ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Committee chair.
      (1) **Recommendation.** That Brian Lang, associate director of athletics at Assumption College, be appointed chair.
      (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2016.
      (3) **Rationale.** Mr. Lang has served as a member of the women’s rowing committee for two years and is well respected by the committee. In addition, his experience as associate director of athletics has prepared him to succeed in this leadership role.
      (4) **Estimate budget impact.** None.
      (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.
   b. Regional alignment change.
      (1) **Recommendation.** That the University of Central Oklahoma be moved from the South region to the West region.
      (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2017.
      (3) **Rationale.** The University of Central Oklahoma asked to be moved to the West region, and the rowing committee supports this move. Central Oklahoma is geographically isolated in women’s rowing. Its current nearest in-region competition is approximately 1,300 miles away in Florida. The committee noted that moving Central Oklahoma to the West region actually increases the distance between the institution and its nearest in-region opponent to 1,800 miles, but the difference is negligible considering that in either region the closest opponent is a flight. Flying to the West region actually benefits the student-athletes, as the change in time zones on the way to competition is more favorable.
In addition, Central Oklahoma is the only institution in the South that is not a member of the Sunshine State Conference. Since the institution is not a member of the conference, it is unable to compete in the conference championship, which prevents the team from competing at an important in-region contest in the late-season performance window (a selection criterion defined as competition taking place within 24 days before the selection date for the NCAA championships). Central Oklahoma usually competes at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association (SIRA) championship regatta to attain in-region competition, but this year it was not in the late-season performance window.

In recent years, some West region institutions have traveled to Oklahoma to compete, but no institution from the South region has traveled to Oklahoma. Central Oklahoma has scheduled to compete in the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association (WIRA) championships, which is attended by most West region rowing teams, for late-season performance (as well as traveling to Dad Vail Regatta in the East), but generally does not result in any in-region competition as a member of the South region. Additionally, the West region tends to have a more consistent race schedule, allowing Central Oklahoma to schedule events well in advance, as opposed to waiting for the South region institutions to post their schedules and then trying to schedule those regattas.

Further, the move to the West region will help keep the number of sponsoring teams in each region balanced. Currently, the East region has six, the South has six, and the West has four. There is some indication that the South may have an institution adding rowing, and there has been discussion that a West team may reclassify to Division I. This move would keep the numbers among regions more consistent.

The committee understands there will be an upcoming regional alignment review but does not foresee any further changes to the regional alignment due to the geographic spacing of institutions that sponsor the sport.

(4) **Estimate budget impact**. None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact**. None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. **Review of committee’s 2015 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved its report from the 2015 annual meeting.

2. **Review joint meeting agenda.** The committee reviewed the joint agenda and made notes to address during the joint portion. The joint meeting report is attached. [Attachment]
3. **Ranking and selection process.** The committee reviewed the ranking and selection criteria. The committed discussed the minimum requirements for sponsoring the sport and for championship selection but took no action. There are concerns about institutions not competing a schedule with an Eight boat and a Four boat, and monitoring those with results for both (without doubling up student-athletes) for selection purposes.

- **Field-size increase.** The committee voted to propose increasing the field size of the championships to six full teams and discontinue selecting at-large boats. Currently, four full teams (sending a I Eight and a Four boat) and two at-large boats (sending only I Eight boat) are selected. Division I discontinued selection of at-large boats when it increased its field size to 16 in 2009. Division III will discontinue selecting at-large boats in the 2018 championships. The committee will submit a formal recommendation regarding this topic for the budget discussion at the Division II Championships Committee’s February meeting. The committee seeks an effective date in conjunction with Division III’s implementation at the 2018 championships, but understands that the new budget cycle starts in 2018-19.

4. **2016 championships review.** The committee reviewed the championships site, including the banquets, evaluations, hotels, head official’s report, webcast data and other pertinent policies and procedures related to the championships. The committee discussed best practices learned through the championship to implement for future sites. In particular, the committee:

a. Noted the importance of continuing to use a woman announcer at the championships.

b. Agreed to continue including community service as part of the championships experience, when possible.

c. Noted that student-athletes, coaches and spectators appreciated how social media (Tagboard specifically) was used during the banquet and competition.

d. Directed staff to continue emphasizing to hotels the importance of the quality and quantity of food for breakfast.

e. Directed staff to initiate discussion about increasing boat transportation reimbursement. Currently, there is no incentive for institutions to transport boats from multiple teams, which has caused transportation challenges for some institutions, particularly in Divisions II and III.

5. **Review of sport sponsorship.** The committee reviewed the current list of institutions sponsoring the sport and made note of a few potential changes in the next few years.

6. **Championships administration.** The committee reviewed the various committee rosters, manuals, timelines and agendas and made the appropriate updates.
7. **2017 annual meeting dates.** The committee agreed to meet June 20-21 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair: Robin Meiggs, Humboldt State University, California Collegiate Athletic Association*

*Staff Liaison: Kelly S. Whitaker, Championships and Alliances*

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<td>June 21-22, 2016, Meeting</td>
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**Attendees:**
- Marlon Furlongue, Nova Southeastern University, Sunshine State Conference.
- Brian Lang, Assumption College, Northeast-10 Conference.

**Absentees:**
- Robin Meiggs, Humboldt State University, California Collegiate Athletic Association.

**Guests in Attendance:**
- None.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
- Ali Teopas, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
- Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance.