ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   a. Bench Size.
      (1) Recommendation. That the bench size be increased from 33 to 36.
      (2) Rationale. The Division III Baseball Committee would like to increase the bench size of 33 members (35 if using medical personnel) to 36 members (38 if using medical personnel). After reviewing roster sizes of the 2015 NCAA championship participants at regional and final sites, the average squad size with coaches was more than 36 individuals. The increase in bench size would not affect the championship budget, since the reimbursable travel party would remain the same and participating teams (particularly those that travel to the championship site via bus) are already paying for the additional members they bring to the site. The recommendation merely allows for more those personnel to be on the bench.
      (3) Effective Date. September 1, 2015.
      (4) Budget Impact. None.
      (5) Student-Athlete Impact. The increased bench size would allow more student-athletes who have contributed to their team’s success during the regular season to be with their teammates on the bench rather than having to sit in the stands.
   b. Championship Awards.
      (1) Recommendation. That the second-place team be awarded a national runner-up team trophy at the final site.
      (2) Rationale. Currently, the second-place team does not receive a national runner-up trophy at the conclusion of the championship tournament. However, winners of each region receive a “regional champion” team trophy at the conclusion of regional tournaments; individual “regional champion” mini trophies are awarded after elimination from the national tournament. The committee believes the runner-up team deserves the opportunity to be publicly recognized.
by fans, parents and opponents after a successful season, similar to the champions.

(3) **Effective Date.** September 1, 2015.

(4) **Budget Impact.** $635.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** The recommendation enhances the experience for more student-athletes, as the national runner-up team will be recognized with a team trophy at the conclusion of the championship.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. **Recent Reports.** The committee approved the 2014 annual committee meeting report as submitted.

2. **2015 Championship.** The committee reviewed the championship via teleconference with the co-hosts and LOC.

   a. **Hydration Product.** The committee noted that one of the hosts was not distributing adequate amounts of PowerAde for teams during practices and games, but instead was reserving it. The committee reminded the host to ensure that teams receive hydration product for all practices and games. Remaining drink product, if any, shall be given to co-hosts following the championship.

   b. **Laundry.** The hosts provided laundry service to relieve teams from washing their own game uniforms. The host noted that laundry service companies have been used in the past; however, the financial impact was greater than $5,000 each year and often not available on Memorial Day. Going forward, the host will use student workers to keep personnel costs low.

   c. **Opening Ceremonies.** An opening ceremonies reception was held on the game field the evening prior to the first day of competition. Replacing the banquet, this format mirrored the Division I Men’s College World Series. The committee encouraged hosts and NCAA staff to add head shots to video board during opening ceremonies.

   d. **Facilities.** The committee was satisfied with the game field, indoor practice facility and outdoor practice facility and thanked the grounds crew for their commitment and sense of urgency during the championship.

   e. **Awards.** The committee voted to request adding a second-place team trophy for the national runner-up in 2016 (see Nonlegislative Action Item 2-b).
f. **Special Olympics.** Special Olympics athletes were used on the first day during introductions. The host continues to look for creative ways to incorporate the Special Olympics group.

g. **Championship Evaluations.** The committee reviewed survey results from the regionals and final round and made the following suggestions for improvement in future years.

1. Encouraged NCAA to add video stream budget line item for all regional sites.
2. Invite local youth baseball and softball teams to opening ceremonies.

3. **2016 Championship.** For the best-of-three final series of the championship, the committee will adopt the Division I home/away designation. The remainder of the tournament will not change.

   - **Final Site Bracketing.** The committee discussed seeding teams once teams advance to the final site. Members believe this would balance the pods to avoid top teams meeting early and allow for the best teams to meet in the championship series. Currently, first round matchups are determined by an eight-year regional rotation. NCAA staff will get more information and present to the committee.

4. **2016 Regional Bids.** The committee will continue to solicit regional bids until all regions are completed. Members noted that regional hosts are difficult to find, given the challenges of hosting a five- or six-day event, often over graduation weekend.

5. **DIII Championships Budget Review.** NCAA staff joined the committee to discuss issues related to the division, including information regarding the current budget and ways to relieve the budget shortfall in the short and long term.

6. **Championship Officiating.** Don Umland, the Division III supervisor of umpires, provided his annual report to the committee. The committee agreed that Mr. Umland did a good job organizing the regional and championship competition and opted to renew the annual contract. Committee members noted that they would like to see continued growth in communication as it relates to ejections throughout the regular season.

7. **Sport Committee and Coaches Association.**

   a. **Regional Advisory Committee.** The committee reviewed and noted the vacancies. Positions will be filled by September 1.
b. **American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Convention Recap.** The committee chair provided a summary of the discussion among the coaches during the ABCA convention. The 2016 ABCA convention will be held in Nashville on January 7-10.

c. **2016 Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting is scheduled to take place June 20-22 in Indianapolis.

8. **Manual Reviews.** The committee recommended edits for the pre-championship, host operations, committee operations and site representative manuals. NCAA staff will make the updates.

9. **Committee 2015-16 Timeline.** The committee reviewed the committee timeline and staff will make the recommended updates for final committee approval.

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**Committee Chair:** Ben Shipp, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, American Southwest Conference

**Staff Liaison:** J.P. Williams, Championships and Alliances

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 22-24, 2015, Annual Meeting</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corey Borchardt, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference</td>
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<td>Jason Doviak, Salem State University</td>
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<td>James Grandey, Bluffton University</td>
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<td>Joel Holst, Wartburg College</td>
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<td>Jon Martin, Vassar College</td>
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<td>James Peeples, Piedmont College</td>
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<td>Ben Shipp, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor</td>
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<td>Bill Stiles, Alvernia University</td>
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Other Participants:

Jami Rogers, Lawrence University; Kennan Timm, University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh; Don Umland, NCAA DIII Supervisor of Umpires; Dan Dutcher, NCAA; Lori Morgan, NCAA; Juanita Sheely, NCAA; J.P. Williams, NCAA.