ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   a. Automatic Qualification.
      
      (1) **Recommendation.** That the following 41 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 NCAA Division III Baseball Championship:

      Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Freedom Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Middle Atlantic Conference Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; President’s Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference; Upper Midwest Athletic; and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

      The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Pool A – 41; Pool B – 2; Pool C – 13.

      (2) **Effective Date.** September 1, 2016

      (3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences have been recommended.

      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.
b. **Regional Start Date.**

   (1) **Recommendation.** That regional tournaments begin on Thursday and end on Sunday/Monday.

   (2) **Rationale.** Due to the limited turn-around time between team selection announcements at midnight on Monday morning and regional practices beginning on Tuesday morning, the committee would like push the start of six and eight team regional tournaments back one day to Thursday. This would allow participants and NCAA travel staff additional time to secure team travel plans. The recommendation would have all teams arriving on site for practice Wednesday. Six team regionals would end on Sunday and eight team regionals would end no later than Monday.

   (3) **Effective Date.** September 1, 2016.

   (4) **Budget Impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** The additional day would allow time for teams to secure and confirm travel and eliminate missed practice times once arriving on site.

c. **Tournament Seeding**

   (1) **Recommendation.** That the final site of the championship be seeded.

   (2) **Rationale.** The committee discussed seeding teams following regional tournaments. The committee believes this will balance the brackets and avoid stronger teams meeting early in early round games due to the fact teams only play opponents in their bracket. Similar to selections, the committee will use the score reporting software updated through regionals to determine seeds. Currently, first round matchups are determined by an eight-year regional rotation.

   (3) **Effective Date.** September 1, 2016.

   (4) **Budget Impact.** None.

   (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Seeding would enhance the student-athlete experience by creating the most competitive tournament.
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. **Review of the 2015 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the annual committee meeting report as submitted.

2. **Committee Chair.** The committee recommended incumbent Jim Peeples, director of athletics and head baseball coach at the Piedmont College, serve his second term as chair of the Division III Baseball Committee.

3. **2016 Championship.** The committee reviewed the championship via teleconference with co-hosts and LOC.
   a. **Opening Ceremonies.** For the second year, the opening ceremonies reception was held on the game field the evening prior to the first day of competition. The committee encouraged hosts and LOC to shorten the ceremony by shortening meal time and have participants in place prior to the start.
   b. **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. The committee has requested the use of a local second practice field and the use of a secondary game field at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh in the case of inclement weather.
   c. **Laundry.** The hosts provided laundry service via the use of student workers. The was used to relieve teams from finding laundry facilities and washing their own game uniforms.
   d. **Bench Size.** The committee elected to allow 33 individuals in the dugout in uniform, 25 who must be student-athletes. Previously, only 27 of the 33 individuals allowed in the dugout were allowed in uniform.
   e. **Special Olympics.** Special Olympics athletes were used during introductions. The host continues to look for creative ways to incorporate the Special Olympics group.

4. **2016 Regionals.** The committee discussed preliminary-round evaluation for sites and umpires. The committee looked to push six and eight team tournaments back one day to Thursday to allow participants and NCAA travel staff additional time to secure travel plans between selections and arrival on site for practice.

5. **Bid selection process.** NCAA staff gave an update and timeline regarding the upcoming site selection process.
   a. **2017 Regional Bids.** The committee will continue to solicit regional bids until all regions are completed. The committee noted that regional hosts are difficult to find
given the challenges of hosting a five- or six-day event, often over graduation weekend. No bids have been submitted.

6. **Championship selections and bracketing policies** The committee discussed bracketing principles, hosting guidelines, conference tournament game times, and committee and staff preparation work leading up to selections.

7. **Division III Financial 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.

8. **Rankings.** The committee discussed rankings at length, the final ranking process, and results versus ranked opponents. The committee opted to use the strength of schedule multiplier. The committee noted its desire to modify the strength of schedule multiplier. The committee also noted their continued support of a modification to current criteria for results vs. ranked opponents.

9. **Championship Umpiring.** The Division III coordinator of umpires provided his annual report to the committee via teleconference. The committee agreed that Mr. Umland was proficient at organizing the regional and championship umpiring assignments 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.

10. **American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Convention Recap.** The committee chair provided a summary of the discussion among the coaches during the ABCA convention. The 2017 ABCA convention will be held in Anaheim, CA on January 5-8.

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

12. **2017 Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting is scheduled to take place June 19-21 in Indianapolis.

13. **Committee 2016-17 Timeline.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee and sport committee timeline and staff will make the recommended updates for final committee approval.
Jason Doviak, Salem State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
James Grandey, Bluffton University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Joel Holst, Wartburg College; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Jon Martin, Vassar College; Liberty League.
Paul Murphy, Gwynedd Mercy University; Colonial States Athletic Conference.
Jim Peeples, Piedmont College; USA South Athletic Conference.
Daniel Ramsay, Whitworth University; Northwest Conference.
Aaron Rushing, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

**Absentees:**
None.

**Guests in Attendance:**
Don Umland, NCAA Division III coordinator of umpires; teleconference.
Kennan Timm; University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh; teleconference.
Christyn Abaray; Lawrence University; Teleconference.
Matt Ten Haken; Fox Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau; Teleconference.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
Lori Morgan, championships and alliances.
J.P. Williams, championships and alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Juanita Sheeley, travel and insurance.
Liz Suscha, championships and alliances.
Joni Williamson, academic & membership affairs.