REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

a. Massachusetts Maritime Academy Waiver Request per NCAA Division III Bylaw 20.11.3.1.1 (Waiver).

(1) Recommendation. Approve the waiver request from Massachusetts Maritime Academy to use women's sailing as a countable sport toward Division III sports-sponsorship requirements. The waiver shall apply for the 2008-09 academic year.

(2) Effective Date. September 1, 2008 – September 1, 2009.

(3) Rationale. The NCAA Division III Membership Committee reviewed the request from Massachusetts Maritime and noted Massachusetts Maritime has been granted similar waivers in the past. The institution's women's sailing team affords participation opportunities for female student-athletes. Further, the institution was able to demonstrate a commitment to NCAA sponsored sports and was simply unable to meet sports-sponsorship requirements for softball due to the unique nature of the institution. The committee finally noted Massachusetts Maritime's commitment to adding women's lacrosse and bolstering schedules for the remaining women's sports in order to meet sports-sponsorship requirements.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

b. Rivier College Waiver Request per Bylaw 20.11.3.5.9.1 (Minimum Contests and Participants).

(1) Recommendation. Place Rivier College on probation beginning in the 2010-11 academic year for failure to meet sports-sponsorship requirements during 2008-09.

(2) Effective Date. September 1, 2010 – September 1, 2015. The institution will be in a probationary period for five years for failure to meet sports-sponsorship requirements. It will begin to serve some of the terms of probation (i.e., completion of athletics program assessment) during the 2010-11 academic year.

(3) Rationale. The institution failed to meet sports-sponsorship requirements due to challenges related to its men's cross country program. The institution cited personnel and roster issues. The cross country coach was hired immediately before the season and the program lacked a consistent coaching presence. The institution further noted the team's low roster size late in the season was due to the overlap with the basketball season since most cross country student-athletes were also basketball student-athletes. The committee did not feel these challenges were unique or unforeseen. The committee further noted the institution should have been able to ascertain it would be short of meeting the sports-sponsorship requirements early in the season and should have made more attempts to meet the sports-minimum requirements.

(4) Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **East Texas Baptist University sports-sponsorship waiver request.** The committee preliminarily reviewed a sports-sponsorship waiver from East Texas Baptist University. The institution cited financial mitigation as rationale for seeking a sports-sponsorship waiver of the future six/six requirement. The committee noted the institution did not thoroughly demonstrate its financial hardship and did not present a complete plan for compliance with sports-sponsorship requirements following any waiver relief. The committee further recognized the institution did not fully explore all possible solutions of solving its financial hardship. The committee encouraged the institution to explore other solutions before applying for waiver relief. The committee will consider the waiver, if needed, at a future meeting.

2. **H1N1 flu virus**. The committee recognized the H1N1 flu virus issue and is conscious that it may see waiver requests of membership requirements in the future related to the virus. The committee recognized it will consider waivers on a case-by-case basis.

3. **Committee policies and procedures**. The committee scheduled standing appeal review calls. These calls are scheduled before each NCAA Division III Management Council and NCAA Division III Presidents Council meetings. The calls are in addition to the monthly teleconference and in-person meetings. The committee also adopted policies and procedures that enhance committee member responsibility in the waiver review process. Committee members will now review each waiver as assigned by staff prior to the entire committee's review and communicate directly with institutions regarding any questions the committee member may have. The committee member will then present the waiver information to the committee for deliberation.

Committee Chair: *Mark Majeski, Willamette University*
Staff Liaison: *Azure Davey, Academic and Membership Affairs*
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