REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
OCTOBER 26-27, 2009, MEETING

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **Graduation Success Rate (GSR) Release.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance reviewed preliminary GSR and Federal Graduation Rate data that will be announced November 18, 2009. The upcoming release will include the GSR and the Federal Graduation Rate data for the 1999-2002 cohort.

2. **Head Coaches' APR Portfolio.** The committee will expand the information to be provided within the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio to include links to Federal Graduation Rates, GSRs and public NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) penalty and NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) reports to provide additional context to the single-year APRs and employment information reported for each head coach. Development of the new site is on schedule for availability in summer 2010 and coaches will have the opportunity to confirm their information prior to the public release.

3. **Examination of the APP.** The committee began extensive review of the APP to determine the program's effectiveness in reaching the membership's goals for academic reform. This review will continue throughout the coming year and will include examinations of the APR benchmarks and penalty structures, penalty filters and waiver directives.

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative Items.**

   - None.

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**

   - None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Head Coaches' APR Portfolio and Head Coaches' Dashboard.** In response to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors' request for the committee to explore the viability

of maintaining both the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio and the Head Coaches Dashboard, the committee determined that the information provided via the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio will be expanded. Specifically, the site will include links to Federal Graduation Rates, GSRs and public APP penalty and APR reports to provide additional context to the single-year APRs reported for each head coach. Data collection for the portfolio began in July 2009 and will continue until November 2009. In order to ease institutional administrative burden, a phased rollout of the public Web site previously was approved, with football, women's indoor and outdoor track and field, baseball and men's and women's basketball to be reported during the initial year. All additional NCAA Division I sponsored sports will be reported in 2011. Feedback received from institutions on the data collection process has been positive and has allowed the staff to identify enhancements in education and improvements to the APP Web site for next year's large-scale collection of data. The committee also reviewed the timeline and details on the verification process of the head coaches' employment history using a password protected Web site. The public Head Coaches' APR Portfolio Web site, containing information on the six initial sports, currently is scheduled for release in summer 2010.

The committee will reconsider a more extensive Head Coaches' Dashboard concept in 2011-12, after the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio Web Site has been fully implemented. The Head Coaches' Dashboard could include the academic profile of entering student-athletes by recruiting class; the head coach's single-year APR, eligibility and retention rates and the number of "0/2" student-athletes; and the head coach's APP penalty history by year, including any contemporaneous or historical penalties.

2. Examination of the APP. In light of the collection of the sixth year of APR data and the imposition of the fifth year of APP penalties, the committee began an extensive, yearlong review of the APP and identified key research issues and questions related to the program review. Over the next several meetings, the committee will review the historical, current and future APR distributions; the impact of the current penalty benchmarks and their connection to projected graduation rates; the historical and current impacts of the historical penalty review factors; and the relationship between a team's penalty status and APR improvement.

NCAA research indicates the number of squads with multiyear APRs below 925 and 900 has decreased significantly since the first year of APR data collection. The committee noted this phenomenon may be attributed to true academic improvement and to changes to the APR calculation since 2003-04 (i.e., professional departure adjustments, opportunities to earn delayed-graduation points, and automatic adjustments for student-athletes who transfer and meet specified criteria). Further, research indicated that the changes to the APR calculation combined with sustained academic improvement

ultimately will leave a small number of teams below the penalty benchmarks. The various changes to the APR calculation also have made it difficult to establish a sustained numerical translation between APR and GSR. In the committee's examination of the review factors for historical penalties, it was determined that very few teams are meeting two of the review factors (i.e., institutional characteristics and within sport comparison). Lastly, the committee reviewed data that demonstrated a statistically significant relationship between receipt of APP penalties and single-year APR improvement. Given these findings, the committee will focus on the following questions during its review of the APP:

a. Are the original goals of the APP being achieved through the current system of measurements, penalties and public recognition?

b. Are the current APR penalty benchmarks useful in motivating improved academic performance?

c. Is the current system of penalty filters and waiver directives working as intended?

3. NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Supplemental Support Fund (SSF). The committee received a report regarding the SSF, which is available for new or enhanced programs developed to support student-athlete academic performance and for professional development opportunities for individuals providing academic support services to student-athletes. Thirty-three limited-resource institutions are eligible to apply for funding support during the 2009-10 academic year. Institutions that received funds in prior years are required to report on the use of funds; however, it is premature to measure the impact of the funds at this time. The SSF currently is being integrated into other outreach efforts led by the NCAA educational affairs staff and a one-day professional development workshop will be conducted December 1 for representatives of all SSF-eligible institutions. Lastly, the committee began initial considerations regarding a possible extension of the program, which currently is scheduled to end after the 2009-10 academic year.

4. Partial Staff Approval of Occasion-Three Historical Penalty Waivers. The committee finalized procedures for the staff to provide a partial approval or partial-conditional approval of an Occasion-Three Historical Penalty waiver. Specifically, the staff will make decisions and provide periodic reports of the teams that were granted partial relief of Occasion-Three Historical Penalties. The committee may not reverse the staff decisions, but will provide feedback and direction for future cases after receiving the periodic reports. This process will ensure consistent application of relief for all teams subject to Occasion-Three Historical Penalties during the same academic year, while maintaining the committee's oversight of Occasion-Three Historical Penalty waivers.

5. **Occasion-Four Historical Penalties.** The committee continued its discussion regarding the current application of Occasion-Four Historical Penalties and noted that Occasion-Four Historical Penalties were intended to be the most significant motivation for improved academic performance. The committee noted that consideration of Occasion-Four Historical Penalties should be included in its broader review of the APP penalty structure.

6. **Review of Occasion-Three and -Four Historical Penalty Appeals Remanded Back to the Committee by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors Academic Performance Program Historical Penalties Appeals Subcommittee.** The committee revised its policies and procedures to include the consideration of cases that are remanded back to the committee by the APP Historical Appeals Board Subcommittee following an appeal of the committee's original decision. The committee will examine such cases through a submission of documentation from the involved institution, the NCAA staff and the APP Historical Appeals Board Subcommittee, and its review of a remanded case will occur via the best means (e.g., teleconference, videoconference, in-person meetings) for expeditiously completing the review. Institutional representatives shall not be present for or participate in this review by the committee, other than by providing documents as noted.

7. **Appeals of Failures to meet Occasion-Three and -Four Historical Penalty Waiver Conditions.** The committee amended its policies and procedures to finalize the process for reviewing appeals from teams that do not fulfill the conditions of conditionally approved Occasion-Three or -Four Historical Penalty waivers. If a conditional waiver is not satisfied and relief is not provided by the committee, an institution must impose the resulting penalties in the academic year following the denial of the appeal (i.e., appeals denied in 2009-10 result in the imposition of penalties in 2010-11).

8. **Granting Permission to Contact under NCAA Bylaw 13.1.1.3.4.** The committee approved amendments to its policies and procedures regarding granting institutions permission to contact student-athletes on a team subject to a postseason competition restriction due to an APP penalty. Bylaw 13.1.1.3.4 requires that in order to provide permission to contact, the APP penalty must preclude the student-athlete's team from participating in postseason competition during all remaining seasons of the student-athlete's eligibility. To this end, only remaining seasons of eligibility will be considered and the amount of time remaining on the student-athlete's "five-year clock" will not be a factor. Further, the decision to provide permission to contact will be made by the committee during the penalty waiver process. The committee's decision will be communicated to the penalized institution once all appeal opportunities have been

exhausted and the penalized institution shall notify the involved student-athletes if permission to be contacted was granted. Student-athletes shall be informed that receiving permission to be contacted does not guarantee that a waiver of the transfer residence requirement will be approved; further, the student-athlete still must meet all eligibility requirements at his or her new institution. In general, permission to be contacted will not be provided to a student-athlete who has contributed to the team's underperformance on the APR; therefore, the committee generally will not grant permission to be contacted to a student-athlete who has lost one or more eligibility or retention points during his or her career. Even so, this does not preclude an institution from granting permission to contact one of its student-athletes at any time.

9. Staff Guidelines for Processing Requests to Waive the Transfer Year of Residence per Bylaw 14.8.2-(e). The committee discussed the process for the review of requests to waive the transfer year of residence for a student-athlete who transfers when his or her team is subject to a restriction on postseason competition due to APP historical penalties, as provided in Bylaw 14.8.2-(e). The NCAA Division I Legislative Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief has the authority to waive the transfer year of residence and related requests may be initiated only by a member institution through the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief's existing procedures. The staff supporting the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief will process the case, as with all requests to waive the academic year of residence. However, when the rationale for the request cites a postseason competition restriction due to APP penalties, a member of the APP penalty waiver staff also will review the request to verify that it includes all information outlined in the committee's principles for such cases. The staff or the NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance Subcommittee on Appeals will review the case and will make a recommendation to the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief, who will decide the case in accordance with its normal policies. The applicant and penalized institutions will be notified of the decision by the staff supporting the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief and any appeals of the initial decision will be handled in accordance with the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief's policies and procedures. Finally, the staff will provide an annual report of all such requests and decisions to the committee.

10. Report of Occasion-Two Historical Penalties Taken in 2008-09. The Subcommittee on Appeals reviewed a report of the Occasion-Two Historical Penalties taken in the 2008-09 academic year, which was the first year that any team was required to impose such sanctions. Institutions are required to provide to the national office documentation that the penalty was imposed. Twenty of 24 teams presented acceptable information, while two teams have been discontinued and two teams were asked to submit additional

information to verify the correct application of the penalties. The subcommittee also noted several observations from the first year of reporting and recommended changes to the reporting process for penalties imposed in the 2009-10 academic year. Specifically, in next year's reports the squad lists submitted to document appropriate application of financial aid penalties must include the signatures required by the NCAA squad list form. In addition, the narrative describing how practice time was replaced with academic time must be completed by an academic support staff member at the institution.

11. **Annual Release of GSR and Federal Graduation Rate Information.** The committee reviewed preliminary GSR and Federal Graduation Rate data to be released November 18, 2009. This release will include the GSR and the Federal Graduation Rate data for the 1999-2002 cohort. As with last year's release, the NCAA will announce the team and overall GSR and Federal Graduation Rate at the same time.

12. **Fall 2009 APR and APC Data Collection Process.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting received a progress report on the APP data collection process for submission of 2008-09 APR data. It is anticipated that the submission of APR data will conclude November 2009.

13. **APP Data Reviews.** The Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting received a status report regarding the progress of the 25 institutions selected to have their APP data reviewed during the 2009-10 academic year. These data are being reviewed for the accuracy of the eligibility, graduation and retention submissions in the APP data collection system for the academic years of 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. The subcommittee also received a progress report regarding the five institutions being reviewed for the accuracy of the GSR data entered in the APP data collection system for the 2002-03 cohort. The staff also informed the subcommittee of the completion of the data review for one institution from the 2008-09 data review class. It is anticipated that all data reviews will be completed not later than December 1, 2009.

14. **Student-Athlete Academic Suspensions.** The Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting considered whether to award the APR eligibility point when a student-athlete is suspended for academic reasons (e.g., cheating, plagiarism). More specifically, the subcommittee reviewed an interpretation issued by the NCAA academic and membership affairs staff, which states that in order to receive athletically related financial aid, a transfer student-athlete must have been academically eligible to compete during the next regular academic term had he or she remained at the previous institution. This eligibility

determination shall include all academic elements of eligibility (e.g., NCAA progress-toward-degree requirements, conference academic requirements, institutional good academic standing), including a suspension related to any academic offense. The subcommittee confirmed the application of the staff's interpretation with regard to the awarding of the "E" point in order to maintain consistency between the criteria to earn the APR eligibility point and the criteria to be "academically eligible" to receive athletics aid on transfer to another Division I institution. Further, this would be consistent with the committee's original intent and ongoing practice of aligning all academic factors within the consideration of the APR eligibility point.

15. APP Penalties and APP Data Reviews. The Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting discussed potential actions that may be taken when it is determined that an institution selected for data review was not subject to APP penalties as a result of errors the institution made in recording its APR data. The subcommittee agreed to continue its consideration of the appropriate measures to be taken under such circumstances at the next in-person meeting.

16. Consideration of Student-Assistant Coaches within the APP. The Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting reviewed the status of student-assistant coaches within the APR cohort in light of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2009-12-A (personnel -- definitions and applications -- undergraduate student-assistant coach) and Proposal No. 2009-12-B (personnel -- definitions and applications -- student-assistant coach -- five-year eligibility period). Currently, the APR cohort includes any student-athlete who is receiving athletics aid, or who was recruited and is a full-time student, except those student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility and graduated or who have exhausted eligibility and are enrolled beyond five years of actual full-time enrollment. The subcommittee agreed to include student-assistant coaches in the APR cohort as long as they meet the current cohort guidelines. The subcommittee noted that undergraduate student-assistant coaches have yet to graduate and therefore, institutions should be held accountable for their academic performance and graduation. Lastly, the subcommittee noted the APR adjustment process is available to consider any unique circumstances that impact a student-assistant coach's ability to earn APR points.

17. Data Submission Requirements for Teams and Institutions Transitioning from Division I. The Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting began to re-examine its policies regarding requirements for all facets of the APP for institutions and/or teams that transition from Division I. Specifically, the subcommittee considered which APP data

submission requirements these institutions should meet and how APP penalties should apply in these specific situations. The subcommittee noted that during the last several months, the staff has been notified of one institution that is transitioning its entire athletics program from Division I and another institution that has decided to no longer pursue Division I membership and will return to Division II. It also was noted that this issue presents unique circumstances that were not contemplated by the committee during the development of its current policies. The subcommittee agreed to take no action at this time and will continue its consideration at the next in-person meeting.

18. NCAA Division I Academic Cabinet Update. The committee received an update regarding the September 2009 Academic Cabinet meeting, specifically noting the cabinet's review of the division's initial-eligibility requirements, a recently completed survey regarding academic support services for student-athletes and progress in the development of the Facilitating Learning and Achieving Graduation (FLAG) program. The committee will work in conjunction with the Academic Cabinet to review the initial-eligibility and two-year college transfer student-athlete standards, culminating with a joint meeting in June 2010 to formulate recommendations on these issues.

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