ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Committee chair appointment.

      (1) **Recommendation.** That Brandon Bianco, head men’s soccer coach at Case Western Reserve University be named chair of the committee. Mr. Bianco will replace Michael Schulist as chair of the Division III Men’s Soccer Committee. Mr. Schulist has served a one-year term as chair and his committee term is expiring.

      (2) **Effective date.** September 1, 2017.

      (3) **Rationale.** Mr. Bianco is a veteran of the committee with great experience to draw from as a head coach, assistant coach and student-athlete. He has been a valuable member of the committee and will provide great leadership.

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

      (5) **Student-athlete impact.** Mr. Bianco is a former soccer student-athlete who competed in the championship. He has a strong knowledge of soccer and will keep the best interests of the student-athletes as a top priority.

   b. Automatic qualification.

      (1) **Recommendation.** That the following 42 conferences be granted automatic qualification to the 2017 NCAA Division III Men’s Soccer Championship: Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; American Southwest Conference; Capital Athletic Conference; Centennial Conference; City University of New York Athletic Conference; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin; Colonial States Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference; Middle Atlantic Conference;
Commonwealth; Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; Midwest Conference; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; New England Collegiate Conference; New England Small College Athletic Conference; New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference; New Jersey Athletic Conference; North Atlantic Conference; North Coast Athletic Conference; North Eastern Athletic Conference; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference; USA South Athletic Conference.

The anticipated pool allocations for the 2017 championship are as follows: Pool A – 42; Pool B – 1; Pool C – 19.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** All recommended conferences meet the criteria for automatic qualification (AQ) eligibility.

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

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

c. **Increase number of ranked teams.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That each region will increase the percentage of ranked teams from 15 percent to 16 percent of eligible teams in the region.

(2) **Effective date.** Immediately.

(3) **Rationale.** The committee notes that increasing the percentage of ranked teams across all regions will provide one more ranked team in the North and in the West, based off current sport sponsorship numbers. Both regions have a lower number of ranked teams than all other regions. An increase will provide another opportunity to play a ranked opponent in those regions specifically, both of which face geographic disadvantages.

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

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** This will provide two more teams an opportunity to promote themselves as a ranked team, which is a positive impact to those student-athletes and the institutions.
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review 2016 annual meeting report.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2016 annual meeting report as presented.

2. **Review of National Soccer Coaches of America Association (NSCAA) meeting.** The committee reviewed the supplement that was distributed at the recent NSCAA meeting and received an update regarding the meeting from members of the committee who attended. The committee noted interest from coaches in adding a day between competition throughout the tournament for student-athlete well-being and to be consistent with the other divisions of soccer. The committee also noted some interest from coaches for having a consistent number of ranked teams in each region.

3. **Preliminary-round evaluations.** The committee discussed preliminary-round evaluations for sites and officials.

   The committee discussed a few key topics from the evaluations, including field quality, awards, and lodging/accommodations.

   The committee asked NCAA staff to continue following up with host sites to provide feedback received through participant surveys in an effort to keep improving the championship experience for all participants.

   In addition, the committee reviewed officials’ evaluations and noted quality officiating throughout the tournament. The committee also reviewed merchandise sales reports from preliminary rounds and noted improved average sales from last year.

4. **Rankings.** The committee discussed rankings at length, including the final ranking process, number of ranked teams, new and modified criteria for next season (the results versus ranked criteria will now include teams ranked in the third and fourth ranking; nonconference strength of schedule will become secondary criteria; and the discontinuation of the strength of schedule multiplier) and an interest in investigating RPI as criteria in the future. The committee also noted a positive response to publishing the final ranking.

5. **Championship selections and bracketing policies.** The committee discussed bracketing principles, hosting guidelines, tournament game times, and committee preparation work leading up to selections. The committee noted its support for a change to the second day evening game time from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., which is highlighted in the joint men’s and women’s soccer meeting report. The committee confirmed its policy that the top game listed on the bracket will be the first game played and the bottom game listed on the bracket will be the second game played throughout the tournament.
6. **Championship policies.** The committee reviewed the selection policies for referees, the weather policy, and all general championship policies.

7. **Sponsorship analysis.** The committee reviewed the anticipated sponsorship analysis for 2017-18 and noted the provisional institutions expected to become full members and the closing of a current member institution. The committee also discussed regional alignment.

8. **Committee and regional advisory committee (RAC) rosters.** The committee reviewed the national and regional advisory committee rosters and noted the upcoming vacancies on the regional advisory committees. The committee reviewed duties and responsibilities for the committee and RAC and noted improved training. NCAA staff informed the committee that a replacement for the North region vacancy should be appointed in March.

9. **Review of NCAA manuals.** The committee will make appropriate updates during the summer to the Committee Operations, Host Operations, Participant, Pre-Championships, and Site Representative Manuals.

10. **Misconduct.** The committee reviewed alleged misconduct during the championship. The committee also reviewed the red card report from the regular season and noted the high amount of yellow and red cards issued to Division III men’s soccer players in comparison to the other divisions and gender. The committee urges coaches and players to actively discuss sportsmanship throughout the year and improve behavior on the field.

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*Committee Chair:* Michael Schulist, Carroll University (Wisconsin), College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.

*Staff Liaison:* John Bugner, Championships and Alliances.

### Division III Men’s Soccer Committee

**January 30 – February 1, 2017, Meeting**

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<tr>
<th>Attendees:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Andrews, Middle Atlantic Conferences.</td>
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<td>Brandon Bianco, Case Western Reserve University; University Athletic Association.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Durocher, St. Lawrence University; Liberty League.</td>
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<td>Dan Gilmore, Rowan University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Hoffmann, University of Dallas; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Schulist, Carroll University (Wisconsin); College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justin Serpone, Amherst College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.</td>
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<th>Guests in Attendance:</th>
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**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
John Bugner, Nick Strah.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
None.