ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - Automatic qualification.
     (1) **Recommendation.** That the following 24 conferences receive automatic qualification for the 2017 NCAA Division I Men’s Soccer Championship: America East Conference; American Athletic Conference, Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Northeast Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southern Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference; and Western Athletic Conference.
     
     (2) **Effective date.** Immediate.
     
     (3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended.
     
     (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
     
     (5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

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

2. **2016 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2016 meeting report as submitted.

a. Preliminary-round feedback and financial information. The committee reviewed evaluations from various constituents and noted items to be discussed further during the meeting.

After reviewing the financials, the committee asked staff to continue monitoring host budgets (revenues and expenditures) to minimize the inflation of numbers during the bid cycle.

The committee discussed with staff the opportunities to make seeding announcements earlier in the year. Staff was directed to develop a plan and present it back to the committee. The idea is similar to what a number of other sports are doing (e.g., women’s basketball, lacrosse).

The committee agreed to allow game-day walkthroughs with no cleats. The committee felt this was inconsistent throughout the preliminary rounds and this will formalize it by allowing 30 minutes for each team, one ball and no cleats (weather permitting).

In an effort to provide more consistency in the preliminary rounds, the committee agreed to set minimum ticket prices of $8 for adults and $3 for college students/youth. This aligns more closely with the format already in place with the preliminary rounds in women’s soccer.

b. Coaches’ and site representatives’ evaluations. In review of the surveys from coaches and site representatives, the committee noted the need to emphasize with potential hosts the minimum facility requirements and to note any specific issues.

c. Administrative and officials’ meetings. The committee discussed the administrative meetings and reaffirmed that it is important to have at least one official present at the administrative meeting and that the meeting take place a mandatory two hours before match time.

d. Quarterfinal and third-round dates. The committee reviewed the quarterfinal and third-round dates and determined they are adequate for now but will continue to monitor them. The committee was very pleased with the new option that was allowed this year for hosts to select Saturday for their third-round hosting dates.

a. Misconducts. The committee noted the misconducts that occurred throughout the championship and requested more information from select institutions on those occurrences.

e. Men’s College Cup – Houston, Texas. The committee was not pleased with the overall atmosphere of the championship, mainly due to the lack of attendance and issues with the facilities. The committee felt that the field was not in championship shape and urged staff to look for ways to make sure field conditions like that do not happen again. The committee noted
numerous areas for improvement and directed staff to work with future hosts to minimize those issues.

f. **Officiating.**

- **2016 recap.** The NCAA national coordinator of soccer officials joined the group in person and reviewed postseason officiating. The committee was pleased with the overall improvement in officiating but acknowledged that continued education and training/mentoring are necessary. The officiating subcommittee will review recommendations for 2017.

- **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed evaluations from coaches and site representatives and noted consistent areas for improved education/communication. The committee asked staff to consider developing a preliminary-round evaluation to assist the national coordinator with more feedback.

- **Selection criteria and process.** The committee reviewed the current selection criteria and process for officials and decided to keep them the same for next year. The committee discussed ways to minimize instances in which officials working a number of regular-season matches for a team are assigned to that team’s game in the tournament.

- **Electronic communication devices.** The committee agreed that providing electronic devices enhanced the officials’ communication and efficiency. Unless another logistical system is possible, the committee agreed to continue having the devices shipped to each first-round site and having the advancing team at each round take the devices to the next site, as necessary. Staff will research what options are available.

- **Vanishing spray.** The committee believes vanishing spray should continue to be used to mark placement of the ball and/or position of players on the field during play that will disappear quickly after application.

4. **Selection process and evaluation of teams.**

a. **Selection weekend.** The committee agreed to continue arriving for the selection meeting on Saturday night and beginning the meeting at 8 a.m. on Sunday. Members also agreed to maintain the selection show at 1 p.m. Monday to allow teams playing Thursday more time to prepare. Members discussed working ahead on Saturday night or even earlier in the week if possible.
b. **Regional alignment.** The committee reviewed the current regional alignments used this past year and felt they worked well. However, with the new regional alignment model the nominating committee is implementing (going from eight regions to five), the committee acknowledged the need to explore how this will affect those regions in the future. With only one committee member rolling off the committee this year, the committee decided to maintain the current evaluation model and look to make adjustments next year when three spots become available.

c. **Automatic-qualification conferences.** The committee reviewed the submitted automatic-qualification application forms and noted that the number of AQs will remain at 24 (see nonlegislative item above).

d. **Selection criteria and Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** The committee reviewed the RPI and agreed not to make changes for the upcoming season. However, the committee discussed whether other metrics are worth exploring to ensure that the best possible teams are being selected to the tournament. The committee also reviewed and approved the selections policies and procedures document for the upcoming season.

5. **Site review/format/long-range planning.**

   a. **2017 championship and Talon Energy Stadium.** The committee urged host officials to explore ways to increase attendance at the finals through earlier marketing strategies and grass-roots efforts.

   b. **Future sites.** The committee recommended sites for the next four-year bid cycle and noted that sites for all sports in the cycle will be announced publicly on April 18. The committee expressed concerns with the four-year bid cycle, preferring instead a two- or three-year term in order to allow for more flexibility with sites and being able to experience the current sites before having to determine another set.

   c. **National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).** The committee met with Rob Kehoe, the Division I representative from the NSCAA, regarding various coaches association items relative to the committee. The conversation focused on format changes and championship locations.

   d. **Championship format.** The committee discussed the current championship and College Cup format. The committee noted the ongoing discussion among other stakeholders about a possible 10-month men’s college soccer season and agreed to continue monitoring those conversations. The committee agreed it is critical to address the current state of the College Cup in order to provide the best possible student-athlete experience. Specifically, the committee is concerned that the time between the semifinals and final is insufficient for student-athlete recovery purposes, along with concerns about low attendance. The committee
reviewed various formats for future championships and asked staff to develop details on the impact the changes may have on the television coverage, attendance, hosting institutions and finances. The committee will continue to review alternative models, with a standalone championship format that moves semifinals to campus locations being the most ideal option as of yet. The committee is particularly interested in finding a format that prioritizes student-athlete well-being (rest/recovery time), overall experience and attendance at the championship site.

6. Pre-championship, host operations and site representative manuals. The committee will provide staff with the necessary updates. The committee agreed to have the Saturday administrative meeting at the finals site not be mandatory for coaches.

7. Committee.

a. National and regional advisory committee composition/vacancies. The committee reviewed upcoming committee vacancies. Staff will contact conferences whose RAC members’ terms have expired in order to nominate replacements. The committee also continued to discuss strategies related to the new region model referenced in Informational Item 4-b.

b. Officiating subcommittee. The committee agreed to maintain the officiating subcommittee and appointed Bill Wnek (chair), Damon Rensing, Tom McIntosh and Brett Surrency. This group will serve for the coming year and will coordinate continuing education, evaluation and selection efforts.

c. Committee chair. Bill Wnek, associate director of athletics at Loyola University Maryland, will continue as chair of the committee.

d. 2017-18 committee calendar. Selections for 2017 will be November 11-13 in Indianapolis. The 2017-18 annual meeting will be January 29-31 in Indianapolis, with an effort to have at least a portion of the meeting held jointly with the women’s soccer committee, as the joint meeting this year was beneficial. NCAA staff will coordinate the schedule.

Committee Chair: Bill Wnek, Loyola University Maryland; Patriot League
Staff Liaison: Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University/Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eric Nichols</td>
<td>University of South Carolina, Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Bacon</td>
<td>Mid-American Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Surrency</td>
<td>Georgia State University; Sun Belt Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richie Grant</td>
<td>California State University, Bakersfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom McIntosh</td>
<td>University of Tulsa; American Athletic Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Koberlein</td>
<td>Stanford University; Pac-12 Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Wnek</td>
<td>Loyola University Maryland; Patriot League</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Absentees:**
None.

**Guests in Attendance:**
Ryan Cigich, National Coordinator for NCAA Soccer Officiating.
Rob Kehoe, National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
Ryan Tressel, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
Matt Holmes, Championships and Alliances.
Jared Thompson, Communications.
Natalie Steger, Championships and Alliances.