REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE
APRIL 25-27, 2011, MEETING

***KEY ITEM*.**

1. **Comprehensive Package of Academic Proposals.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance continued its examination of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) including review of the APP penalty benchmarks and filters and the penalty structure. This review is ongoing with possible recommendations for membership consideration provided to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors in August as part of a comprehensive package of academic proposals. The committee welcomes membership comment on these concepts.

2. **Seventh Year of NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP) Data.** The 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, APP penalties and the Head Coaches APR Portfolio. This year's release will include for the first time recognition of the top APRs in football separately by subdivision (i.e., Football Bowl Subdivision and Football Championship Subdivision). The public recognition release will be May 17 and the APP/APR release is scheduled for May 24, the APR release will include the Head Coaches APR Portfolio which this year will include all sports.

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative Items.**

   - None.

2. **Nonlegislative Items.**

   - Appointment of Vice Chair.

     (1) Recommendation. The committee recommends the NCAA Division I Board of Directors appoint President Roderick McDavis of Ohio University as vice chair of the committee. President McDavis is a current member of the committee.

     (2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Due to transition issues, this position is currently vacant and must be filled by a current chancellor or president of an active Division I institution. President McDavis meets this requirement, has agreed to serve if appointed, and will provide benefits to the committee's operational activities (e.g., serve in the chair's absence during any meetings, teleconferences, and/or penalty waiver proceedings).

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Impact on Student-Athlete Well-Being. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Comprehensive Package of Academic Proposals. The committee acknowledged that the APP and other academic initiatives have gained tremendous traction across NCAA Division I institutions and have had many positive results. In order to sustain this momentum and to continue to improve graduation rates, the committee supports the concept of a comprehensive package of academic proposals to address specific academic elements.

The academic package should consider the following issues identified by the committee during its extensive review:

a. The APR retention point has been adjusted such that it no longer predicts graduation as was originally intended.

b. Some teams/institutions manage the APR well but may not sufficiently graduate student-athletes.

c. Questions have been raised regarding teams participating in NCAA championship events with less than 50 percent graduation success rate.

d. Football teams continue to lag behind in eligibility compared to other sports.

e. Men's basketball teams continue to lag behind in retention compared to other sports.

f. A lack of overall sustained academic progress among some lower resourced institutions.

Due to the complexities involved, the committee recommends that the Board of Directors, during its August meeting, consider a comprehensive package of academic proposals that, when taken together, will enhance the incoming academic profile of student-athletes, raise the APR penalty benchmark to a projected 50 percent GSR and revise the APP penalty structure. In addition to the immediate recommendations, the committee also discussed the possibility of raising the graduation rate expectations above a projected 50 percent GSR in the future. Such an aspirational minimum goal could be established with a future target date.

Specifically, the committee recommends that a package of academic proposals from various cabinets and committees be prepared for Board of Directors consideration that includes the following:

a. Recommendations from the Committee on Academic Performance. The committee will put forward final recommendations to the Board of Directors for its August meeting to:

   (1) Replace the contemporaneous and historical-penalty structure with a single-penalty structure that continues to be cumulative and progressive and consists of five levels.

   (2) Establish a single-penalty benchmark that projects to a 50 percent GSR (e.g., 925-930 APR). Discussion of appropriate filters is continuing.

b. Recommendations from the NCAA Division I Academic Cabinet. The NCAA Division I Academic Cabinet has been engaged in discussions regarding two-year college transfers and initial eligibility. The committee encourages the Board of Directors to support increased academic standards for both initial eligibility and two-year college transfer requirements during the 2011-12 legislative cycle.

c. Other legislative recommendations.

   (1) The committee encourages the Board of Directors to support NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2010-59-C from the Football Academic Working Group. This proposal was supported by the NCAA Division I Legislative Council in April and is an important step in addressing the eligibility issues in football.

   (2) The committee encourages the Board of Directors to examine, as part of the men's basketball recruiting discussions; models that address the summer environment (e.g., work of the Men's Basketball Academic Enhancement Group).

The committee recommends the Board of Directors consider such a package of proposals regarding the academic success of student-athletes during its August meeting for legislative recommendations for the 2011-12 cycle.

2. **APP Penalty Structure.** The committee confirmed that it will forward to the Board for its August meeting a recommendation to amend the APP penalty structure. The new penalty structure will replace the current two-tiered penalty structure (i.e., contemporaneous and historical penalties). This new penalty structure will be cumulative and progressive and consist of five levels. The changes give the committee greater flexibility in customizing penalties for teams that appear before the committee. This new penalty structure, like the current historical-penalty structure, will require a team to not be subject to penalties for three consecutive years before reverting back to the first level of penalty (e.g., three "clean" years concept).

Below is an overview of the new penalty structure:

a. **Level One.**

(1) Public notice.

(2) Financial aid penalty: Ten percent from total aid awarded (four-year average) (*five percent if the committee's defined improvement standard is met*).

b. **Level Two.**

(1) Public notice.

(2) Financial aid penalty: Ten percent from total aid awarded (four-year average) (*five percent if the committee's improvement standard is met*).

(3) Playing and practice seasons (four hour reduction per week to 16 hours, as well as loss of one day): Lost hours must be used for academic purposes. *(Day of practice reduction does not apply if improvement standard is met.*)

(4) (*Baseball only*): Ten percent reduction to the length of playing season and number of contests against outside competition (*five percent if improvement standard is met*).

c. **Level Three.**

(1) Public notice.

(2) Financial aid penalty: Ten percent from total aid awarded (four-year average) (*no automatic reductions for meeting improvement standard*).

(3) Playing and practice seasons (four hour reduction per week, as well as one day): Lost hours must be used for academic purposes (*no automatic reductions for meeting improvement standard*).

(4) Postseason restriction.

(5) (*Baseball only*): Ten percent reduction to the length of playing season and number of contests against outside competition (*no automatic reductions for meeting improvement standard*).

d. Level Four.

(1) All penalties from Levels One through Three.

(2) All sports: Reduction of four hours per week for athletics activities outside of the playing season. These four hours must be replaced with academically focused activities.

(3) Elimination of the nontraditional playing season/out-of-season practice for all sports that maintain a legislated nonchampionship segment. For example, this results in the following penalties:

(a) Baseball: No fall practice or competition.

(b) Football: No spring practice.

(c) Softball: No fall practice or competition.

(d) Men's and women's volleyball: No spring practice or competition.

(e) Men's and women's soccer: No spring practice or competition.

(f) Field hockey: No spring practice or competition.

(g) Women's lacrosse: No fall practice or competition.

OR;

(4) For sports without a legislatively declared nontraditional playing season, a 10 percent reduction in the length of the playing season and a 10 percent reduction of allowable contests. For example, this results in the following penalties:

(a) Men's and women's basketball.

i. Reduction of 10 percent of playing and practice days between first allowable practice and end of playing season.

ii. Reduction from 29 to 26 contests.

(b) Ice hockey.

i. Reduction from 132-day season to 119-day season.

ii. Reduction from 34 to 31 contests.

(c) Wrestling.

i. Reduction from 144-day season to 130-day season.

ii. Reduction from 16 to 14 dates of competition.

(5) (*Baseball only*): Ten percent reduction to the length of playing season and number of contests against outside competition.

e. Level Five.

At Level Five, teams will proceed directly to an in-person hearing with the committee. Under this approach, the institution will not be aware of its entire penalty, except for those penalties associated with Levels One through Four, until after the hearing has been conducted. In total, the committee would have the following penalties to choose from:

(1) All penalties from Levels One through Four.

(2) In addition to the penalties from Levels One through Four, the committee would be able to impose the following from a menu of penalties.

(a) Additional financial aid penalties above the 20 percent of average aid awarded.

(b) Additional playing and practice season penalties above: (1) The four hour reduction and loss of one day of practice in-season; and (2) The four hours per week reduction outside of season.

(c) Restricted membership.

(d) Contest reductions, which could include:

i. Full-season competition restriction.

ii. Cancellation of nonconference contests.

iii. Any contest reductions as determined by the committee.

iv. No competition during institution's scheduled exam period and/or week(s) surrounding the exam period.

The committee has determined that the waiver and appeals process will remain the same as the current historical-penalty structure with an initial NCAA staff review at Levels One through Four. The NCAA staff will not have the authority to render a decision on a waiver request at Level Five.

The committee anticipates making a final recommendation to the Board for its August meeting followed by membership consideration during the 2011-12 legislative cycle. The committee invites immediate membership comment through its NCAA staff liaisons.

3. APP Penalty Benchmarks and Filters. The committee continued its review of the current APR penalty benchmarks and penalty filters and discussed potential changes to both components of the APP. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to setting an APR penalty benchmark that equates to a 50 percent GSR, which is supported by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. The committee reviewed data that indicated the APR penalty benchmark would need to be in the 925-930 range in order to approximate a GSR of 50 percent. The committee will finalize its recommendation on a new APR penalty benchmark during its July meeting.

In addition to the review of the penalty benchmarks, the committee continued its discussion on the appropriateness of each of the current filters in light of any possible adjustments to the penalty structure and benchmarks. As part of this examination the committee is considering eliminating the by-sport filter. Further, the committee is examining how institutional mission, resource and improvement should be considered

within the filter system. The committee took no action at this time as these topics will be discussed again during its July meeting with anticipated recommendations for membership consideration later this fall.

4. Two-Year College Transfer Academic Requirements. The committee received an update regarding the February Academic Cabinet meeting, specifically noting the cabinet's continued review of the division's two-year college transfer requirements. The committee was generally supportive of the two-year college transfer concepts developed by the Academic Cabinet. The committee offered the following feedback for cabinet consideration:

(1) Consider increasing the transferable grade-point average from 2.0 to 2.5 for qualifiers and nonqualifers, which was initially proposed by the cabinet but amended to 2.25 based on membership feedback.

(2) Consider separating the package of concepts into two proposals – changes to the transfer requirements and the year of academic readiness.

5. APR Improvement Plan Deadline Submission Dates and Educational Initiative. The following dates have been established for APR Improvement Plan updates and implementation reports in 2011-12:

Team/Institution Reporting Requirements	Submission Deadline
Teams that received a conditional waiver of penalties in 2010-11 (implementation only)	October 3
NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Supplemental Support Fund recipient institutions (implementation only)	October 3
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)

6. Committee on Academic Performance Policies and Procedures, Penalties Guide, Data Collection Guide, APR Adjustment Directive, and APP Penalty Waiver

Directive. The committee approved the updated Committee on Academic Performance Policies and Procedures, Penalties Guide, Data Collection Guide, APR Adjustment Directive, and APP Penalty Waiver Directive. The documents will assist institutions with the 2011-12 data collection process and penalty applications and will be posted on the committee's page on the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org. This posting also will satisfy annual reporting requirements specified in NCAA Division I Bylaw 23.

7. Combining Corrections and Adjustment Phases of the APR Data Collection Process. The committee amended it policies and procedures to combine the data correction adjustment periods into one 14-calendar day period in which institutions will submit all corrections and adjustments. This change will be effective with the collection of 2010-11 APR data in the fall 2011. Many institutions are no longer submitting adjustments to be processed by the NCAA staff, since many are now automatic adjustments that are submitted during data submission. Thus, combining the corrections and the adjustment phases will make the APR data collection process more efficient.

8. 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 2011-12 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 Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting received a progress report on the GSR data reviews currently being conducted for 30 institutions, which began in early February. Institutions selected to have their APR data reviewed for this cycle will be notified of their selection. The APR data reviews will be conducted May through October and final reports will be issued shortly thereafter.

10. Recruited Definition of the APR/GSR Cohort and Division I Proposal No. 2010-65. The Subcommittee on Data Collection and Reporting reviewed adopted Proposal No. 2010-65 and agreed to continue to use the definition found in Bylaw 13.02.13.1 for the purposes of defining the APR/GSR cohort for nonscholarship teams. Proposal No. 2010-65 created a definition of a recruited student-athlete for purposes of Bylaw 15 (financial aid), which will result in having two distinct definitions for recruited student-athletes within the NCAA Division I Manual. The committee noted the current recruited

definition, which is based on Bylaw 13.02.13.1, aligns with the goal of ensuring institutions are being held accountable for those student-athletes brought to the institution for athletics purposes. The newly created definition defines a recruited student-athlete for financial aid purposes only. The definition used for inclusion in these two cohorts does not involve a financial aid component and should be based on the overall definition of recruited. The Committee on Academic Performance's policies allow for institutions to request an alternative definition of the cohort that can be used to address unique circumstances of that specific institution.

11. Seventh 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.

12. Occasion-Three Historical Penalty Hearing. The committee conducted hearings for four teams at three institutions subject to Occasion-Three Historical Penalties.

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