REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I RECRUITING AND ATHLETICS
PERSONNEL ISSUES CABINET
FEBRUARY 3-4, 2010, MEETING

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative Proposals.** The NCAA Division I Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues Cabinet commented on four legislative proposals related to the area of recruiting that were introduced in the 2009-10 legislative cycle after the cabinet's September meeting. The proposals were forwarded by the NCAA Division I Legislative Council to the membership at its January meeting and will be voted on by the Legislative Council at its April Meeting. Two of the proposals opposed by the cabinet relate to men's basketball camps and clinics.

2. **Priority Item – Examination of the Recruiting Model.** The cabinet engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the current recruiting model, including but not limited to: communication methods and frequency, evaluations, campus visits and verbal and written offers of athletics aid. The cabinet directed the staff to develop alternative recruiting models as a result of the discussion. The cabinet agreed to obtain feedback from the NCAA membership on such models prior to sponsoring appropriate legislation at its June meeting for consideration as part of the 2010-11 legislative cycle.

3. **Priority Item – Discussion on Limits of Noncoaching Staff with Sport-Specific Responsibilities.** The cabinet reviewed survey results obtained from the membership pertaining to noncoaching staff members with sport-specific responsibilities. The cabinet directed the staff to develop alternative proposals that would place numerical limitations on such personnel in the sports of football and men's and women's basketball. The cabinet agreed to seek additional feedback from institutions and the coaches' associations regarding such proposals prior to sponsoring appropriate legislation at its June meeting for consideration as part of the 2010-11 legislative cycle.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Legislative – Comments on Proposals to be considered in June 2010.**

   a. **NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2009-32-B – Recruiting – Telephone Calls – Time Period for Telephone Calls – Exception – Unlimited During Contact Period – Sports with Defined Recruiting Calendars other than Football.** The cabinet supports this proposal. The cabinet agrees with the sponsor's rationale and noted the significant institutional compliance resources spent on monitoring current telephone call limitations. In addition, the cabinet noted the many forms of communication available in today's culture with electronic means increasingly becoming the preferred method among high school students. The cabinet also

noted the importance of prospective student-athletes (and their parents and/or legal guardians) sharing the responsibility to communicate with coaches if the amount of telephone calls received becomes overwhelming or burdensome. Finally, the cabinet noted this legislation has existed in football for several years without raising concerns about being too intrusive to prospective student-athletes and, accordingly, believes it is appropriate for all sports.

b. **Proposal No. 2009-47-B – Recruiting – Letter of Intent Programs, Financial Aid Agreements – Written Offer of Aid Before Signing Date.** The cabinet opposes this proposal. As noted during its September 2009 meeting, the cabinet is currently examining issues regarding early offers of athletics aid in order to better assess the implication of current and suggested legislative changes and believes it would be premature to adopt legislation regarding offers of aid prior to that discussion.

c. **Proposal No. 2009-100 – Recruiting – Tryouts – Nonscholastic Practice, Contest or Event – Men's Basketball.** The cabinet acknowledged the potential recruiting advantages gained by institutions that host nonscholastic practices or events, but expressed concern that the proposal would eliminate the opportunity for many institutions' auxiliary departments (e.g., recreation and athletics departments) to generate revenue by conducting such events on campus.

d. **Proposal No. 2009-102 – Recruiting – Sports Camps and Clinics – Employment at Institution's Camps and Clinics – Enrolled Students and Institutional Staff Members Only – Men's Basketball.** The cabinet opposes this proposal. The cabinet believes that restricting employment at institutions' camps and clinics only to enrolled students and/or institutional staff members would severely limit the institution's ability to effectively and efficiently organize and conduct such camps and clinics. The cabinet also noted that the elimination of hiring scholastic coaches could disproportionately affect those institutions located in smaller communities that depend on local recruiting efforts and could negatively affect institutions' relationships with those scholastic coaches.

2. **Nonlegislative.**

a. **Priority Item – Examination of Recruiting Model.** As noted during its September 2009 meeting, the cabinet believed that a comprehensive examination of the entire recruiting model was necessary and critical to understand how existing legislation aligns or conflicts with the realities of today's environment. The cabinet's discussion included: a review of communication methods and

frequency, evaluations, campus visits and offers of athletics aid. The cabinet directed the staff to develop alternative recruiting models, based on its discussion, for each of the four areas addressed and to solicit feedback from the membership, including conferences and coaches' associations, regarding those proposed recruiting models. The cabinet will discuss that feedback during its June 2010 meeting and accordingly propose legislation for a revised recruiting model for consideration by the membership as part of the 2010-11 legislative cycle.

b. **Priority Item – Discussion on Limits of Noncoaching Staff with Sport-Specific Responsibilities.** The cabinet reviewed the results of a survey submitted to the membership in December 2009 regarding noncoaching staff with sport-specific responsibilities. The cabinet noted the high survey response rate (76 percent) as well as the overall response from the membership indicating a desire for limits on noncoaching staff members in the sports of men's and women's basketball and football (80.9 percent). The cabinet directed the staff to develop alternative proposals regarding limits and to solicit feedback from the membership, including institutional directors of athletics, coaching staff members in the specified sports and respective coaches' associations, regarding those proposals. The cabinet will discuss that feedback during its June 2010 meeting and accordingly propose legislation to limit the number of noncoaching staff members for consideration by the membership as part of the 2010-11 legislative cycle.

c. **Priority Item – Review of Graduate Assistant Coaches.** As part of a continuing review pertaining to the limits on the number of athletics personnel (countable coaches, graduate assistant coaches, noncoaching staff with sport-specific responsibilities, etc.), the cabinet engaged in a thorough discussion regarding the role of graduate assistant coaches. The cabinet will more closely examine issues regarding the graduate assistant coaching category to determine if such a position should continue to exist in its current form in the sports of Football Bowl Subdivision football and women's rowing. The cabinet agreed to solicit feedback from the Collegiate Commissioners Association regarding this issue prior to proposing potential legislative changes.

d. **Update from Basketball Focus Group.** The Basketball Focus Group provided the cabinet an update regarding its work and noted that its previous work focused on the funneling of money to the handlers of prospective student-athletes as well as the employment of such handlers at institutional camps and clinics. The group reported that its current review includes prospective student-athletes' unofficial visit expenses and the failure of third parties who are associated with prospective

student-athletes (e.g., handlers, relatives) to cooperate with enforcement staff investigations.

e. **Definition of a Recruited Student-Athlete.** At the request of the NCAA Division I Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet, the cabinet continued its review of whether the current definition of a recruited student-athlete remains appropriate within the current state of recruiting. The Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet solicited this feedback as it continues to review the current financial aid model, including the legislation related to determining counter status. The cabinet acknowledged the concept that the current definition may detrimentally impact an individual's ability to accept financial aid. However, given the impact that any modifications would have on other areas of legislation (e.g., eligibility and transfer status), the cabinet believes it is more appreciate for the Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet to address the financial aid issues by proposing an alternative definition of a counter that is no longer tied to the definition of a recruited student-athlete set forth in NCAA Bylaw 13.

Cabinet Chair: ***Petrina Long, University of California, Los Angeles, Pacific-10 Conference***
Staff Liaison(s): ***Jeremiah Carter, Academic and Membership Affairs***
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