ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Automatic qualification.

         Anticipated Pool Allocations
         Pool A - 7
         Pool B - 1
         Pool C - 4

      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.

      (3) Rationale. Each conference meets the requirements of Bylaw 31.3.3 and has completed the automatic-qualification declaration form.

      (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

      (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
   
   b. Committee chair.
      (1) Recommendation. That Bill Kangas, head men’s ice hockey coach at Williams College, serve as chair of the Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Committee for his last year of committee service.

      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.

      (3) Rationale. Mr. Kangas is a veteran to the regional advisory and national men’s ice hockey committees and respected among his coaching peers. Mr. Kangas will take on the chair role in the final year of his committee service. The only other candidates for chair are committee members with less than two years of service.
(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Video replay.

(1) Recommendation. That video replay be used for all games played at the finals site.

(2) Effective date. 2018 championship.

(3) Rationale. The Division I ice hockey committees have had great success in using video replay at the Women’s Frozen Four and the Men’s Frozen Four. And, depending on the venue, the Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Championship has also benefited from the replay capability in the past (e.g., Ridder Arena). The committee would use video replay specifically to review officials’ calls regarding goals and major penalties. Expense for the equipment and installation would apply only at venues that are not currently equipped with video replay.

(4) Estimated budget impact. $3,200, including rental and installation of the video equipment and a game fee, per diem, mileage and lodging for the replay official.

(5) Student-athlete impact. Reviewing the accuracy of officials’ calls and correcting calls as needed would enhance the experience of the student-athletes at the championship and would result in only a minimal delay in competition.

d. Officials’ fees.

(1) Recommendation. That fees for referees and linesmen for the Division III Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Championships be increased, fees be added for a video replay official, and a stipend be paid to the supervisor of officials at the finals site only.

(2) Effective date. 2018 championship.

(3) Rationale. Game fees for referees and linesmen for the Division III men’s and women’s ice hockey championships have not been increased since at least the 2008-09 season. In addition, the pool of men’s ice hockey officials for postseason assignment includes officials that work both Division I and Division III contests throughout the season. Given that a portion of the championship date formulas for the Division III Men’s Ice Hockey Championship, Division I conference championships and Men’s Frozen Four overlap, some officials are not able to work for more than one postseason championship. Currently there is a significant difference in pay for the two divisions (see Attachment), which is a disincentive for top officials to agree to work the Division III championship.
(4) **Estimated budget impact.** $3,840 for the women’s ice hockey championship; $3,440 for the men’s ice hockey championship; total of $7,280 (see Attachment).

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Having the most skilled and experienced officials working NCAA championship games enhances the student-athlete experience.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee chair welcomed the committee members and reviewed the meeting schedule and agenda.

2. **Key actions of the NCAA Division III Championships Committee.** The committee reviewed actions the Championships Committee took in 2015-16 relevant to the work of the men’s ice hockey committee.

3. **2015 report.** The committee approved the 2015 annual meeting report as presented.

4. **2016 championship.**

   a. **Championship surveys.** Committee members commended the host organizing committee on another successful championship and look forward to returning in March 2018. The committee noted that the Winter Olympic experience as an alternative to the traditional championship banquet received positive feedback from the participants. Future championships in Lake Placid should continue to use the new format, but add greater formality to the coaches association awards presentations and allow more time for the teams to eat dinner. The additions of the on-ice promotions and the revised media and press conference setup were good improvements. Some areas of opportunity include: greater activation with the local Special Olympics chapter, additional focus on attracting fans during the Spring Break period, and better access control of the venue during closed team practices.

   b. **Finals site home team designation.** The committee reviewed its policy on home team designation at the finals site if both teams have the same regional rank and determined that, at a predetermined site, the West region team will be the home team in odd years and the East team will be the home team in even years. If the championship takes place at a nonpredetermined site and the host team is not the top seed, then the last change will go to the top seed; all other home team designations (i.e., uniform color, locker room assignment, home team bench) will remain with the host team.

   c. **Games committee for preliminary-round sites.** The committee evaluated the effectiveness of site representatives and games committees at preliminary-round sites and agreed to emphasize the importance of being close to the ice and maintaining competition oversight
from the start of the warm-up until both teams leave the ice at the end of the game. Although not required, the committee encourages an administrator to travel with the visiting teams to serve as the representative on the games committee.

d. **Championship misconduct.** The committee reviewed game footage, reports from officials and prior communication with Adrian College concerning the team’s conduct during quarterfinal competition. The committee issued a public reprimand and several additional penalties to select players and the head coach as a result of both physical and verbal unsportsmanlike conduct. While some of the actions resulted in game penalties and disqualification of specific student-athletes at the time of the competition, the committee applied supplementary discipline as allowed by Rule 29 of the 2014-16 NCAA Men’s and Women’s Ice Hockey Rules and Interpretations and additional penalties through the NCAA misconduct process.

5. **Budget requests.**

a. **Video replay at finals site.** Refer to Nonlegislative Action Item 2c.

b. **Day of rest at finals site.** The committee discussed adding a day of rest between semifinal and final competition. After considering the additional per diem required and the existing standard of teams playing on back-to-back days during the regular season, the committee did not recommend a change to the competition days but agreed to move up the start times for semifinal competition to 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (from 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.).

6. **Review of American Hockey Coaches Association meeting.** The committee reviewed the report staff presented to the Division III coaches during the April 2016 AHCA convention.

7. **2019-22 host site selection update.** NCAA staff reviewed the timeline for bids to be received, reviewed and recommendations forwarded to the Championships Committee for final approval.

8. **Selection criteria – RPI and PairWise.** The committee discussed the merits of applying a calculation such as the RPI or PairWise to the rankings and selection process. While the current criteria include separate analysis of strength-of-schedule and win-loss record, the committee believes a calculation that incorporates both would be valuable, particularly as a data point to indicate national ranking that would be available and understood by men’s ice hockey coaches, players and fans across both sport regions. Committee members agreed to explore with the NCAA statistics staff the feasibility of developing such a calculation given that there is limited cross-region competition during the regular season.

9. **Sport sponsorship and conference alignment.** The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship list and discussed anticipated additions for the coming year and beyond.
10. **2017 automatic qualification (AQ) and pool allocation.** The committee reviewed AQ applications for the 2017 championship. Refer to Nonlegislative Action Item 2-a.

11. **Bracket configuration.** The committee explored a bracket configuration based on regional allocations (i.e., four teams selected from the West region and eight teams selected from the East region). While the allocation would be proportionate to the sponsorship by region, the committee raised competitive equity concerns. Specifically, East teams would always play first-round games while West teams would start with the quarterfinals and there would be no flexibility to award an at-large berth to a deserving team from a region that is already at its regional allocation. Further, depending on the teams selected, the committee noted that a regional allocation model may not result in pairings that are consistent with the Division III geographic bracketing principles. The committee took no action, but agreed to discuss the concept further with the American Hockey Coaches Association.

12. **Joint discussion with Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee.** The committee met with members of the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee to discuss several areas of common interest.

   a. **Update from Division III governance staff.** The NCAA governance staff provided an update on several topics, including: (a) the Board of Governors structure and the recent policy statement requiring potential championship hosts to submit documentation indicating how they will provide an event environment that is safe and inclusive for participants and fans; (b) the playing and practice seasons review; and (c) the Division III budget planning process.

   b. **Update from Hockey Rules Committee.** Members of the playing rules committee joined the men’s and women’s ice hockey committees to review rules survey results and current issues, including goal pegs, video replay, intermission, overtime and consistency in standards of play across divisions, regions and gender. The committees noted that some Division III institutions do not own their own rink and many public facilities are not willing to incur the cost of adding goal pegs. The rules committee members indicated that institutions may submit waiver requests to the attention of the NCAA playing rules staff outlining the factors that prevent them from complying with the goal peg requirement. The committees also reviewed a statistical summary of trends in scoring, penalties, game misconduct and overtime outcome data provided by the playing rules staff.

   c. **Championship issues.**

       - Coordination between men’s quarterfinals and women’s national championship. The committee discussed various scenarios to allow institutions that are strong in both men’s and women’s hockey to maximize hosting opportunities, specifically to host men’s quarterfinal and women’s semifinal and final competition on the same weekend. After consulting with the Division III Women’s Ice Hockey committee and
considering variables such as an alternate venue for one gender or the other, an alternating schedule from year to year, and a shift in the competition days (e.g., from Saturday to Thursday or Sunday), the committee did not take any action and affirmed its position that a participating institution must indicate its preference to host either the men’s quarterfinal competition or women’s semifinal and final competition, but not both, prior to site selection and according to the championship bid specifications and requirements.

13. Officials update. The committee met with the NCAA national coordinator of men’s ice hockey officials to discuss: (1) the assignment of officials based on conference affiliation whenever possible; and (2) the potential for officiating fee increases. Refer to Nonlegislative Action Item 2-d for the request to increase officials’ fees.

14. 2016-17 committee calendar. The committee reviewed the committee calendar for the 2016-17 season.

15. National and regional advisory committees. NCAA staff reviewed the process for securing RAC appointments from conference commissioners and the list of replacements needed for the 2016-17 season.

16. Review of championship manuals. The committee spent limited time reviewing championship manuals, but will provide a more focused review leading up to the 2016-17 season. The participant manuals for all rounds of competition will indicate a preference of white for the home jersey color.

Committee Chair:  Don Olson, The College of St. Scholastica, Upper Midwest Athletic Conference

Staff Liaison:  Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances

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<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Don Olson, The College of St. Scholastica; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Kangas, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Tom Di Camillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference.</td>
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<th>Absentees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Stauber, University of Wisconsin-Superior; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<th>Guests in Attendance:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Cole, Coordinator of Officials.</td>
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<td>Bruce Delventhal, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom DiFusco, NCAA National Coordinator of Women’s Ice Hockey Officials.</td>
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<td>Division III Women’s Ice Hockey Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vincent Eruzione, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.</td>
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Michelle McAteer, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.
Ann Ninnemann, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.
Jarrod Phillips, Gustavus Adolphus University; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Steve Piotrowski, Secretary-Rules Editor.
Doug Schueller, Men's and Women's Ice Hockey Rules Committee.
Mike Szkodzinski, Lawrence University; Midwest Conference.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances.
Barb Hallam, Championships and Alliances.
Ty Halpin, Championships and Alliances.
Jay Jones, Governance.