REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I RECRUITING AND ATHLETICS
PERSONNEL ISSUES CABINET
FEBRUARY 9-10, 2009, MEETING

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Items.

a. Administrative Regulations - Recruiting Calendars - Exception to National Letter of Intent Signing Dates Dead Period - Fencing.

(1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet recommends the NCAA Division I Legislative Council sponsor and adopt emergency and noncontroversial legislation to provide an exception to the dead period surrounding the fall National Letter of Intent (NLI) signing date in fencing when the dead period occurs during the North American Cup Fencing Championship.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. This proposal will provide an opportunity for fencing coaches to attend this elite tournament sponsored by the United States Fencing Association (USFA) that, in certain years, coincides with the dead period surrounding the fall NLI signing period in November. In those years, the final day of the four-day event is a dead period. In addition to attending the event for recruiting purposes, many college coaches also serve as officials during the event, due to the limited number of qualified fencing officials for USFA events. In 2007 and 2008, NCAA Division I Legislative Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief waivers were granted to permit college coaches to attend the final day of the event which fell during a dead period. In order to avoid the need for future waivers, this change would provide a permanent exception. Additionally, the cabinet noted this exception is similar to the exception that exists in diving for the U.S. Diving National Championships. Finally, the cabinet noted that a conflict will exist again in November 2009 without a change to the current legislation. Therefore, the cabinet requests this be considered as emergency legislation by the Legislative Council during its April meeting.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. Limited, some costs will be associated with coaches staying an additional day to observe the contests.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

b. Recruiting - Contacts - Women's Ice Hockey

(1) Recommendation. The cabinet recommends the Legislative Council sponsor and adopt emergency and noncontroversial legislation to prohibit telephone calls and off-campus recruiting contacts until July 7 following a prospective student-athlete's junior year in high school; further, to prohibit the one permissible telephone call to a prospective student-athlete who is a resident of a foreign country until July 7 following the prospective student-athlete's sophomore year in high school.

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. This proposal would allow prospective student-athletes and coaches to enjoy the Independence Day and Canada Day holidays without the pressure of recruiting. The cabinet noted this is consistent with the cabinet's guiding principle of promoting work-life balance for coaches along with reducing intrusion to prospective student-athletes surrounding a holiday. Finally, the cabinet noted that the American Women's Hockey Coaches Association supports the proposed change. The cabinet believes this is noncontroversial and requests the Legislative Council adopt this proposal at its April meeting in order for the legislation to apply this summer.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. Will provide prospective student-athletes the opportunity to spend time with their families during the early July holidays without intrusions related to recruiting.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **None.**

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative. A list of the cabinet's legislative comments are included in Attachment A.

2. Nonlegislative.

a. Discussion of Communication Strategies Within Conferences. The cabinet discussed communication strategies used within their respective conferences and agreed to develop best practices to ensure that all constituent groups are well informed regarding the work of the cabinet, including conferences that are not currently represented on the cabinet. Specifically, the cabinet identified the following strategies for communication within conferences and on individual campuses: conference calls with conference office personnel and other cabinet representatives before and after each cycle of cabinet meetings; cabinet reports at conference meetings of various groups (e.g., directors of athletics, faculty athletics representatives, senior woman administrators, compliance administrators, coaches, student-athlete advisory committees); and meetings and reports to campus personnel (e.g., senior staff, compliance, coaches, student-athletes). Finally, the group discussed the importance of involving external constituent groups (e.g., National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators, Collegiate Commissioners Association of Compliance Administrators, National Association for Athletics Compliance) for feedback on relevant issues.

b. Priority Item - Early Recruitment. The cabinet engaged in an initial discussion of early recruitment, specifically early offers of athletics aid (e.g., verbal offers). However, the cabinet noted early offers of athletics aid may not be the only issue of concern under the broad topic of early recruitment and is generally one outcome of other activities that occur during the recruiting process. During its next meeting, the cabinet will begin a comprehensive examination of the current recruiting model to better understand what the issues and concerns are regarding early recruitment, which may include, but is not limited to, camps and clinics, verbal offers and timelines for communication. The cabinet believes a more detailed review is necessary to first understand how current recruiting practices align with the current recruiting model. As a result of this examination, the cabinet and membership may be in a better position to identify specific issues or concerns that need to be addressed.

c. Priority Item - Coaching Limits and Athletics Personnel. The cabinet discussed issues related to limitations on the number and duties of coaches and athletics department personnel. In its discussion, the cabinet identified the following key issues: (1) proliferation of noncoaching staff members with sport specific responsibilities; (2) lack of uniformity in the duties performed by noncoaching staff members with sport-specific responsibilities and managers; (3) difficulty in monitoring and enforcing the activities performed by noncoaching

staff members with sport-specific responsibilities and managers; and (4) the use of noncoaching positions with sport-specific responsibilities as a foundation for future coaching careers. The cabinet also discussed the role of managers, graduate assistant coaches and volunteer coaches relative to this area. The cabinet will develop a discussion document with potential concepts to address these issues and seek feedback for review during its June meeting.

d. **Priority Item - Impact of Technology on Recruiting and Printed Materials.** The cabinet received a presentation of how technology is used by various constituents in the recruiting process and discussed how current legislation applies to the different methods of communication and services (e.g., social networking Web sites, blogs, institutional team Web sites, sport-specific and targeted high school and youth sports social networking and share Web sites). Additionally, the cabinet discussed the impact of printed recruiting materials on prospective student-athletes and their parents, the cost of printed recruiting materials relative to their impact in decision making and the increased use and accessibility of video and institutional Web sites as a method of communicating information to the general public. The cabinet also noted the importance of minimizing intrusion with advances in technology while understanding the rise in user-defined preferences for receiving information. The cabinet will solicit feedback from various constituencies about potential areas of deregulation in the areas of printed recruiting materials and video/audio materials by using alternate methods of delivering the same information.

e. **Recreational Activities Legislation.** Based on a request from the Legislative Council, the cabinet reviewed the history and intent of the recreational activities legislation in NCAA Bylaw 13.11.2.2 and compared it to current practice during prospective student-athletes' visits to campus. The cabinet noted the intent of the legislation was to provide opportunities for prospective student-athletes to continue their regular workouts and participate in recreational activities while on campus. The cabinet discussed recent instances in which numerous individuals, including students, boosters and fans, attend and observe prospective student-athletes participating in these activities and noted these public activities are contrary to the legislation's original intent and potentially subject the institution to violations with the publicity legislation. During its discussion, the cabinet reviewed the September 4, 2008, staff interpretation and also noted concerns may only exist in select sports (e.g., basketball). The cabinet will consider sponsoring legislation in June that addresses these issues, including whether regulations should be added for all or select sports and whether facility regulations should be established or activities be prohibited.

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **Early Recruitment**. The cabinet will engage in an extensive examination of the current recruiting model in hopes of generating a thorough discussion to identify and understand the specific concerns within the broad topic of early recruitment.

2. **Coaching Limits and Athletics Personnel**. The cabinet identified several issues within this area and will distribute a discussion document with potential concepts for feedback from the membership on how to appropriately address issues related to coaching limits, including noncoaching staff with sport-specific responsibilities.

3. **Impact of Technology on Recruiting**. The cabinet discussed how advances in technology can be helpful in the recruiting process while being mindful of intrusive activities. The cabinet will solicit feedback from various constituencies about potential areas of deregulation in the areas of printed recruiting materials and video/audio materials by using alternate methods of delivering the same information.

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