

**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

***ACTION ITEMS.***

**1. Legislative Items.**

None.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

**a. 2010-12 Division III Strategic Plan.**

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the 2010-12 Division III Strategic Plan. [See No. 3e]
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2010.
- (3) Rationale. The committee recommends approval of the updated Strategic Plan noting the addition of content from the Division III Strategic Positioning Platform and updated Division III priority list.
- (4) Estimated Financial Impact. None. Within the plan, all Division III funded programs are justified per the Division III Philosophy Statement.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. The Division III Strategic Plan serves the best interests of student-athletes.

**b. Conference Presidential Meetings.**

- (1) Recommendation. Rather than provide a financial incentive for conferences to conduct presidential meetings, the Division III Presidents Council should clearly communicate the expectation for all multi-sport conferences to conduct formal presidential meetings.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. In response to the referral from Presidents Council to explore opportunities to support and incent, but not require, conferences to conduct presidential meetings, the committee expressed discomfort with providing financial incentives to support an activity that is already expected in the division via the constitutional requirement for presidential authority at the conference level and already occurs on a regular basis in most conferences. Rather, the committee determined that the most appropriate course of action would be to clearly establish and communicate the expectation of presidential meetings in all multi-sport conferences and monitor conference compliance

with this expectation. If 100 percent compliance is not met in the first two years, the committee would consider action to implement an appropriate penalty, such as loss of membership benefits (e.g., conference grant funding).

- (4) Estimated Financial Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Student-athletes will benefit from the presidential leadership exercised at the conference level.

**c. Officiating Improvement and ArbiterSports Budget Allocations.**

- (1) Recommendation. Reallocate \$150,000 from the ArbiterSports subsidy to Tier Three of the Conference Grant Program and encourage, but not require, conferences to spend the funds on officiating improvement. Funds will be divided equally among the 43 grant recipients.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2010.
- (3) Rationale. The division must discontinue the \$150,000 allocation previously earmarked to subsidize Division III officials' participation in ArbiterSports because ArbiterSports will no longer accept divisional subsidies. On recommendation from the Division III Commissioner's Association Advisory Group on Officiating, the division should make funds available for officiating improvement, but not require that all conference spend the funds on that topic. The committee noted that many conferences have already allocated conference grant dollars for officiating improvement, and some have greater involvement with officiating programs than others. Most notably, the members of the Eastern College Athletics Conference (185 Division III members) rely on that conference to manage officials.
- (4) Estimated Financial Impact. See recommendation.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Student-athletes will benefit from improved officiating at Division III contests.

**d. Division III Academic All-America Program.**

- (1) Recommendation. Collaborate with the College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) to establish a Division III Academic All-America Program.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2011 for a minimum two-year partnership (2011-12 and 2012-13).

- (3) Rationale. Currently, Division III student-athletes have access to CoSIDA's Academic All America program through a college division, which supports Division II, Division III, the NAIA and NJCAA. CoSIDA reached out to Division III with the opportunity to partner on a new, division-specific award platform which would result in 1,000 Division III student-athletes earning "All District" status and approximately 400 earning "Academic All-America" distinction over the course of a full academic year. CoSIDA will manage the nomination and selection process for the program, as well as coordinate the full administration of the awards fulfillment process. Division III will benefit from a greater number of individuals earning Academic All-America Honors, the opportunity to further promote the division's emphasis on academic achievement, and greater autonomy in establishing award criteria. Division II is establishing a similar program.
- (4) Estimated Financial Impact. \$44,000 in new spending for 2011-12 and 2012-13.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Student-athletes will benefit from a Division III specific Academic All-America program.

**e. Division III Inflationary Policy.**

- (1) Recommendation. Amend the Division III championships and strategic initiative inflationary policy to establish an inflationary allocation equivalent to the percent increase in the division's annual budget.
- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2010.
- (3) Rationale. Current policy dictates that the Division III championship budget receives a four percent inflationary increase on an annual basis. Of that four percent, it is recommended to maintain 25 to 30 percent for true inflationary increases (in travel and other market sensitive game expenses). The balance of the inflationary increase may be used for new initiatives related to championship maintenance (i.e., per diem increases, increases in official's fees, etc). The Division III strategic initiative budget receives a four percent inflationary increase every other year to cover the increasing costs of fees and expenses funded within the grant program. Because Division III will no longer receive a seven percent annual escalation in its budget, inflationary allocations should be adjusted so they do not exceed the two to two and a half percent escalations expected under the terms of the Association's new broadcast agreement. Tying the inflationary policy to the annual budgetary increase will maintain a consistent level of service in Division III programs.

- (4) Estimated Financial Impact. See recommendation.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. This recommendation maintains the current level of service provided to student-athletes throughout the championships and strategic initiatives programs.

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.***

1. **Committee Review of Requisition Forms.** The committee reviewed all funding issues associated with 2010-11 conference grant requisition forms and directed the staff on which requests to approve, deny, or amend.
2. **Student-Athlete Well-Being and Sports Wagering Resources.** The committee updated its Conference Grant Program policy to highlight sports wagering education as a best practice for Tier Two student-athlete well-being programming, and by creating a specific line for this topic in Tier Three. This change was made in response to the Management and Presidents Councils receiving a presentation during their April meetings on the results of the 2008 Study on Collegiate Wagering, and the need for the division to call attention to this significant student-athlete well-being issue.
3. **Drug Education and Testing Pilot.** As part of its analysis of the Drug Education and Testing pilot program, the committee reviewed a draft document outlining the drug education and testing options available to the division, as well as relevant background and pilot findings.

The committee offered preliminary responses to the following key questions:

- a. Is the status quo program an adequate position going forward?

The status quo program does not seem adequate for the division moving forward based on the lack of reach to coaches and administrators, and the pilot finding that the current drug education program is less than desirable.

- b. Is there support to spend Division III funds to enhance drug education efforts?

There is support to spend Division III funds to enhance drug education efforts, especially if the division can make available a user-friendly program that institutions can easily access. When compared to testing, it seems that education programs could be a more effective use of limited resources. A possible mechanism to distribute these funds would be through the Conference Grant Program.

c. Is there support for a required national testing program?

There does not appear to be support for a required national testing program. The use of performance enhancing drugs does not seem to be prevalent in the division, and conducting year-round testing for street drugs would treat student-athletes differently from the general student-body in a way not justified by the Division III philosophy.

d. Is there a support to spend Division III funds on an OPTIONAL, localized drug testing program?

There is support to provide Division III funds to support optional, local drug testing, especially as part of a hybrid model that allows conferences and institutions to determine the most appropriate level of education and testing.

4. **White Paper Updates.** The committee received updates on the status of the Division III Identity Initiative, Presidential Leadership Initiative, and Academic Reporting program.
5. **Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) Institute.** The committee received an update on the Division III FAR Fellows Institute scheduled for October 1-3 in Indianapolis; noting 30 participants have been selected to attend. The agenda includes an identity workshop, self evaluation of participants' leadership abilities, a panel discussion about the role of the FAR with the Division III conference structure, communication strategies, case studies, and an action planning and commitment discussion. The committee will ultimately review the success of this two-year pilot program based on a series of defined goals and outcome measures.
6. **Sports Information Director (SID) Institute.** The committee reviewed a letter received from CoSIDA regarding the possible establishment of an SID Institute. CoSIDA believes such an institute would make a clear statement about the importance of getting and keeping the overall Division III community "focused" on communications and branding initiatives, and be imperative for communication directors to be appropriately prepared to carry out and execute such initiatives at the campus and conference levels. The institute will be considered in more detail on a future teleconference, as it could not be implemented before the next budget biennium begins in 2012.
7. **2010-11 Leadership Conference Budget.** The committee reviewed the 2010-11 Division III leadership forum budget and program format changes. The new format includes fewer student-athletes and sites than the previous Regional Leadership Conferences. In place of this participation, the NCAA is now offering campus-based programming.

8. **Division III Budget.** [See Nos. 3b, 3c and 3d] This schedule represents where Division III stands financially as of June 24, 2010. The results include \$22,578,000 in revenue and \$18,643,360 in expenses, which reflects a majority of the championship expenses, but excludes many spring events. The projected 2010-12 budget reflects new allocations to support the Strategic Initiative Conference Grant Program; Campus-based Student-Athlete Leadership Programming; FAR Institute; Academic Reporting Stipend; and the Division III Identity Program, with a reduction in the SWA Enhancement Grant Program and the Student-Athlete Regional Leadership Conference, now referred to as the Leadership Conference. The Division III reserve balance is expected to be \$13,752,626 at year end.

*Committee Chair: Jim Bultman, Hope College*

*Staff Liaison: Beth Barnett, Finance*

*Dan Dutcher, Division III Governance*

*Amy Huchthausen, Academic and Membership Affairs*

*Leah Kareti, Division III Governance*

*Andrea Worlock, Finance*