MINUTES OF THE

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Teleconference December 9, 2010

Participants:
Chris Graham, Midwest Conference
Charles Harris, Averett University
Dale Knobel, Denison University
Shana Levine, Washington and Lee University, Chair
Mark Majeski, Willamette University
Christopher Ragsdale, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference
Charlyn Robert, Nichols College
Diana Schwartz, Westfield State College
Rubin Stevenson, Frostburg State University
Stefanie Baker-Watson, North Central College
Azure Davey, NCAA
Kristin Nesbitt, 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 1:05 p.m. Eastern time by Ms. Levine. All members were present as noted above.

1. Review November 11, 2010 Teleconference Minutes. The committee reviewed minutes from the November 11 teleconference.

   It was VOTED

   "That the November 11 minutes be approved as written."

2. NCAA Regional Rules Seminar Attendance – Term of Probation. Staff noted that the NCAA Division III Management Council reviewed an appeal from Wells College related

to a sport-sponsorship waiver that was denied by the committee during its October teleconference. The Council upheld the Membership Committee's recommendation to place Wells on a five year penalty period for failure to meet sports-sponsorship requirements for the 2009-10 academic year; however, also provided the institution with the opportunity to reduce the term from five to three years if Wells meets all membership requirements during the first three years of its penalty term. Additionally, the Council strongly encouraged the institution to continue to send its compliance officer to the NCAA Regional Rules Seminars on an annual basis, noting that the basis of the sports-sponsorship case was an erroneous rules interpretation.

The committee discussed whether institutions placed on probation for failure to meet a membership requirement should be subject to an attendance requirement at the Regional Rules Seminars during its probationary and/or penalty period. The committee supported having the authority to require an institution to attend a Regional Rules Seminar as part of its probation and/or penalty period or as a condition of restricted status. However, the committee did not feel the requirement should be a formal condition of probation or if an institution is in restricted status. Additionally, the committee noted that it would like to have the autonomy to determine who will be required to attend the Regional Rules Seminar on behalf of the institution (e.g., director of athletics, compliance coordinator, senior woman administrator).

It was VOTED

"To support the recommendation that per NCAA Division III Bylaw 3.02.3.1.2, the committee has the authority to require an institution to attend a Regional Rules Seminar if it is placed on probation or into restricted status. Additionally, the committee will have the autonomy to determine who will be required to attend the Regional Rules Seminar on behalf of the institution."

3. Membership Application Flowchart. Staff presented the committee with a chart that demonstrates the Division III membership process. It was noted that the chart will be included in the NCAA Division III Manual in the future. The committee was asked to provide feedback and it suggested that time periods be worked into the chart to provide perspective on where the requirements fall within the academic year. Additionally, the committee asked that it be noted when an item is a requirement and who it is intended.

4. New England Compliance Seminar Request. It was noted that further discussion related to the New England compliance seminar request would be tabled for a later teleconference or be addressed at the in-person meeting because larger conversations related to the concept were currently underway. The committee was asked to consider developing specific criteria for a pilot program to help determine if it is an effective concept. It was noted that a pilot may take place during the 2012-13 academic year. The committee indicated that one of the benefits of the concept is being able to bring additional staff so it would like to see a way to track who is in attendance, specifically by position. Additionally, the committee suggested determining the financial impact in comparison to the traditional Regional Rules Seminar.

5. Proactive Waiver Requests. Staff provided a historical perspective on proactive waiver requests submitted by institutions looking for relief of sport-sponsorship requirements in advance. Specifically, in the past, the committee has encouraged institutions to make every attempt to meet the requirement and that it would consider a waiver request at the point all options had been exhausted. The committee discussed whether there are situations where it should consider addressing requests that are proactive. The committee noted that, especially given the recent financial climate, there are circumstances that are beyond the control of institutions and what is important is the educational component and that institutions are recognizing the issue and looking to address it through the waiver process. In those cases, the committee felt it should give institutions consideration through the waiver process in a proactive manner whenever possible.

6. Wheelock College – Sport-Sponsorship Waiver Request. The committee discussed the waiver request and noted that the institution is making progress toward meeting sport-sponsorship requirements. It was noted that lacrosse has taken off on the east coast and it could draw additional males to the institution. Given the institution's overall enrollment the committee felt that even though the percentage of males enrolled increased two percent it is not a significant increase and since the institution did add lacrosse it is positioning itself to meet sport sponsorship moving forward. Additionally, the committee discussed that while the institution is being proactive, they have been before the committee previously and need to make every effort to be meeting sport sponsorship before action would be taken on a waiver. The committee also discussed a waiver for the 2009-10 academic year noting the enrollment percentage of males to females had not changed since 2008-09, a year for which the committee had previously granted a waiver request.

It was VOTED

"To approve the male-female enrollment ratio waiver request submitted by Wheelock College for the 2009-10 academic year per NCAA Bylaw 20.11.3.9.1."

7. Other Business. Staff informed the committee that the University of New Orleans has experienced a transition in its leadership and the new leadership feels as though the additional analysis is needed to determine which division is the right fit for the institution. It was also communicated to the institution that the 2010-11 academic year will not be used for purposes of meeting the requirements of it reclassifying membership.

   Additionally, staff noted that at the June in-person meeting the committee approved a requirement that a senior level administrator attend the NCAA Gender Equity and Issues Forum at least once during the provisional/reclassifying process. Communication from staff has been that it will be a requirement for those institutions joining the process moving forward. For those institutions currently in the process it will be strongly encouraged and communicated that they should attend, however, not a binding requirement.

8. Adjournment. Ms. Levine concluded the teleconference at 2:03 p.m. Eastern time.

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