ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Automatic qualification.

(1) **Recommendation.** That the following conferences receive automatic bids for the 2017 NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Tennis Championships (31 conferences for the women’s championships and 31 for the men’s): American Athletic Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference*; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference*.

*Note: The Southland Conference requested a waiver for its men’s program after having exhausted its grace period. As a result of recent conference realignments, the conference lost an active member that would have ensured eligibility for an automatic qualifier in 2017. In its request, the conference asks permission to include a reclassifying member to meet the minimum requirements.

The Western Athletic Conference requested a waiver for its men’s and women’s programs after having exhausted its grace period. In its request, the conference asks permission to include a reclassifying member to meet the minimum requirements.
(2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended with the inclusion of the Southland Conference’s men, and the Western Athletic Conference’s men and women, pending waiver resolution. For the past two years, the committee recommended, and the Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet/Competition Oversight Committee granted, the exception for each academic year, rather than for three years as originally requested by the Southland Conference. The members of the cabinet agreed that the “extenuating circumstances in this case were beyond the control of the Southland Conference and to withdraw automatic qualification would unfairly impact the remaining institutions competing in the league.” This year, the committee recommends, based on the same rationale, granting the exception for the 2017 championships as requested by the Southland Conference. The same rationale applies to the Western Athletic Conference request. Granting a waiver on an annual basis only is consistent with the annual review process of all automatic qualification applications, thus allowing the committee to make a decision based on the most current membership information. Barring unforeseen circumstances, this will be the last year for such a request from either conference. (Attachments A and B)

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

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

**b. Regional alignment.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That the regional alignment be changed as outlined in Attachment C, while leaving current members on the committee and then filling according to the new regions when vacancies arise.

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

(3) **Rationale.** The tennis committee did not request realignment after many conference memberships changed over the past few years. For purposes of committee appointment and representation, it would be helpful for all members of the same conference to be included in the same region. In addition, the proposed alignment better balances the Football Bowl Subdivision conferences. (Attachment C)

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
(5) **Student-athlete impact. None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and schedule for the meeting and made no adjustments.

2. **Report from previous meeting.** The committee approved the report from the 2015 meeting as distributed.

3. **Review of NCAA Division I Competition Oversight Committee actions.** The committee reviewed actions the Competition Oversight Committee took at its meetings and teleconferences for the past calendar year.

4. **Review of 2016 championships.**
   a. First and second rounds.
      (1) **Evaluations.** The committee noted the limited response rate, which was expected because most participants completed their academic year before the championships survey was distributed. The results revealed participant medallions are not appreciated by the participants; the committee asked staff to consider something more memorable. There also was an overall concern with the preliminary rounds not feeling like a “championship” experience. The committee will compile best practices to include in the host operations and site representative manuals to help address the issue.
      (2) **Site representative assignments.** The committee will continue to collaborate to find site representatives for the preliminary rounds.
      (3) **Minimum ticket prices.** The committee will continue the practice of setting minimum ticket prices.
   b. Finals site.
      (1) **Evaluations.** The committee was very pleased with the championships hosts, as well as the community involvement and support, noting that it helped to have local teams advance through the bracket. There were some complaints about the configuration of the courts and the challenges this presented to coaches viewing all of their team’s competing student-athletes.
(2) **Format – schedule of matches.**

(a) **Practice format.** Each facility may require a different practice format due to court availability, and the committee will review this aspect of the championship each year.

(b) **Practice schedule.** The committee took no action.

(3) **Student-athlete hospitality.** The committee questioned if a closer site may have created a lounge atmosphere rather than a grab-and-go.

(4) **Administrative meeting.** The committee reviewed the agenda and would like to continue meeting with the host institution’s staff before each administrative meeting to review site-specific items and potential concerns.

(5) **Celebrations and social events.** The committee liked the changes for this year’s team and individual celebrations, especially the food stations at the individual event.

(6) **Credentials for athletic trainers and administrators.** The committee asked staff to revise the credential list each participating team must submit to the host, to include a specific designation of the athletic trainer and team administrator so they will have court access. The revision will increase the credential total to 15 but will not affect the official travel party.

(7) **Officials.**

(a) **Evaluation of officials.** The committee commended the officiating crew on a very successful championship, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the variable and inclement weather.

(b) **Head referees/deputy referee.** The committee recommended re-hiring the co-head and deputy referees.

(c) **Sportsmanship.** The ITA is addressing the rules for non-playing student-athletes, which differ from the rules for fans.

(8) **Inclement weather plans and practices.** The committee reviewed the decision-making timeline and process for communication with coaches. This item will be added to the administrative meeting agenda next year in an effort to increase communication between the coaches and the committee.
(9) **All-tournament team selection/process.** The committee will continue with the same process, with hosts providing statistics consistent in notations of win-loss record.

(10) **Awards ceremonies.** The committee preferred the ceremony used this year, awarding semifinalists courtside.

(11) **Ball runners.** The committee will continue with the ball runner positioning used this year, with an emphasis on training and attentiveness to the match.

(12) **Misconduct issues.** The committee noted concern with unprofessional responses from both coaches and administrators when notified of inclement weather plans. Misconduct will be discussed in more detail during next year’s administrative meeting.

(13) **Other.** The group decided to assign a committee member to each team at the championships. The assigned member will also monitor team press conferences.

The committee is interested in improving the visibility and fan base of the championships and will work with staff to create a strategic plan with the goal of gaining live television coverage.

5. **Discussion of action plan for next year.**

   a. **Team and individual selection criteria and procedures.** The committee reviewed the selections policies and procedures document and discussed the banding of teams. The current procedure states that the committee seeds teams one through 16 in order. Teams seeded 17 to 32 will be banded in order. Teams seeded 33 to 48 will be banded alphabetically as a group of 16, and teams seeded 49 through 64 also will be banded alphabetically as a group of 16. The committee discussed potentially removing this procedure from the selection process but ultimately decided to keep it because it allows for more flexibility in comparison to only seeding the top 16 teams.

   (1) **Minimum number of singles/doubles matches for selections.** The committee decided to retain the same number of minimum matches for selection next year.

   (2) **Review worksheet/weighting of categories.** The committee took no action but noted the need for ongoing transparency and coordination with the ITA, which is also working toward more data-driven ranking procedures.
b. **Championship structure.**

- **Scoring format change.** The average match times decreased in comparison to the 2015 championship because of the no-ad format. Data showed the most significant decrease in the team competition for both women and men. Team match time for the women decreased from an average of three hours and 40 minutes in 2015 to two hours and 50 minutes in 2016. For the men’s competition, the average team match times decreased from three hours and 50 minutes in 2015 to two hours and 35 minutes in 2016.

c. **Lineup procedures.**

(1) **Challenge procedures and timeline; challenge identification.** The committee directed staff to create a best practices document to include basic lineup rules and what to look for when reviewing lineup challenges. The challenge form will be revised to require submission of all results.

(2) **Doubles lineups.** The committee took no action.

d. **Manuals.** The committee discussed the various manuals and asked staff to make the necessary edits.

e. **Automatic qualification.** The committee reviewed the requests for automatic qualification and waivers. (See Action Item 2-a.)

6. **Update on sports committee, coaches association and governance structure.**

a. **ITA/USTA items.** The committee noted the strong support and positive relationship with the both the coaches association and the national governing body. The committee is encouraged by the support from the USTA to developing and growing collegiate tennis, including financial support for broadcasting of college match day events and conference championships, facility grants, and the considerable investment in the National Campus and inclusion of the Collegiate Center.

The committee praised the coaches association for tackling officials training, testing and evaluation. The coaches association operating committee has created a task force to consider how to create more of a championship experience for the participants. There is support for adding a super-regional round to reduce the weather-related challenges, particularly on the first two dates of competition when eight matches are scheduled each day.
b. **Tennis committee composition.** The committee selected as chair Judy Van Horn, University of South Carolina, Columbia, and Marija Pientka, University of Wisconsin, Madison, as subcommittee chair for 2016-17.

The committee recommended realignment of regions, while leaving current members on the committee and then filling according to the new regions when vacancies arise. (See Action Item 2-b.)

c. **2016-17 committee calendar.** The committee reviewed and approved a draft of the 2016-17 committee calendar, with the dates and times of host teleconferences to be determined.

d. **2017 annual meeting dates.** The committee will conduct its next annual meeting in Indianapolis July 11-13, 2017.

7. **Site review/future bid processes/sites.**

a. **Championship dates and sites.** The committee directed staff to determine the financial impact of adding a super-regional round of competition. A super-regional round would reduce the number of teams advancing to the finals site from 16 to eight per gender, and would shorten the team championships from six to four days. A super-regional round at the top seed’s institution would provide teams with another opportunity to generate local support and highlight their programs against championship-caliber competition. It would also relieve the strain of completing eight matches on each of the first two days of competition at the finals site. The committee discussed competition dates of such a proposal as well as a potential 2019 implementation date.

In light of the current focus on student-athlete time demands, the committee also asked that the Competition Oversight Committee provide informal direction on whether to continue work on a proposal that would move the individual singles and doubles championships to the fall, while keeping the team championships in the spring.

b. **Preliminary-round site selection criteria and procedures/facility evaluation forms.** The committee reviewed and retained the criteria and procedures.

### Attendees:
- Bobby Bayliss, University of Notre Dame; Atlantic Coast Conference.
- Maria Huggins, Big 12 Conference.
- Laura Ludwick White, Drexel University; Colonial Athletic Association.
- Jamie Mitchell, Colgate University; Patriot League.
- Steve Moore, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi; Southland Conference.
- Marija Pientka, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Big Ten Conference.
- Eric Roedl, University of Oregon; Pac-12 Conference.
- Jamie Sanchez, Loyola Marymount University; West Coast Conference.
- Jim Sarra, University of Texas at San Antonio; Conference USA.
- Judy Van Horn, University of South Carolina, Columbia; Southeastern Conference.

### Absentees:
- Jamie Aid, Lipscomb University, ASUN Conference.

### Guests in Attendance:
- Virgil Christian, USTA.
- Carole Cox, Head Referee.
- Elissa Kinard Hill, USTA.
- Anthony Montero, Head Referee.
- Erica Perkins Jasper, ITA.
- Tim Russell, ITA.

### NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
- Kelsey Cermak, Championships and Alliances.
- Marie Scovron, Championships and Alliances.

### Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
- None.