REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE MARCH 20, 2012 TELECONFERENCE

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

None.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Opening Remarks.** The chair, Mr. Robinson, welcomed the NCAA Division III Championships Committee and opened the meeting.

2. **Women's Tennis – Chair Appointment.** The committee approved the recommendation that Mark Murphy, head women's tennis coach, Kalamazoo College, be named chair of the NCAA Division III Women's Tennis Committee, replacing Ann Lebedeff, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges, effective immediately through September 1, 2012.

3. **Study Abroad/Foreign Exchange Student Considerations.** At the request of the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee (ILC), the committee agreed to request that all sport committees (team and individual-team sports) provide feedback on study abroad/foreign exchange considerations. Specifically, a student-athlete who is participating in a study abroad program can experience a number of challenges to competing while on that program; concerns range from triggering transfer status to rendering oneself ineligible by engaging in outside competition. ILC seeks sport committee feedback related to sport-specific issues (versus general administrative concerns) as it considers legislation that would make it easier for a student-athlete to engage in athletics opportunities while participating in a study abroad program. ILC's contemplated legislative recommendation would allow participation only with amateur club or institution teams and not with professional teams. The committee also agreed that the feedback from sport committees will be reviewed as part of its May in-person meeting; in turn, comment will be provided to ILC by June 1.

4. **Regional Advisory Committee Balloting and Ranking – Golf and Tennis.** The committee agreed to require implementation of the new balloting process and publishing of the regional advisory committee (RAC) rankings without changes by the sport committee for the sports of golf and tennis, effective for the 2012 spring championship season. The decision brings the sports of golf and tennis in line with all team sports in an effort to increase the accountability and visibility of the RACs.

   In addition, the committee agreed to require that the final regional ranking submitted by the RACs in all sports be released to the public in conjunction with championship selection, effective for the 2012 spring championship season. The change brings

transparency to the final RAC ranking process and the related impact on final championship determinations by sport committees.

5. **Report from February 2012 In-Person Meeting.** The committee approved the report from the February 2012 in-person meeting, noting one editorial change.

6. **2012-15 Budget.** Mr. Robinson provided an update concerning the items proposed for the 2012-15 championships budget. During its recent meeting, the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee expressed support for all of the championships items submitted. It was noted that the proposal related to the men's basketball 75th anniversary celebration generated a significant amount of discussion with specific concerns around missed class time and the extension of the championship season.

In response to a question concerning championship bracket sizes, Mr. Williams provided clarification that bracket expansion for any sport, as a result of the application of the access ratio, is routinely handled by the NCAA Administrative Services staff and absorbed within the existing championships budget.

The committee also reviewed selected sport committee budget recommendations and determined the following (see Attachment A for revised budget summary):

a. Wrestling. The committee maintained support for the proposal to advance 180 qualifiers to the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championship championships from six NCAA sponsored regionals, effective with the 2012-13 season. The committee discussed the anticipated championship access ratio for wrestling student-athletes with the change from 170 to 180 qualifiers and acknowledged that wrestling, along with other sports such as cross country and diving, may develop alternative regional alignment models due to the nature of the sports' regional championship structures.

b. Rowing. The committee maintained support for the proposal to award mini trophies to the top three finishers in the II Eight competition of the NCAA Division III Women's Rowing Championships. However, the committee did not support the request to increase the travel party for the two at-large Eight boats from 14 to 15 citing concern over expanding the travel party to accommodate non-athletes; therefore, the allocation will be removed from the total championships budget request.

c. Women's Golf. The committee did not support the request to add four individuals to the NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships, citing an already favorable championship access ratio for the sport and concern with the competitive quality of the additional individuals; therefore, the allocation will be removed from the total championships budget request.

7. Other Business. In other business, Ms. Wilfert provided an overview of the NCAA championships drug testing program in response to a concern raised in conjunction with the 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Ice Hockey Championship. Specifically, the committee was concerned about the length of time that a student-athlete was held post-competition to provide a viable sample and whether the holding period could be indefinite. Ms. Wilfert explained what happens when a student-athlete fails to produce a viable sample and highlighted that the championships drug testing protocol dictates that testing occur post-competition and that those selected for testing must remain at the testing site until they can produce a viable sample. Based on the report, the committee took no action.

Committee Chair: Stuart Robinson, State University College at New Paltz
Staff Liaisons: John Williams, Championships and Alliances
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances

Teleconference, March 20, 2012	
Attendees	Absentees
Tim Downes, Emory University	Kelli Hamilton, University of Minnesota, Morris
Holly Gera, Montclair State University	
Sue Lauder, Fitchburg State University	
Jeff Martinez, University of Redlands	
Steve Nelson, University of Wisconsin, Superior	
Joe Onderko, Presidents' Athletic Conference	
Stuart Robinson, State University College at New Paltz	
Monica Severson, Wartburg College	
Other Participants	
Jan Gentry, NCAA	
Linda Godby, NCAA	
Louise McCleary, NCAA	
Jeff Myers, NCAA	
Liz Turner Suscha, NCAA	
Mary Wilfert, NCAA	

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