ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Committee chair appointment.
      (1) Recommendation. That the Division II Championships Committee approve Jen Starek, head softball coach at the University of New Haven, as chair of the committee.
      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.
      (3) Rationale. Ms. Starek is a dedicated and passionate member of the Division II Softball Committee. Her knowledge of the sport and commitment to enhancing the student-athlete experience make her an ideal candidate to chair the committee. Ms. Starek will replace current chair Terri Holmes of Northern State University when Ms. Holmes’ term as chair expires August 31.
      (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
      (5) Student-athlete impact. None.
   b. Championship date formula.
      (1) Recommendation. That the Division II Championships Committee approve a recommendation to adjust the date formula for the regionals and super regionals as follows: Regionals will be held the Thursday through Saturday before super regionals, and super regionals will be held the Thursday and Friday before finals. This moves the regionals and super regionals one day earlier.
      (2) Effective date. September 1, 2016.
(3) **Rationale.** Last year, the committee received approval for a date formula change in Festival years to accommodate the best-of-three championship series and travel requirements. At that time, the committee noted it would evaluate the midweek regionals and super regionals to determine if that timing worked better for the championship overall. After receiving feedback from teams and hosts, the committee learned that this date formula makes travel easier between rounds and also increases hotel availability since more competition occurs during the week. The current date formula dictates that regionals will be either Thursday through Saturday or Friday through Sunday (depending on no-Sunday play institutions) and that super regionals will be the Thursday and Friday before finals.

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

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** In some cases, student-athletes will be able to attend graduation in person due to this date formula.

c. **Seeding the bracket at the finals site.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That the Division II Championships Committee approve a recommendation to seed the eight regional winners after the super regionals. The committee will seed the teams based on the regional Rating Percentage Index (RPI), which is one of the current selection criteria for softball.

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

(3) **Rationale.** Seeding the eight teams that advance to the finals site increases the likelihood that the top teams will advance through the championship. The committee believes the regional RPI is the most reliable criteria to seed the teams since it takes strength of schedule into account.

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

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Seeding the teams at the finals site provides the most competitive matchups for the student-athletes at the championship.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review of 2015 meeting report.** The committee approved the 2015 annual meeting report as written.

2. **Division II Championships Committee updates.** Staff provided an update on the review of regionalization. The committee is in favor of finding a way to avoid conference matchups in the first round of the postseason.
The committee also reviewed the timeline for the 2018-21 budget process. The committee asked staff to write a budgetary proposal to add a videoboard to the championship finals site. The proposal will be submitted at a later date.

3. **Division II legislative update.** Chris Brown from the academic and membership affairs staff discussed the definition of a game versus a scrimmage in the non-championship segment. The committee expressed concerns about the application of the current legislation and how some institutions may be abusing the legislation. Staff agreed to increase education about the current legislation. The committee will evaluate the situation next year to see if changes to the actual legislation are needed.

4. **NFCA convention report.** Brian Stanley from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association provided an update for the committee. Members discussed top priorities for the coaches, which include season length in Festival years and avoiding conference matchups in the first round of the postseason. The committee also recommended sharing participant evaluations from preliminary rounds with hosts so they can continue to improve the student-athlete experience.

5. **Championship manuals and site selection materials review.** The committee reviewed the 2016 manuals and made necessary updates for the 2017 championship. The committee also appointed a subcommittee to review the minimum hosting requirements for preliminary rounds.

6. **Committee timeline review.** The committee discussed the deadline for conferences to submit the automatic qualifier. In future years, the committee highly recommends that all conference play be completed by 4 p.m. Eastern so the committee can begin the selection call.

7. **Review of NCAA playing rules and barrel compression testing (BCT).** Dee Abrahamson provided a bat testing update for the committee. She noted that umpires are removing fewer bats from play during the regular season and postseason. Vickie Van Kleeck, NCAA secretary-rules editor, reminded the committee of upcoming rule changes for 2017 and 2018. In 2017, the fence distances must be consistent based on a four-foot or six-foot fence. In 2018, the fencing in front of the dugout must be in place and foul poles must be the designated colors. Ms. Van Kleeck also noted that the softball rules committee is collecting more data about what should be allowed in the dugout from a technological standpoint.

8. **Umpires.** Donna Vavrinec, NCAA softball officials assigner, reviewed the assigning and evaluation process for umpires in the postseason. The committee asked Ms. Vavrinec and NCAA staff to explore ways to enhance the relationship between the site representatives and umpires-in-charge at each regional and super regional site, to ensure the best officials are calling each game.

9. **Ranking process review.** The committee felt the rankings process ran smoothly. Members did suggest that the regional chair assist new regional advisory committee members individually
in case new members have more in-depth questions. The committee mentioned the new transparency practice for regional rankings and selections and thinks providing the selection criteria data is helpful for the membership.

10. **Selections review.** The committee reviewed the 2016 selection criteria and noted that the new criteria worked well when selecting teams for the championship.

11. **Regional and super regional review.** The committee reviewed the participant evaluations from the regionals and super regionals. Overall, participants enjoyed their experiences in those rounds. In the future, the committee wishes to follow up with any institutions who received poor comments so institutional staff can make adjustments for those sites. The committee handled one misconduct issue from a preliminary round and decided to send a private reprimand to the institution.

12. **2016 championship review.** The committee praised the staff from Metropolitan State University of Denver for their role in hosting the championship. The committee was very pleased with the level of commitment from the university and community as a whole. Members thanked Jill Willson for her assistance with community engagement, especially the first pitch thrown by a Make-A-Wish recipient. The committee mentioned an issue related to integrity of the game (costumes worn in the dugout during the championship) and will address that regulation earlier in the tournament in future years.

13. **2017 championship preview.** The committee requested a date formula change for the regionals and super regionals (see Nonlegislative Item 2-b). Members also approved the regional, super regional and finals site brackets for 2017. Representatives from the city of Salem also attended the meeting to discuss the 2017 championship finals site.

14. **Sponsorship list review.** The committee reviewed the sponsorship list and noted future changes in some conference alignments.

15. **2017 annual meeting dates.** The committee will hold its next annual meeting June 21-22.

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**Committee Chair:** Terri Holmes, Northern State University, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference  
**Staff Liaison:** Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances

| Division II Softball Committee  
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<tr>
<th>June 22-23, 2016, Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Daven Bond, Colorado Christian University; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Brandon Davis, Dominican University of California; Pacific West Conference.</td>
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<td>Melissa Frost, University of Indianapolis; Great Lakes Valley Conference.</td>
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Vickee Kazee Hollifield, Carson-Newman University; South Atlantic Conference.
Terri Holmes, Northern State University; Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
Jen Starek, University of New Haven; Northeast-10 Conference.
Les Stuedeman, University of Alabama in Huntsville; Gulf South Conference.
John Wilson Jr., Virginia State University; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Absentees:
None.

Guests in Attendance:
Dee Abrahamson, NCAA barrel compression testing liaison. *(via teleconference)*
Gary Bryce, Wayne State University. *(via teleconference)*
Carey Harvey cutter, City of Salem.
John Shaner, City of Salem.
Brian Stanley, NFCA. *(via teleconference)*
Vickie Van Kleeck, NCAA Softball Secretary Rules Editor. *(via teleconference)*
Donna Vavrinec, NCAA Softball National Assigner. *(via teleconference)*

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
John Kuzio, Championships and Alliances.
Molly Simons, Championships and Alliances.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Chris Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs.
Maritza Jones, Governance.