REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I RECRUITING AND ATHLETICS
PERSONNEL ISSUES CABINET
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2008, MEETING

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **None.**

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative - Comments on Proposals to be Initially Considered by the NCAA Division I Legislative Council in January 2009.

a. **NCAA Proposal No. 2008-10 – Personnel – Definitions and Applications – Minority Graduate Assistant Coach – Championship Subdivision Football.** The NCAA Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-10, which would establish a program by which a minority graduate assistant coach position is awarded annually to each NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision conference and the parameters of the program and position, as specified. While the cabinet is supportive of efforts to increase diversity in head coaching positions, the cabinet believes the establishment of such a program and details of the program's policies and procedures would more appropriately be addressed through nonlegislative action and in a way that minimizes any competitive advantage.

b. **Proposal No. 2008-11 – Personnel – Limitations on the Duties of Coaches – Noncoaching Activities – Exception – Student Manager – Baseball.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-11, which would permit a student manager in baseball to be involved in on-field activities without counting in the institution's coaching limitations, provided the student manager participates in the activities within five years of his or her initial full-time collegiate enrollment and does not provide instruction to student-athletes or engage in other coaching activities. The cabinet expressed concern that the proposal does not limit the number of managers an institution could carry and participate in these activities. Further, the cabinet noted there are no restrictions regarding the eligibility of these individuals in subsequent years; therefore, the cabinet is concerned about potential tryouts for

these individuals who could be eligible for competition in subsequent years. The cabinet suggested the sponsor consider establishing a limit on the number of permissible managers, clarifying the future eligibility options (if any) of these individuals and whether it would be appropriate to extend this proposal to include other sports.

c. **Proposal No. 2008-12 – Personnel – Limitations on Number of Off-Campus Recruiters at Any One Time – Exception – Women's Basketball – July Evaluation Periods.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-12, which specifies, in women's basketball, that during the July evaluation periods, a coach replaced for the purpose of off-campus recruiting activities is not required to return to the institution's campus before engaging in additional recruiting activities, provided no more than three coaches engage in off-campus recruiting activities each day. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale statement. Although the cabinet discussed whether this proposal should be expanded to other time periods and other sports, the cabinet agreed the membership should first consider the current proposal.

d. **Proposal No. 2008-15 – Recruiting – Definitions and Applications – Prospective Student-Athlete – Institutional Orientation Session.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-15 which specifies that a prospective student-athlete who has signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) [or, for an institution that does not use the NLI in a particular sport or for a prospective student-athlete who is not eligible to sign an NLI (e.g., four-year college transfer), the institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid] and has reported to a required institutional orientation session within 14 calendar days prior to the opening day of classes of a regular academic year team would not be subject to the contact restrictions in NCAA Bylaw 13 and would be considered a student-athlete for the purposes of Bylaw 16 as of the opening day of the required orientation. The cabinet expressed concern that only a limited number of institutions have required orientation sessions within 14 days of the opening day of classes and believes the waiver process is the most appropriate avenue to address these situations.

e. **Proposal No. 2008-16 – Recruiting – Contacts and Evaluations – Countable Individuals – Student-Athlete Withdrawn from Four-Year College – Exception – Official Church Mission.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-16 which would prohibit an institution from contacting a student-athlete who has begun service on an official church mission without obtaining permission from the institution from which the student-athlete withdrew prior to beginning his or her mission if the student-athlete signed an NLI and attended the institution (with which he or she signed the NLI) as a full-time student; further, the proposal

specifies that if such a student-athlete has completed his or her official church mission and does not enroll full time in a collegiate institution within one calendar year of completion of the mission, an institution may contact the student-athlete without obtaining permission from the first institution. The cabinet agrees with the sponsor's rationale statement and believes this would add appropriate mechanisms to protect the student-athlete and institution with which they originally signed a NLI.

f. **Proposal No. 2008-17 – Recruiting – Contacts and Evaluations – Permissible Recruiters – Bowl Subdivision Football – Head Coach Restrictions – Spring Evaluation Period – Other Off-Campus Activities.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-17 which would, in bowl subdivision football, prohibit the head coach from participating in an off-campus coaching clinic, visiting a prospective student-athlete's educational institution for any reason or meeting with a prospective student-athlete's coach at an off-campus location during the April 15 through May 31 evaluation period. The cabinet agrees with the sponsor's rationale statement and believes that this proposal is consistent with the intent of Proposal No. 2007-32, adopted last year to prohibit head coaches from engaging in off-campus recruiting activities during the spring evaluation period, by addressing additional activities that were not contemplated under the original proposal. The cabinet is also interested in feedback from the NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee which has not yet reviewed this proposal.

g. **Proposal No. 2008-18 – Recruiting – Telephone Calls Initiated by a Prospective Student-Athlete at Her Own Expense – Women's Lacrosse.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-18 which would, in women's lacrosse, permit an institutional coaching staff member to receive telephone calls placed by a prospective student-athlete at her own expense before July 1 following her junior year in high school, provided the coaching staff member does not request that the prospective student-athlete call at a specific time or otherwise prearrange the telephone call; further, the proposal specifies that telephone calls placed after July 1 following the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school may be prearranged. The cabinet recognizes the effort and intent of the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association in its attempt to address early recruitment concerns in their sport. However, the cabinet expressed concern regarding the difficulty associated with monitoring whether telephone calls are prearranged under this proposal. Further, the cabinet noted the issue of early offers has been identified by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and NCAA Division I Leadership Council as an issue that requires further examination in all sports; therefore, the cabinet believes it would be premature to adopt sport-specific legislation at this time.

h. **Proposal No. 2008-19 – Recruiting – Contacts and Evaluations – Football – One Contact with Juniors or Seniors – Spring Evaluation Period.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-19, which specifies that in football, during the spring evaluation period, an institution may make one in-person, off-campus contact per prospective student-athlete (including prospective student-athletes in their junior year) at the prospective student-athlete's education institution; further, this proposal specifies that an institution may use an additional evaluation in conjunction with the contact. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale statement and noted this legislation would not increase the number of coaches permitted to recruit off campus at one time or permit the head coach to have contact with prospective student-athletes during the spring evaluation period.

i. **Proposal No. 2008-20 – Recruiting – Football Evaluations – Scholastic and Nonscholastic Activities – Events Organized and Conducted by Scholastic Athletics Governance Bodies – Other Evaluation Events.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-20, which specifies that in football, live athletics evaluations are permissible at events organized and conducted solely by a scholastic athletics governing body (e.g., state high school athletics association, junior college athletics association); further, this proposal specifies that institutional staff members shall not attend a recruiting event in which information (e.g., athletics or academic credentials, highlight video) related to prospective student-athletes is presented or otherwise made available. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale statement and noted this proposal further emphasizes the scholastic environment in recruiting activities.

j. **Proposal No. 2008-21 – Recruiting – Admission and Graduation Data, Banned Drug List and Initial-Eligibility Standards – Reports and Notifications – Eligibility Center.** The cabinet took no position on Proposal No. 2008-21 which would specify that the NCAA Eligibility Center shall provide the information contained within the disclosure reports related to admission, graduation-rate data, academic progress rate data, graduation success rate, as well as notification of initial-eligibility standards, the NCAA banned drug list and information about nutritional supplements to a prospective student-athlete and his or her parents or legal guardians after he or she has registered with the Eligibility Center or after the Eligibility Center has received an institution's request list, whichever occurs first. The cabinet noted the NCAA Division I Academics Cabinet opposed this proposal, but recommended a modification to address its concerns.

k. **Proposal No. 2008-22 – Recruiting – Printed Recruiting Materials – Institutional Postcards.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-22, which specifies that an institutional postcard may be provided to a prospective student-athlete, his or her parents or legal guardians, his or her coach or any other individual responsible for teaching or directing an activity in which a prospective student-athlete is involved, provided its dimensions do not exceed 4¼ by 6 inches, it contains only the institution's name and logo or an athletics logo on one side when produced and it includes only handwritten information, (e.g., words, illustrations) on the opposite side when provided to the prospective student-athlete. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale statement that this will alleviate confusion and questions regarding postcards.

l. **Proposal No. 2008-23 – Recruiting – Recruiting Materials – Electronic Transmissions – After National Letter of Intent Signing or Other Written Commitment.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-23, which specifies that after the calendar day on which a prospective student-athlete signs an NLI, signs an institution's written offer of admission and/or financial aid, or submits a room or tuition deposit in response to the institution's written offer of admission, there shall be no limit on the forms of electronically transmitted correspondence sent by the institution with which the prospective student-athlete has committed. The cabinet agreed with the sponsor's rationale statement in its support.

m. **Proposal No. 2008-24 – Recruiting – Recruiting Materials – Other Recruiting Materials Posted to Institution's Web Site.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-24, which would permit an institution to print and provide other recruiting information that is posted on its Web site to prospective student-athletes via regular mail as attachments to general correspondence or during any permissible on- or off-campus contact. The cabinet expressed concern regarding the possible circumvention of current restrictions on attachments to general correspondence by permitting items with a recruiting purpose to be posted on an institution's Web site and sent to prospective student-athletes. The cabinet believes current legislation is appropriate, which permits institutions to print information from its Web site and send it to prospective student-athletes as attachments to general correspondence, provided the information does not have a recruiting purpose.

n. **Proposal No. 2008-26 – Recruiting – Official Visit – Meals on Official Visit – Meals at Airport or Bus or Train Station.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-26, which specifies that meals may be provided to a prospective student-athlete on an official visit at the airport or bus or train station at the time of his or her arrival or departure. The cabinet generally agrees with the sponsor's rationale

statement, although the cabinet suggests the sponsor consider a modification to more precisely address the sponsor's specific concerns related to official visits.

o. **Proposal No. 2008-27 – Recruiting – Unofficial Visit – Housing – Lodging in Dormitories – Additional Restriction – Women's Lacrosse.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-27, which would, in women's lacrosse, prohibit an institution's athletics department staff member from arranging lodging for a prospective student-athlete on an unofficial visit in an enrolled student-athlete's residence (e.g., dormitory room, apartment) until August 1 following the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. The cabinet recognizes the effort and intent of the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association in its attempt to address early recruitment concerns in their sport. However, the cabinet is unclear how this proposal would meaningfully address issues related to early recruitment since it would still be permissible for high school juniors to participate in an unofficial visit and stay with students who are not student-athletes or stay in off-campus locations (e.g., hotels) where no supervision is provided which raises prospective student-athlete well-being concerns. Further, the cabinet noted the issue of early offers has been identified by the Board of Directors and Leadership Council as an issue that requires further examination in all sports; therefore, the cabinet believes it would be premature to adopt sport-specific legislation at this time.

p. **Proposal No. 2008-28 – Recruiting – Financial Aid Agreements – Offers of Aid Before July 1 Following Junior Year – Women's Lacrosse.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-28, which would, in women's lacrosse, prohibit an institution from offering (or indicate that it will or may offer), orally or in writing, athletically related financial aid, other institutional financial aid or admissions assistance before July 1 following the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school; further, the proposal specifies that an institution may not accept any commitment from a prospective student-athlete before July 1 following the prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school. The cabinet recognizes the effort and intent of the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association in its attempt to address early recruiting concerns in their sport. Further, the cabinet noted the issue of early offers has been identified by the Board of Directors and Leadership Council as an issue that requires further examination in all sports; therefore, the cabinet believes it would be premature to adopt sport-specific legislation at this time.

q. **Proposal No. 2008-29 – Recruiting – Tryouts – Exceptions – Voluntary Summer Conditioning – Sports Other than Football and Basketball.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-29 which would, in sports other than football

and basketball, permit a prospective student-athlete to engage in voluntary summer workouts conducted by the institution's strength and conditioning coach with department-wide duties and receive workout apparel (on an issuance and retrieval basis), provided he or she is enrolled in the institution's summer term prior to the student's initial full-time enrollment at the certifying institution. Although the cabinet is supportive of addressing sport-equity issues regarding the current legislation, it expressed concern with increased costs and demands on athletics staff members (e.g., strength and conditioning coaches and athletic trainers) associated with having a greater number of prospective student-athletes on campus during the summer. Additionally, the cabinet noted the requirements for participation in voluntary summer activities would be different for football and basketball compared to all other sports under this proposal.

r. **Proposal No. 2008-30 – Recruiting – Sports Camps and Clinics – Employment at Camp or Clinic – High School, Preparatory-School, Two-Year College Coaches or Other Individuals Involved with Prospective Student-Athletes – Employment as Speaker – Men's Basketball.** The cabinet supports Proposal No. 2008-30, which would, in men's basketball, specify that an institution shall not employ a speaker in its camp or clinic who is involved in coaching prospective student-athletes or is associated with a prospective student-athlete as a result of the prospective student-athlete's participation in basketball. The cabinet received clarification that this proposal would prohibit these individuals from serving as speakers at institutional camps or clinics even if the individual is employed as a camp counselor at the same institutional camp or clinic. Further, the proposal would prohibit these individuals from serving as speakers at any type of institutional camp or clinic, including coaching clinics. Finally, the cabinet would support an immediate effective date in order for the legislation to apply to institutional camps or clinics in summer 2009.

s. **Proposal No. 2008-31 – Recruiting – Use of Recruiting Funds – Recruiting Services – Video Services.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-31 which would eliminate the requirement that off-campus observation of a prospective student-athlete on a video that is made available by a scouting service be considered an evaluation activity subject to applicable evaluation regulations. The cabinet expressed concern that this legislation could lead to the proliferation of video recruiting events (e.g., hotel nights) and increase the demands on coaching staffs to attend such events. The cabinet noted current regulations permit coaches to view this video at home without it counting as an evaluation. The cabinet noted the NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Issues Committee is opposed to this proposal.

t. **Proposal No. 2008-66 – Administrative Regulations – Recruiting Calendars – Football – Dead Period.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-66 which would, in football, specify that an institution shall designate two weeks (not required to be consecutive) during the months of June and July as a dead period. The cabinet noted institutions should be provided with the flexibility and discretion to monitor its own staff and office schedules without being required to adhere to a legislated dead period.

u. **Proposal No. 2008-67 – Administrative Regulations – Recruiting Calendars – Softball – Contact Period August 1 Through the Day Prior to Thanksgiving Day.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-67 which would, in softball, establish a contact period from August 1 through the day prior to Thanksgiving Day. The cabinet expressed concern that the current legislation has only been effective for approximately one year and the cabinet believes more time is necessary to assess its impact before considering changes. Further, the cabinet noted the National Fastpitch Coaches Association is opposed the proposal for this same reason.

v. **Proposal No. 2008-68 – Administrative Regulations – Recruiting Calendars – Women's Lacrosse – Fall Evaluations.** The cabinet opposes Proposal No. 2008-68 which would, in women's lacrosse, specify that during the fall contact period, evaluations of prospective student-athletes participating in lacrosse activities who have not started their senior year in high school are limited to the three weekends prior to Thanksgiving. The cabinet recognizes the effort and intent of the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association in its attempt to address early recruitment concerns in their sport. However, the cabinet is unclear how common "senior only" tournaments are in the sport and whether scholastic lacrosse seasons in all states are in the spring. Additionally, the cabinet noted the potential increase in the number of inadvertent secondary violations if participants' grade levels are not known. Finally, the cabinet noted this issue has been identified by the Board of Directors and Leadership Council as an issue that requires further examination in all sports; therefore, the cabinet believes it would be premature to adopt sport-specific legislation at this time.

2. Nonlegislative.

a. New NCAA Division I governance structure. The cabinet reviewed the changes to the Division I governance structure, including its role and responsibilities. Cabinet members were reminded of the importance of communication in the new structure, both within the structure and to conferences. Specifically, cabinet members have been instructed to work with their respective

conferences to determine a method by which cabinet business will be communicated and members are expected to report back during the February meeting. Additionally, the three-to-five year national office strategy and issues on the Division I agenda were identified to help the cabinet understand the key issues facing the national office and Division I membership.

b. **Report from NCAA Division I Leadership Council Communications and Coordination Committee.** The cabinet reviewed the August 27, 2008, report from the Division I Leadership Council Communications and Coordination Committee which included the key issues raised by the Leadership Council during its first meeting, including the issue of early offers.

c. **Review of Bylaws 11 and 13 legislation.** The cabinet received an educational review of Bylaws 11 and 13 legislation and interpretations, including past issues discussed and addressed by the former NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet Subcommittee on Recruiting and future areas of concern.

d. **Cabinet policies and procedures.** The cabinet approved its policies and procedures which establishes an Administrative Committee and outlines relevant policies and procedures to guide the cabinet's future work.

e. **Discussion of cabinet's guiding principles and future priorities.** The cabinet engaged in a discussion regarding its guiding principles and priorities. This discussion centered on the cabinet's charge and duties, the guiding principles established by the Subcommittee on Recruiting, transitional items from the subcommittee and the identification of priority issues. The cabinet agreed that the issue of coaching limits and the number of noncoaching staff members should be added to the list of cabinet priority issues to be addressed at future meetings which includes: early offers of athletics aid, recruiting and video services, recruiting materials and technology, scouting of opponents – film exchange and a review of "dated" legislation.

f. **Articles of interest.** The cabinet directed staff to continually collect media and news articles related to recruiting issues and forward to the full cabinet to help identify and provide context for key recruiting issues.

Cabinet Chair: *Petrina Long, University of California, Los Angeles, Pacific-10 Conference*
Staff Liaison(s): *Jeremiah Carter, Membership Services*
Amy Huchthausen, Membership Services
Charnele Kemper, Membership Services
Jackie Thurnes, Enforcement Services