl subdivision football, permit an institution to provide one training-table meal per day to a student-athlete who does not receive athletically related financial aid; further, in championship subdivision football, to permit an institution

to provide one training-table meal per day to a student-athlete who does not receive athletically related financial aid that covers the full cost of board; finally, to specify that the provision of the one training-table meal per day to such a student-athlete shall not be considered financial aid. The cabinet noted that, except in specific, legislated circumstances, meals are considered a type of financial aid. The cabinet also expressed concern the proposal is specific to football.

d. Proposal No. 2011-74. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2011-74, which would specify that the summer aid proportionality restriction shall not apply to a student-athlete who has exhausted his or her eligibility and is enrolled in course work acceptable toward his or her degree requirements. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale.

e. Proposal No. 2011-75. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2011-75, which would, in football, specify that a prospective student-athlete who receives athletically related financial aid during a summer term prior to initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution shall be an initial and overall counter for the ensuing academic year. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale.

f. Proposal No. 2011-77. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2011-77, which would, in baseball, specify that an institution may provide less than 25 percent of an equivalency to a student-athlete, provided the student-athlete is in the final year of eligibility and has not previously received athletically related financial aid in baseball. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale.

g. Proposal No. 2011-78. The cabinet took no position on Proposal No. 2011-78, which would permit an institution to provide bagel spreads (e.g., butter, peanut butter, jelly, cream cheese) with bagels it may provide to a student-athlete at any time. The cabinet expressed concerns about the enforceability of the proposal and noted that NCAA Bylaw 16 is under review by the Presidential Task Force. Consequently, the cabinet recommended the NCAA Division I Legislative Council table this proposal to provide time for the Presidential Task Force to publish the outcomes of its review of Bylaw 16.

h. Proposal No. 2011-80. The cabinet opposed Proposal No. 2011-80 as written, which would permit an institution to provide actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to participate in not more than two national team tryout competition events, including events from which participants are selected for another tier of tryout competition or events from which final selections are made for the national team that will participate in the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, World Championships, World Cup or World University Games. The cabinet recommends

the sponsor modify the proposal to have an immediate effective date. The cabinet would support the proposal, if modified. Further, in the event the sponsor does not support the suggested modification, the cabinet will sponsor an alternative proposal. The cabinet agrees with the sponsor's rationale, but believes an immediate effective date is more appropriate because it will allow student-athletes to access these benefits during the 2011-12 academic year.

i. Proposal No. 2011-81. The cabinet agreed to support Proposal No. 2011-81, which would permit an institution or conference to pay actual and necessary expenses for a student-athlete to attend a conference-sponsored life skills program (e.g., leadership, personal development, conflict resolution). The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale.

**2. Modifications of Cabinet Sponsored Proposals.**

a. Proposal No. 2011-79. The cabinet agreed to modify Proposal No. 2011-79, which would specify that the institution may pay transportation, housing and meal expenses for any student-athlete to be present in situations in which a student-athlete or a family member or legal guardian of a student-athlete suffers a life-threatening injury or illness, or in the event of a student-athlete's or student-athlete's family member or legal guardian's death, to have an immediate effective date. The cabinet noted that the proposal is permissive and that the modification is beneficial for student-athletes.

b. Proposal No. 2011-82. The cabinet agreed to modify Proposal No. 2011-82, which would specify that proceeds from fundraisers for student-athletes (or their immediate families) due to extreme circumstances beyond the student-athlete's control (e.g., life-threatening illness, natural disaster) may be given directly to the beneficiaries, with receipt kept on file by the institution, which must include the amount of expenses incurred and the total amount received, to have an immediate effective date. The cabinet noted the proposal is permissive and that the modification is beneficial for student-athletes.

**3. Bylaw 15.2.2 (Room and Board) and Unlimited Meal Plans.** The cabinet agreed to sponsor legislation for the 2012-13 legislative cycle to permit an institution to provide a student-athlete who eats in institutional facilities financial aid that includes a board allowance that consists of the maximum board plan available to all students at the institution. Further, if the maximum board plan available to all students at the institution

represents less than three meals per day, to provide a board allowance that includes three meals per day.

a. Effective Date. August 1, 2013.

b. Rationale. The cabinet noted a trend involving institutions offering unlimited board plans either as one of several board plans or as the only board plan option available to students. Further, the cabinet noted that current legislation, does not allow an institution to provide a meal plan that provides more than three meals per day, regardless of what is available to all other students at the institution. The cabinet believes this proposal allows an institution appropriate flexibility to consider its student-athletes' nutritional needs and provide any board plan the institution offers to all of its students.

c. Estimated Budget Impact. Varies by institution.

d. Student-Athlete Impact (Academic or Athletic). Promotes student-athlete well-being.

*Committee Chair:* *Sarah Bobert, Marquette University, Big East Conference*
*Staff Liaisons:* *Kris Richardson, Academic and Membership Affairs*
*Shauna Cobb, Academic and Membership Affairs*
*Danielle Teetzel, Academic and Membership Affairs*