REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
APRIL 26-27, 2010, MEETING

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **Sixth Year of NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) Data.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance reviewed a summary of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) data that will be released publicly next month. In the coming weeks the NCAA will announce team APR, public recognition for top performers and APP penalties. Institutions and conference offices will be notified when the release dates are scheduled.

2. **Examination of the APP.** The committee continued its examination of the APP to determine the program's effectiveness in reaching the membership's goals for academic reform. This review will continue through the summer and will include further discussions regarding the APP benchmarks, penalty structures, filters and waiver directives.

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative Items.**

   - None.

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**

   - None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Examination of the APP.** The committee continued its review of the APP and began to address key research issues and questions related to the program's effectiveness. The data presented showed the likelihood of significantly fewer teams below both the 900 and 925 benchmarks by 2010-11. This is due in part to overall academic improvement, as well as changes made to the APR metric over time. In addition to reviewing the effects of the current penalty benchmarks, the committee discussed the effectiveness of the current historical-penalty filters and noted the by-sport comparison and institutional characteristics filters will become irrelevant for the vast majority of teams if the APR benchmarks remain the same. The committee also examined concepts regarding the relationship between the APR and graduation rates and the way both could

be used within the structure of the APP. These topics will be discussed again during the June meeting.

2. **Sixth Year of APP Data.** The committee received a summary of the most-recent APR data submitted by member institutions, which will be available for public review in May or early June.

3. **NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Supplemental Support Fund (SSF).** The committee supported a request for fiscal year 2011 funding of the SSF in the amount of $950,000 to be allocated from the NCAA Academic Enhancement Fund. Further, the committee noted this request will be reviewed as part of the Association's normal budget process. Since 2007-08, the SSF has supported campus-based initiatives designed to foster student-athlete academic success at limited-resource institutions (e.g., additional staffing, academic support equipment, facility renovations and upgrades). Further, this fund has demonstrated the Association's commitment to a meaningful program that encourages academic achievement and facilitates academic improvement. The committee also directed the staff to provide in April 2011 a detailed, data-driven progress report that will outline the impact of all initiatives funded through the SSF and will provide a qualitative review of institutional progress in implementing APR Improvement Plans. This report should include the latest APR and Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data, which will assist in the measurement and assessment of success of the program against the program's initially established success criteria or revised criteria. In addition, the report should include details on the uses of the grant funding and the connection between the SSF and the institution's APR Improvement Plan. Lastly, the committee directed the staff to ensure that all future SSF requests are directly tied to APR Improvement Plan element(s).

4. **NCAA Division I Football Academic Working Group Report.** The committee reviewed the Football Academic Working Group's final report with a focus on the impact of the report's recommendations on current APP policies and procedures. The group supports the general concept of encouraging graduation within four and a half years to synchronize the end of competitive eligibility with graduation for many football student-athletes. However, the committee noted several complications associated with the working group's recommendation to require football student-athletes to complete nine hours and earn the eligibility point during the fall term in order to be eligible for all games of the subsequent season. Specifically, the committee noted the possible impact to student-athletes attending institutions following quarter-based academic calendars, which will be examined by the NCAA Division I Academic Cabinet in June. Further, the committee noted the need to identify and examine any potential unintended consequences

of this rule change, particularly for upperclassmen who may be considering whether to remain in school or to withdraw to pursue professional opportunities (e.g., loss of eligibility for two to four games could factor into decisions to declare for the NFL draft).

Regarding the recommended changes to APP policies, the committee's initial position is that the credit-hour requirement (i.e., nine-hour requirement) within the working group's recommendation would not be tied to the awarding of the APR eligibility point in the fall term. The committee noted this decision is consistent with current policy, in that, even if the student-athlete fails to meet the new requirement, he still would be eligible for most of the contests that would occur in the next season.

The committee initially does not favor the working group's recommendation to no longer exempt the aid of "0/2" student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility when calculating contemporaneous penalties for NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision teams. The committee noted the minimal potential impact of this policy change. Further, while incoming student-athletes are protected under other APP policies, continuing student-athletes could experience financial aid reductions to accommodate the additional penalties resulting from the removal of the exemption.

Finally, the committee discussed the working group's recommendation to expand the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio to include additional institutional administrators. The committee maintained its position that such information should not be added at this time, given the additional complexities and institutional administrative burden associated with reporting additional information. Once the Head Coaches' APR Portfolio initiative has been fully implemented and evaluated in summer 2011, the committee will revisit the issue.

5. Evaluation of APR Improvement Plans. The committee approved a modification to the staff policies for review and evaluation of APR Improvements Plans. As part of its evaluation, the staff will continue to ensure that the plan contains all required elements and will continue to identify the elements of APR Improvement Plans that positively affect a team's APR. However, rather than determining whether a plan is acceptable or unacceptable, the staff's evaluation simply will outline the plan's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for enhancement for those initiatives that address critical issues identified by the institution in its data analysis. Additionally, for plans considered in APP penalty waivers and requests for SSF, after receiving feedback from the staff, institutions will have a specified time to make revisions. If the institution does not resubmit its plan by the established deadline, the staff/committee will consider the original plan when evaluating a waiver or a request for SSF. Any subsequently submitted plan will not be considered new or different information in the waiver process. These changes to the plan review process will provide member institutions with more meaningful feedback and

avoid delays in the resolution of penalty-waiver decisions and the awarding of SSF grants. It also will allow for more timely feedback to institutions on their APR Improvement Plans.

6. APR Improvement Plan Deadline Submission Dates and Educational Initiative. The following dates have been established for APR Improvement Plan updates and implementation reports in 2010-11:

2010-11 Team/Institution Reporting Requirements	Submission Deadline
Teams that received a conditional waiver of penalties in 2009-10 (implementation only)	October 4
Teams with a multiyear APR below 900	November 1
Institutions requesting SSF	November 1
Teams requesting a waiver of penalty	November 1 or with waiver request (whichever is earlier)

The committee also reviewed an educational document drafted to assist member institutions as they develop or revise their APR Improvement Plans. The document is intended to assist in identifying critical issues that have impacted teams' academic performance, steps institutions have used to achieve specific goals and ways to measure success in achieving those desired outcomes. Further, this educational document may serve as a catalyst for campus dialogue and may help foster ideas that lead to successful strategies designed to help improve academic progress rates. Lastly, this document will be posted online on the committee's Web site and will be distributed to the membership though various outlets (e.g., N4A, NACADA).

7. APR Adjustment Directive. The committee approved the APR adjustment directive, effective immediately. During its February 2010 meeting, the committee approved amendments to the directive for processing APR adjustment requests for student-athletes who meet the criteria for the missed-term exception, requests for student-athletes who receive a medical-absence waiver and the signature page requirements for all requests and appeals of denied requests. Accordingly, the directive has been updated to reflect these changes. The directive will be posted online so that institutions can prepare for adjustments to be submitted fall 2010.

8. 2009-10 APR and Penalty Reporting Forms. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting approved the final version of the institutional and public APR and penalty reports to be used during the 2010-11 academic year. The reports are intended to provide institutions with teams' APR, as well as a summary of the teams subject to contemporaneous and/or historical penalties and detailed worksheets explaining how the penalties were calculated.

9. APP Data Reviews. The committee received a progress report regarding the selection of 30 institutions for GSR data reviews for the current cycle, which began in early February. The APR data reviews will be conducted June through October and final reports will be issued shortly thereafter.

10. NCAA Division I Head Coaches' APR Portfolio. At its February 2009 meeting, the committee determined that any head coach employed between August 1 and July 31 of a given academic year would have the team's APR information from that year displayed on his or her individual page. Since that time, the NCAA staff has received feedback from coaches' associations questioning the use of this date range for displaying of single-year APRs. For instance, a head coach who is hired in April, May or June at the end of a given academic year would be associated with the academic performance of his or her new team for the entire previous academic year. After consideration of options developed by the staff, the committee agreed to maintain the previously adopted plan (i.e., August 1 through July 31) for displaying employment dates for coaches; however, additional context will be provided to the data displayed for each academic year in instances where there has been a coaching change (e.g., asterisk with the date of when the head coach left or was hired by the institution). This modification will indicate that the academic year in question was a "transition year" and will be implemented with this summer's release of the public Web site.

11. Committee on Academic Performance Policies and Procedures, Penalties Guide and Data Collection Guide. The committee approved the updated Committee on Academic Performance Policies and Procedures, Penalties Guide and Data Collection Guide. The guides will assist institutions in the 2010-11 data collection process and penalty applications and will be posted on the committee's page on the NCAA Web site at www.ncaa.org. This posting also will satisfy annual reporting requirements specified in NCAA Bylaw 23.

12. NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification and Committee on Academic Performance Joint Ad Hoc Working Group. The committee received a report

regarding the NCAA Division I Athletics Certification program, which includes self-study items related to the analysis of APR, GSR and retention data. During its April 2010 meeting, the Committee on Athletics Certification proposed the creation of a joint ad hoc working group between the Committee on Athletics Certification and the Committee on Academic Performance to investigate ways in which these two committees may work together to enhance the graduation rates of student-athletes, to address concerns regarding certification of eligibility, and to support academic reform, specifically in the areas of APR/GSR reporting and implementation of APR Improvement Plans. The committee agreed with this recommendation and representatives from both groups will be identified for service on the ad hoc group.

13. Occasion-Three Historical Penalty Hearing. The committee conducted hearings for two institutions subject to Occasion-Three Historical Penalties.

Committee Chair: *Walter Harrison, University of Hartford, America East Conference*
Committee Liaisons: *Diane Dickman, Academic and Membership Affairs*
Julie Cromer, Academic and Membership Affairs
Kevin Lennon, Academic and Membership Affairs
Todd Petr, Research
Bill Regan, Academic and Membership Affairs