

**Summary of July 11, 2014, Key Changes to  
Board Steering Committee on Governance Model.**

1. **Size of Board of Directors.** The total number of presidents and chancellors was increased from 17 to 20 to accommodate three additional positions: one for the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) and two for the Division I Subdivision.

**Rationale.** There are 11 conferences in both the FCS and Division I Subdivisions. This adjustment will provide seats on the Board for those conferences much more frequently than the 8-10 year absence now applicable. This accommodation to FCS and DI eases some concern expressed regarding continuation of permanent seats for the 10 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) conferences, and the additional positions provide additional resources for Board subcommittee assignments.

2. **Five-Conference Voting Threshold in Autonomy Governance.** The two-thirds majority requirement to pass autonomy legislation as set forth in the May 1 draft model was lowered to a simple majority of three of the five conferences and 60 percent of the 80 available votes (48 total), or a simple majority of four of the five conferences and student-athlete representatives (41 total).

**Rationale.** The Steering Committee accepts that the original threshold could impede the ability of the five conferences to address a meaningful autonomy agenda. The Steering Committee also believes that it is important to assist the five conferences in their efforts to position the interests of student-athletes as a paramount consideration in affecting change through the five-conference autonomy agenda.

3. **Transfer Eligibility.** This item was withdrawn from the autonomy list.

**Rationale.** The impacts of change to transfer regulations are difficult to predict or discern among subdivisions and conferences throughout Division I. Therefore, this topic along with enforcement has been identified as a priority agenda for all of Division I over the next two-year period. If the division fails to satisfactorily address these issues during that time, the Board of Directors will consider assigning these topics to the Autonomy Governance process upon the request of the five conferences.

4. **Future Additions to Autonomy List.** The former two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors was changed to require a first step to include a request from three of the five conferences. Upon receipt of the request, the item may be added upon approval of 12 of the 20 presidents or chancellors who serve on the Board.

**Rationale.** Based on expansion of the Board to 20 presidents or chancellors and with the understanding that “transfers” would be deleted from the current autonomy list, many

conferences expressed a willingness in their comments to reduce the two-thirds vote requirement. Twelve votes represents a 60 percent level of approval and it was agreed that having only the president or chancellor members of the Board vote would best represent the view of the overall set of Division I conferences on that issue.

- 5. Size of Council and Weighted Voting.** Two faculty positions were added to the Council (40 total members) and the weighted voting was retained.

**Rationale.** Requiring 60 percent of the 32 conference appointed positions to be allocated to athletics directors and with the other six positions earmarked for commissioners and student-athletes, the Steering Committee agreed that while faculty may be appointed among the 32 conference positions, two additional guaranteed faculty positions would be in order. One position will be appointed by the I-A FARs and one will be appointed by FARA.

The faculty positions on the Council will have a 1x1 vote as will the student-athlete representatives regardless of the subdivision they represent. While the Steering Committee received many comments questioning the continuation of weighted voting, the committee believes it is appropriate to continue at this juncture. The Council voting processes and the operations of this new group will be monitored by a Governance Subcommittee of the Board, and the Board will retain jurisdiction for two years to monitor the structure and to ensure effective and fair governance.

- 6. Board Jurisdiction to Monitor the New Governance Structure.** The Board retains jurisdiction until August 1, 2017, to make changes to the structure in the event of unintended impacts or to correct errors, as well as to adopt Council recommendations to establish substructure bodies necessary for the Council to complete its work efficiently and effectively.

**Rationale.** Due to the complexity of the planned changes to the governance structure and legislative systems, the Board should retain sufficient authority to efficiently react to new information and events to assure a smooth transition and to reassure the membership that continued stewardship of effective and fair governance will prevail in this new era.

- 7. Football Bowl Subdivision Football Legislation.** Legislation regarding the number of football scholarships available for Football Bowl Subdivision institutions will be excluded from weighted voting among FBS conferences.

**Rationale.** This is considered a fundamental competitive issue among FBS conferences that both groups of five conferences have indicated should not be considered without

majority support among FBS conferences. It also should be emphasized that scholarship numbers for other sports are not included on the autonomy list.

8. **Autonomy Governance in 2014-15.** An October 1, 2014, deadline will apply this year for the submission of autonomy legislation that is sponsored by at least three of the five conferences. A 60-day comment period will follow for Division I membership review and comment. The five conferences then will have an amendment period followed by an official notice of the legislative agenda to be discussed and considered in a January 17, 2015, five conference Forum Session and in a January 18, 2015, Business Session.