MINUTES OF THE

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Teleconference April 9, 2009

Participants:

Page Cotton, DePauw University
Chris Graham, Midwest Conference
Kristen Hall, Bard College
Susan Hoffman, State University College of Brockport
Shana Levine, Washington & Lee University
Mark Majeski, Willamette University, chair
Scott Miller, Bethany College
Christopher Ragsdale, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference
Diana Schwartz, Westfield State College
Rubin Stevenson, Frostburg State University
Azure Davey, NCAA
Katie Willett, NCAA, recording secretary

[Note: These minutes contain only actions taken (formal votes or stated "sense of the meeting") in accordance with NCAA policy regarding minutes of all Association entities. While certain items on the committee's agenda were acted on at various times throughout the meeting, all final actions within a given topic are combined in these minutes for convenience of reference.]

The NCAA Division III Membership Committee teleconference was called to order at 1:04 p.m. Eastern time by Mr. Majeski. All members were present as noted above.

1. Review March 12 Teleconference Minutes. The committee reviewed the minutes from the March 12 teleconference.

   It was VOTED

   "That the March 12 teleconference minutes be approved as written."

2. Conference Application – Eastern Collegiate Football Conference. Clarification was provided related to the conference application and it was noted that the committee previously agreed to hear the application request.

   It was VOTED

   "To accept the application request for conference membership from the Eastern Collegiate Football Conference."

3. NCAA Convention Attendance Legislative History. The committee was informed of the history of the legislation and the original intent. Namely that in June 2006 the committee provided the NCAA Division III Management Council with membership requirement recommendations including attendance at the NCAA Convention by a voting delegate once every two years. The recommendation did not specify that attendance at Convention involved attendance at the division's business session, only that attendance at Convention, generally, was recommended. In July 2006 the Management Council voted to make Convention attendance an annual requirement which was approved by the NCAA Division III Presidents Council. The proposal language reflected conversations staff and the committee had related to administrative tracking of the Convention attendance requirement. This language was not reflective of the recommendations that were made by the committee, or the recommendation approved by the Management and Presidents Councils because it specifies attendance at the business session which was not formally endorsed or codified by either council.

   Given that the intent and rationale are not consistent with the legislation it is appropriate to modify the wording. The committee was informed that it can propose legislation to detail that it be a voting delegate at the business session if it so decides. It was noted that the membership voted on the legislation currently in place and the committee inquired about moving forward.

   Clarification was provided with the first step being modification of wording to make the language consistent with the original intent and rationale of the proposal. The committee noted that it is supporting modification of wording; however, feels strongly that the requirement currently contained in the legislation is preferred. Secondly, given that the committee feels strongly that it would like to see the requirement be that the membership attend and vote at the business session at Convention annually, legislation would need to be proposed to address this requirement. The committee inquired as to whether the legislation could be considered noncontroversial and it was noted that the original proposal was voted on by the membership and that it would need to be voted on again. The committee indicated that it would like to propose legislation.

It was VOTED

"To modify the language of the Convention attendance legislation to accurately reflect the original intent and rationale that was included in the proposal."

4. Convention Waiver Request – Lyndon State College.

It was VOTED

"To approve the Convention attendance waiver request to send a representative to the 2010 NCAA Convention in place of the athletics director due to a personal conflict."

5. Wesleyan College (Georgia) – Sports Sponsorship Waiver. The committee noted the challenges the institution is facing in regards to personnel and also participation numbers; however, did not feel as though those challenges were unique. The committee responded that it also understands student-athlete well-being concerns; however, cited case precedent in its denial.

It was VOTED

"To deny the sport sponsorship waiver request from Wesleyan College (Georgia) for 2008-09."

6. Medgar Evers College – Sports Sponsorship Waiver Update. The committee was informed that the institution no longer needs a sports sponsorship waiver as it met the requirements. Staff worked with the conference office to make the determination that the institution did in fact meet the sport sponsorship requirements.

7. Membership Requirements Waiver Application. Staff noted that the online waiver application will streamline the waiver process and that eventually the aim is to incorporate the application so that it is submitted electronically. The committee indicated that it would like to see the percentage of student-athletes as well as number of undergraduates included on the waiver application. The document will be put online and available for use immediately.

8. Other Business. Staff provided an update on State University of New York Maritime College noting that the institution is appealing to Management Council and it is anticipated that if the appeal to Management Council is denied it will then appeal to the Presidents Council. The committee discussed the fact that it considered the concept of a waiver for a sailing program; however, did not pursue this option due to the distinction that it is a mixed sailing program versus the previously approved waiver that dealt with sailing being solely a female program versus a mixed program. The number of competitions was noted as was the fact that interpretively it is considered a mixed team.

9. Adjournment. Mr. Majeski adjourned the teleconference at 2:05 p.m. Eastern time.

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