REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
OCTOBER 25-26, 2010, MEETING

***KEY ITEM*.**

- **Examination of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP).** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance continued its comprehensive examination of the APP including review of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) metric, the penalty benchmarks and the penalty structure. This review will continue through the spring as the committee seeks membership input.

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. Examination of the APP. The committee continued its extensive review of the APP including the principles and goals of the program. The review included an evaluation of the APR calculation, the penalty benchmarks and the penalty structure.

a. Goals and Principles - The committee has adopted the following goals and principles, which have served as a guide in its review of the APP.

Goals.

(1) To ensure that the Division I membership is dedicated to providing student-athletes with exemplary educational and intercollegiate-athletics experiences in environments that recognize and support the primacy of the academic mission of member institutions, while enhancing the ability of male and female student-athletes to earn four-year degrees. (NCAA Bylaw 23.01.1)

(2) To encourage graduation of all student-athletes.

Principles.

(1) All NCAA Division I athletics programs and sports teams should be subject to the penalty and rewards structure.

(2) The APP should encourage continuous and meaningful improvement for academically underperforming teams.

(3) The APP must appropriately penalize those programs that have demonstrated a history of academic underachievement.

(4) The implementation of the APP should recognize the diversity of institutional missions and characteristics among NCAA member institutions.

(5) The integrity of the rates of measure within the APP must be maintained.

(6) The APP must be fair and equitable.

(7) The APP should be as straightforward and understandable as possible.

b. **APR Metric -** The committee noted that the APR continues to be a sound real-time measure of teams' academic success and eventual graduation rates. The committee did discuss options for incorporating a graduation component into the APR metric. Since the implementation of the APR in 2003-04, there have been several important changes that have altered the APR, its distribution of scores and the meaning of the specific APR values. These changes have resulted in the retention component functioning more like an eligibility component, a change in the meaning and impact of the penalty benchmarks and a compacting of the distribution of APRs. Based on the impact of these changes, the committee continued to consider whether refining the APR calculation to include a graduation component was warranted.

c. **APR Penalty Benchmark(s) -** The committee is also considering a change in the penalty benchmark(s). Originally, the 925 penalty benchmark equated to a 50 percent Federal Graduation Rate and a 60 percent Graduation Success Rate, while the 900 penalty benchmark equated to a 37 percent Federal Graduation Rate and a 50 percent GSR. Currently, a 925 equates to a 36 percent Federal Graduation Rate and a 50 percent GSR while the 900 equates to a 25 percent Federal Graduation Rate and a 40 percent GSR. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to setting a penalty benchmark that equates to a 50 percent GSR.

d. **Penalty Structure -** The committee is also considering amending the penalty structure to create a single structure with a single-penalty benchmark. A single-penalty structure will be a simpler and more efficient system for administering the APP and associated penalties. In addition to merging the current penalty structure,

the committee is also considering the addition of a fifth level of penalties, which would include a menu of penalties that would be determined by the committee during a hearing. The committee also examined the possibility of adding new penalties and reconstituting current penalties.

All of these issues will continue to be reviewed by the committee with anticipated recommendations for membership consideration in 2011.

2. Review of NCAA Proposals in the 2010-11 Legislative Cycle. The committee reviewed the following proposals in the current legislative cycle and provided its position as follows:

a. NCAA Proposal No. 2010-58 - Eligibility, Financial Aid and Playing and Practice Seasons -- Summer Academic Preparation and College Acclimatization -- Men's Basketball. The committee supports Proposal No. 2010-58 as written and encourages the NCAA Division I Board of Directors not to amend the proposal. The committee does not support the amendment that would increase the number of credit hours incoming student-athletes must successfully complete in the summer prior to initial full-time enrollment from three to six. The committee supports the work of the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Academic Enhancement Group and noted that the original concept derived from this group's work will have a positive impact on the men's basketball culture and retention issues within the sport.

b. Proposal No. 2010-59-C - Eligibility -- Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements -- Eligibility for Competition -- Fulfillment of Credit Hour Requirements -- Fall Term Academic Requirements for Future Competition -- One-Time Exception to Regain Full Eligibility -- Football. The committee supports Proposal No. 2010-59-C and opposes Proposal Nos. 2010-59-A and 2010-59-B. The committee generally supports the original concepts developed by the NCAA Division I Football Academic Working Group. However, it noted this alternative proposal recognizes the fact that student-athletes may experience academic difficulty in a term during their collegiate enrollment. Providing the ability to regain full eligibility on one occasion, allows student-athletes to academically recover one time during his academic career, while still supporting the overall premise of the original proposal.

3. Head Coaches' APR Portfolio Release. The Head Coaches' APR Portfolio public website launch occurred August 5, 2010, for football, men's and women's basketball, baseball, and women's indoor and outdoor track and field. The webpage provides information for all head coaches in the sports released from 2003-04 to present. The data collection for coaches in all other sports, and their employment dates will continue through the end of the 2010 data-collection cycle with release of all sports occurring in 2011.

4. **APP Public Recognition Awards.** The committee continued its discussion of the expansion of the Public Recognition Awards designed to acknowledge publicly the academic achievement of deserving teams, coaches, and institutions. Currently, Public Recognition Awards celebrate the superior academic achievement of teams that have achieved an APR within the top 10 percent of all teams in their respective sports. The committee requested the staff to further develop concepts for its consideration. Concepts should focus on expanding recognition and examining methods to recognize improvement.

5. **APP Penalty Waiver Directive**. During its June 2010 meeting, the committee amended its policies and procedures to require institutions be placed in the appropriate level of historical penalty after an APP data review has been completed, even if the corrected data would have subjected the team to a historical penalty at the time the original data was submitted. Based on this change, the committee amended the penalty waiver directive to allow the staff and/or committee to consider this unique scenario as potential mitigating circumstances that may warrant relief of an APP penalty. This policy change is effective immediately.

6. **Application of Practice Penalties to Members of a Team Subject to Occasion-Two and -Three Historical Penalties.** The committee confirmed that teams subject to Occasion-Two or -Three Historical Penalties may not exclude high academically performing student-athletes from the required academic activities. Every student-athlete on the penalized team is required to participate in monitored academic activities; however, not every student-athlete needs to participate in the same academic activities and the academic activities may be tailored for each student-athlete. This policy is effective immediately.

7. **Conditions for Relief of an APP Penalty.** The committee amended the APP penalty waiver directive effective immediately. The following conditions may be imposed on an institution seeking relief from a penalty:

   a. Requiring the institution to implement certain elements of its APR Improvement Plan identified by the staff or committee as critical to improving academic performance;

   b. Requiring the institution to demonstrate it satisfied its commitment of resources to enhance academic support initiatives that are part of the institution's APR Improvement Plan or cited in its APP penalty waiver/hearing;

   c. Requiring the institution to impose limits, restrictions, or penalties that it has established as part of its APR Improvement Plan or waiver/hearing mitigation;

   d. Requiring an institution to use the NCAA Facilitating Learning and Achieving Graduation/Graduation Risk Overview (FLAG/GRO) program; and

e. Requiring an institution to implement identified academic profile standards for entering student-athletes, as established in its APR Improvement Plan and/or APP penalty waiver/hearing materials.

Historically, the staff and committee have set as conditions single-year APR goals and implementation of the APR Improvement Plan. The committee recognized the need to expand the number of possible conditions to ensure that APP continues to advance the principles of academic reform.

8. Reinstatement for Championships Eligibility When an Institution Fails to Meet an APP Data-Related Requirement. The committee amended its policies and procedures to permit reinstatement for championships eligibility after an institution complies with data-related requirements (i.e., submits its APR/GSR data, submits usable APR/GSR data or provides information as part of the data review process). The institution would no longer be required to make a formal written request for reinstatement. The institution will continue to be required to submit a plan that must include the steps the institution will take in future data collections to ensure timely submission of data or usable data. This plan is not required prior to being reinstated for championships. Eliminating the requirement that an institution must request reinstatement for postseason competition removes unnecessary bureaucracy from the process. This policy change is effective immediately.

9. Consideration of Part-Time Student-Athletes who have Exhausted Eligibility within the APP. The committee reviewed the status of part-time student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility and are receiving athletics aid within the APR cohort in light of Proposal No. 2010-61 (Financial Aid – General Principles – Eligibility of Student-Athletes for Institutional Financial Aid – Exception – Part Time Enrollment after Exhausted Eligibility). This proposal, if adopted, would allow student-athletes who have exhausted eligibility and are enrolled as part-time students to receive athletics aid. The committee determined that student-athletes who are receiving athletics aid due to this exception to full-time enrollment should be included in the APR cohort during the term that the exception is being used. The committee also determined that the retention point would be awarded for the term immediately prior to when the exception is being used. Finally, the committee determined that the student-athlete must meet all applicable academic-eligibility requirements (e.g., NCAA progress-toward-degree requirements, conference academic requirements, institutional good academic standing) in order to earn the eligibility point for the term in question, even if the student-athlete is enrolled in less than six credits during the term. The institution would be able to request an adjustment for any student-athlete who did not meet the applicable requirements. If the proposal is adopted, this change would become effective with the 2011-12 APR cohort to be collected fall 2012 and would not apply retroactively.

10. GSR Data Submission Requirements for Institutions Transitioning To Division I. The committee approved a policy change for the submission of GSR data for institutions that reclassify to Division I. Prior to this change, institutions in the membership transition process were required to submit the legislatively required data for Division I when the institution is required to be in compliance with Division I legislation (e.g., year one or year two of the process). The six-year lag time in the reporting of GSR data has created confusion among institutions in the membership process as they are required to apply Division I legislation at a certain point in the process but still are reporting graduation rate data for another division. In order to streamline the data submission process, the process was amended as follows and is effective immediately:

a. Require reclassifying institutions to submit GSR data once they are mandated to be in compliance with Division I legislation.

b. The institution will appear in the public release with all other Division I institutions.

c. The NCAA staff will notify affected institutions each fall as a reminder of its APP data submission requirements.

11. Annual Release of GSR and Federal Graduation Rate Information. Release of the GSR and Federal Graduation Rate data for the 2000-03 cohort for all NCAA Division I institutions occurred Wednesday, October 27, 2010. Consistent with the last two years' findings, this year's results indicate Division I student-athletes continue to perform well in the classroom. The four-year Division I GSR for student-athletes is 79 percent; 72 percent for male student-athletes and 87 percent for female student-athletes. The largest gains seen this year were specific to African Americans in the sports of football and men's basketball. African American men's basketball student-athletes' GSR increased three percent while African American football student-athletes' GSR increased five percent.

12. NCAA Division I Academic Cabinet Update. The committee received an update regarding the September 2010 Academic Cabinet meeting, specifically noting the cabinet's continued review of the division's initial-eligibility and two-year college transfer requirements.

a. Initial-Eligibility Standards. The committee encourages the cabinet and Board to examine the possibility of implementing a tiered eligibility model that establishes a core grade-point average floor (e.g., 2.500). Such a model could provide access to athletics aid and practice based on the current initial-eligibility standards while requiring an increased core grade-point average to be eligible for competition. The committee noted the length of time needed to implement changes to initial-eligibility regulations and noted that it would take several years to understand the impact of the increase to 16 core courses as well as core-course taking patterns. Data supports establishing a floor on core-course grade-point average in conjunction with an

established tiered eligibility structure. The committee requests the Board refer this matter to the Academic Cabinet to study the issue and make possible recommendations to the Board in April.

b. **Two-Four Transfer Requirements**. The committee was supportive of the two-year college transfer concepts developed by the Academic Cabinet and encourages Board support of the concepts. The committee offers the following feedback for cabinet consideration:

(1) Maintain the three semester/four quarters of attendance at the two-year institution for nonqualifiers.

(2) Consider requiring student-athletes who use the year of academic readiness to remain at two-year institution where year was served for a specified period of time.

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