ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Committee chair.

   (1) Recommendation. That Russ Rogers, director of athletics at Stevens Institute of Technology, serve as chair of the Division III Men’s Volleyball Committee.

   (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.

   (3) Rationale. Mr. Rogers will replace Dani Drews, whose term on the committee ends in August. Mr. Rogers has served on the committee for two years and will be an excellent leader and spokesperson.

   (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

   (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

   b. North Eastern Athletic Conference automatic qualification

   (1) Recommendation. That the North Eastern Athletic Conference be awarded an automatic berth to the Division III Men’s Volleyball Championship.

   (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.

   (3) Rationale. The NEAC has met the provisions set forth in NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1.1 to gain access to the championship through an automatic berth in Pool A.

   (4) Estimated budget impact. None.

   (5) Student-athlete impact. An automatic berth to the championship will afford student-athletes an additional opportunity to compete for a championship in both Pools A and C.

   c. Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League.
d. Automatic qualification.

(1) Recommendation. That the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League be awarded an automatic berth to the Division III Men’s Volleyball Championship.

(2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.

(3) Rationale. The MCVL has met the provisions set forth in NCAA Bylaw 31.3.3.1.2 for a single-sport conference to gain access to the championship through an automatic berth in Pool A.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. An automatic berth to the championship will afford student-athletes an additional opportunity to compete for a championship in both Pools A and C.

e. 2017 bracket configuration.

(1) Recommendation. That the committee have the flexibility to decide the best format for the first-round of competition with matches hosted at two sites with four teams at each site or at four sites with two teams at each site.

(2) Effective date. 2017 championship.
Rationale. Due to the lack of first-round bids received in the past the committee would like the flexibility to decide on the format of the first-round matches once the field has been determined and before the selection announcement is made. Since there has historically been limited interest in hosting the first-round matches, the committee would like to be able to review the bids received and then make the best decision for the format at that point. Typically bids have been received from the top seeded teams in the field that should be receiving a bye if the Division III bracketing principles allow. The committee has felt that the lack of bids received is sometimes due to gamesmanship and would like to be able to mitigate this factor when possible.

Estimated budget impact. TBD.

Student-athlete impact. Allowing the flexibility in bracketing will allow the committee to develop the most competitively equitable bracket for the student-athletes while still abiding by the Division III bracketing principles.

Championship format.

Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Men’s Volleyball Championship format be modified to include four three-team first-round sites and a four-team finals site.

Effective date. 2018 championship.

Rationale. The committee believes that moving to a four-team finals site is in the best interest of the sport because it will increase the number of potential hosts. In the eight-team finals-site format, there are a limited number of institutions that are able and willing to host due to facility constraints and number of personnel required to execute this championship.

With the 2018 championship being hosted by Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the committee believes this would be the perfect opportunity to make the format change as there is the potential that all eight teams advancing to the championship would have to fly. The four team finals format would also require teams to be on-site one less day reducing missed class time. The banquet would also be reduced to half of its current size adding to the cost savings of a smaller finals site. The committee also believes that having fewer student-athletes at the finals site could allow hosts to enhance the student-athlete experience since they will not have to accommodate as many teams.

This format also lends itself well to potential bracket increases in the coming years, as each additional team could be plugged into an existing first-round site and accommodate up to a 16-team bracket.

Estimated budget impact. TBD.

Student-athlete impact. Student-athletes would be afforded a more quality championship experience with less missed class time.
g. Officials’ fees increase.

(1) **Recommendation.** That the officials’ fee at the championship site be increased from $500 to $750.

(2) **Effective date.** 2017 championship.

(3) **Rationale.** The officials selected to the championship work up to six of the seven matches at the finals site in some capacity. The men’s volleyball championship falls on the same weekend each year as large club events in the area. When the fee is broken down per match it does not compete with other tournaments that the officials could choose to work potentially limiting the pool of qualified candidates from which the committee can select.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** $1,000.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Securing the best possible championship officials will allow for the highest level of play at the national championship.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

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

2. **2015 annual meeting report.** The committee approved the report noting that the automatic qualifiers presented in the report were amended at a later date.

3. **Division III Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions taken by the Championships Committee in 2015-16 relevant to the work of the men’s volleyball committee.

4. **Governance update.** NCAA governance staff reviewed the following topics: 1) championships bid cycle; 2) 2017 legislative proposals to date; 3) Fair Labor Act; 4) Division III working groups; 5) diversity and inclusion; 6) the roll-out of the new Eligibility Center registration process.

5. **Committee composition.** The committee reviewed the regional advisory committee rosters noting vacancies for the upcoming year.

6. **Sport sponsorship.**

   a. **Regional alignment.** The committee discussed its current two-region alignment and the possibility of organizing into four regions in the future to accommodate the growth of the sport. The committee discussed organizing regions based on geography and also
conference strength. The committee will continue to monitor the growing sport sponsorship and assess realignment moving forward.

b. **Bracket size.** The committee reviewed the sport sponsorship list and discussed anticipated additions for the coming year and beyond. Based on anticipated growth, the committee expects sponsorship to call for additional growth in the coming few years. Upon confirmation of sponsorship growth, the committee will submit a recommendation to the Championships Committee to request an increase in bracket size.

c. **Number of teams ranked per region.** The committee reviewed the two options approved by the NCAA Division III Championships Committee during its May 2015 meeting for the number of teams that sport committees may rank in each region: (1) retain the current policy of ranking 15 percent of the teams in each region, with a minimum of six; or (2) rank 15 to 21 percent of the teams in each region, with no minimum. The chart below outlines the number of teams per region that the committee will rank, effective 2016-17. The number of teams ranked for each region is within the 15 to 21 percent range.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Previously Ranked</th>
<th>Ranked Effective 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the current selection criteria and also noted that effective in 2016-17 a team’s won-loss percentage during the last 25 percent of the season (i.e., end of season performance) will be considered in secondary criteria.

8. **2018-2022 bid process.** The committee reviewed the timeline for the upcoming championship bid cycle and discussed potential hosts. NCAA staff and committee members will reach out to potential hosts to encourage them to review the bid specs and submit bids for the available years.

9. **2016 Championship.**

   a. **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed the participant evaluations from the championship noting the general positive nature of the surveys and the host’s dedication to making the championship a great event.

   b. **DVDs.** The committee discussed implementing a film exchange policy for the championship and would like to seek feedback from the coaching body on this topic and also conference offices to see if any policies currently exist.

10. **2017 Championship.** The committee noted that selections fall on Easter Sunday in 2017 which could potentially mean scheduling changes to conference tournaments. NCAA staff will monitor these dates during the spring and communicate with conference commissioners and the committee. The committee also discussed the 2017 championship to be held at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

11. **Rules.** NCAA playing rules staff provided the committee an update regarding what the NCAA is doing to help provide consistency and communication to the membership regarding
notification of rules changes/modifications. Currently the committee finds it difficult to track on rules changes coming down from USA Volleyball because of the timing. The committee decided that any USA Volleyball rules changes made before August 1 would be implemented for the upcoming year (unless the committee were to take a modification to that rule) and anything after August 1 will be delayed until the following season unless there is a health and safety concern that would require immediate implementation, a financial impact that would require institutions to plan ahead or if the change would need to go through the Division III Championships Committee.

a. DCR. The committee reviewed the rules modifications document currently in place for Division III. The committee discussed the possibility of having one composite document for all rules (USAV, National Collegiate men’s and Division III) with the rules modifications clearly identified within the document.

b. Time out protocol. The committee discussed the current time out policy and is recommending to the Playing Rules and Officiating Panel that Division III men’s volleyball adopt the same time out protocol as National Collegiate men’s volleyball. The current Division III modification is “to increases the time-out duration from 30 to 60 seconds with a 15-second warning whistle.” The proposed change would “increase the timeout duration to 75 seconds with a 15-second warning whistle; resume play early if both teams are ready.” This proposal will go out for comment and would be implemented for the 2017-18 season at the earliest.

c. Uniform policy. The committee requested an interpretation from NCAA playing rules staff regarding socks, knee pads, arm bands and compression wear qualifying as a part of the official team uniform and subject to the uniform policy. NCAA playing rules staff determined that compression wear is the only item currently subject to the uniform policy.

12. Officiating.

a. Assignments. The committee reviewed the timeline for selecting officials for the championship and would like to see the process moved up in the year. NCAA staff will continue to work with conference commissioners to seek recommendations for the championship and to secure quality officials. The committee also discussed the officials’ back ground check pilot program and noted that the timing was not ideal, but the time constraint could be alleviated by seeking recommendations earlier in the process.

b. Evaluations. The committee reviewed the officials and were satisfied with their performance overall. For the 2017 championship, the committee is going to look at a process that will allow coaches to evaluate the officials after each match whether it be online or a paper form.

13. Forms and championship manuals. The committee spent time reviewing championship manuals noting edits for the 2016-17 championship season.

14. 2017 annual meeting dates. The committee identified Wednesday through Friday, June 7-9, as the dates for the 2017 annual committee meeting.
Committee Chair: Dani Drews, The Sage Colleges; Skyline Conference.
Staff Liaison: Laura Peterson-Mlynski, championships and alliances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division III Men’s Volleyball Committee</th>
<th>June 8-9, 2016, Annual Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dani Drews, The Sage Colleges; Skyline Conference</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheila Gisbrecht, Elms College; New England Collegiate Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Liberto, State University of New York Polytechnic Institute; North Eastern Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology; Empire 8</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Absentees:</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</strong></td>
<td>Laura Peterson-Mlynski, championships and alliances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</strong></td>
<td>Ben Brownlee, championships and alliances;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>