ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Consolation game.
      (1) Recommendation. The committee recommends that the consolation game be eliminated.
      (2) Effective date. 2017 Championship.
      (3) Rationale. The value of continuing the consolation game has been discussed at length for the last few years. Women’s basketball and women’s ice hockey are the only two Division III championships that still contest for the third/fourth place teams. After receiving additional feedback in favor of discontinuing the consolation game from the coaches at the Division III business session of the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) convention, the committee agrees that the consolation game does not enhance the student-athlete experience. The overarching sentiment from the coaches group is that it is extremely difficult for the student-athletes to embrace a seemingly meaningless game after they have lost their dream of winning a national championship.

   b. Automatic Qualification.
      (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division III Championships Committee award the following 43 conferences automatic qualification privileges for the 2016 championship: Alleghany 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 State Athletic Conference; Commonwealth Conference; Commonwealth Coast Conference; Empire 8 Conference; Freedom Conference; Great Northeast Athletic Conference; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Landmark Conference; Liberty League; Little East Conference; Massachusetts State Conference; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; 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 Conference; Northwest Conference; Ohio Athletic Conference; Old Dominion Athletic Conference; Presidents’ Athletic Conference; Skyline Conference; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Southern Athletic Association; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; State University of New York Athletic Conference; University Athletic Association; Upper Midwest Conference; USA South Athletic Conference and Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Tentative Pool Allocations:

Pool A – 43
Pool B – 0
Pool C – 21

(2) **Effective Date.** 2017 Championship.

(3) **Rationale.** All eligible conferences are being recommended for automatic qualification similar to past years.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.

c. **Committee chair.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That Bobbi Morgan, head women’s basketball coach and senior woman administrator at Haverford College, be appointed as the chair.

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

(3) **Rationale.** Ms. Morgan’s experience with women’s basketball and as a Division III administrator will serve her well in this position. Her peers on the committee unanimously voted to appoint her as chair.

(4) **Budget impact.** None.

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

1. **2015 annual meeting report.** The Division III women’s basketball committee reviewed and approved the 2015 meeting report as submitted.

2. **Review of NCAA Division III Championships Committee reports.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Division III Championships Committee reports from the past year, noting items applicable to women’s basketball.

3. **Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Division III meeting.** Keri Carollo briefed the committee of the discussions from the Division III business session of the WBCA meeting. Items of note: support of discontinuing the consolation game and exploring the idea of a senior all-star game; suggest that meeting space be provided, if available, at team hotels at preliminary round sites; and suggested alternating of men’s and women’s brackets announcement times. Ms. Carollo said that she encouraged those in attendance to consider bidding to host the semifinal-finals in the next bidding cycle.

4. **National and regional advisory (RAC) committees.** The committee reviewed the national committee and RAC rosters and made note of the upcoming term expirations.

5. **Evaluation regions.** The committee reviewed the regional alignments by conference chart and noted the potential changes in the Great South Athletic Conference and the USA South Athletic Conference. Staff was directed to make appropriate changes once the Great South decision is finalized. In addition, three provision members are scheduled to become full members in 2016-17. Staff was directed to confirm once the membership reports are available in September.

6. **2016 NCAA Division III Women’s Basketball Championship review.** The women’s basketball committee reviewed the 2016 championship.

   a. **Teleconferences.** The committee discussed the various teleconferences that are conducted throughout the season. The committee suggested a PowerPoint for the site representative call since the one for the RAC training call is well received. The committee members supported the move of the host call to after selections for the schools selected to host first/second-rounds. Feedback from first/second-round hosts and selected site representatives were favorable in regard to this change.

   One item to be addressed is the webinar issues which occur with people who use Mac products/platforms. The webinar has a diagonal line through it and it splits the screen, making it difficult or impossible to read the screen. Staff was directed to address the issue with the NCAA information services group prior to the 2016-17 academic year.
b. **Selections and criteria.** The committee discussed at length the strength-of-schedule criterion and the use of the ratings percentage index (RPI) and team sheets.

The women’s basketball committee asks the championships committee to discuss and/or request feedback from sport committees to study the use of the RPI in lieu of the strength-of-schedule. The women’s basketball committee asserts the RPI calculation is widely used and accepted in Division I, and would like to explore its use for Division III. The committee understands that the same data is used in Division III within separate criteria, but would like to explore if using only the RPI in place of the separate criteria is viable for the regional nature of Division III.

If RPI use is not supported, the committee requests that the team sheets that are available to the committee be formatted to use the strength-of-schedule calculation. They find the team sheet extremely useful, but ineffective to use due to the RPI number not being a Division III criterion. If the team sheets were to use the strength-of-schedule number, the RAC and national committee would save the hours of time each week they spend “drilling down” to review and assess the strength-of-schedule numbers and the wins/losses against teams of different win/loss percentages.

c. **Site representatives.** Requiring site representatives to be on the mandatory first/second-round host conference call was well-received by the site representatives and selected hosts. Staff was directed to add to the mandatory site representative training teleconference as a point of emphasis that site representatives are to address all checklist items with the hosts.

d. **Review of first/second-rounds and sectionals.**

(1) **Bids and facilities.** Staff was instructed to add some language to the host operations manual in regards to crowd control and practice times. The committee voted to standardize the minimum ticket prices for first/second-rounds and sectionals. The minimum prices are $7 for adults and $4 for youth/students/seniors for all preliminary-round games.

(2) **Pre-game timing sheets.** Timing sheets were reviewed and no changes were made.

(3) **Evaluations.** The evaluations submitted by participants were reviewed. Staff was asked to speak with the travel group in regards to one team flying into multiple airports.

(4) **Alternate officials form.** The alternate officials form was reviewed and no changes were made.
(5) Misconduct/failure to adhere to administrative policies. The committee reviewed the responses to letters of inquiries for two separate incidents that occurred during first/second-rounds. One incident was accepted and no further action was taken by the committee. The other incident a letter of misconduct was issued to the institution.

e. Review of championship semifinals. The committee reviewed the 2016 NCAA Division III Women’s Championship semifinal hosted by Capital University.

(1) Game administration. The committee commended the game administration. One item for continued emphasis is not to allow spectators to congregate in line-of-site areas nor in main aisles where people, teams or officials need to be escorted.

(2) Tickets. The ticket process went smoothly at Capital. There were no changes made to the process.

(3) Sports information. More direction needs to be given in regards to the news conferences conducted on practice day.

(4) Committee assignments. The committee assignments work well. A new duty of “crowd control” will be assigned to a committee member.

(5) Instant replay. Instant replay guidelines were reviewed. No changes were made to the guidelines. This is the third year that instant replay has been provided. The officials have not needed to use it to date.

(6) Awards ceremony. The committee suggested we incorporate the use of Special Olympians during the ceremony whenever possible.

(7) Schedule of events. The schedule of events was reviewed and no changes were needed.

(8) Wednesday social event. The event Capital hosted at the COSI museum was enjoyable, but seemed to last too long for the student-athletes. The police escorts were the highlight of the event. The committee suggests that Calvin College do something similar to what they did in 2015 with the improv group.

(9) Banquet. The banquet night was fantastic. The pre-events of the petting zoo and the live band were well-received. The senior recognition portion was liked and will be repeated in the future.

(10) Live webstream – Turner. The webstream seemed to go well. The live streaming report for the winter championships was not available at the time of the meeting.
(11) **Pre-game timing sheets.** Timing sheets were reviewed and no changes were made.

(12) **Agendas – advancing team and non-advancing team.** The agendas were reviewed and minor changes were made.

(13) **Credential form.** The committee reviewed the credential form and instructed staff to make some changes to help avoid confusion in the future.

(14) **VIP hospitality.** The hospitality was fantastic. Communication of where it is located and who is invited to use it is key to the success of the VIP area.

(15) **Ticket prices.** The ticket prices worked well for the locale. The committee suggests using the same ticket prices at Calvin in 2017 as they were when they hosted in 2015.

7. **2017 Championship.** Calvin College will host the 2017 championship semifinals/finals. The committee discussed many items as they pertain to Calvin as the host. The committee looks to replicate many aspects of the 2015 championship they hosted, and made note of some items to change for 2017.

8. **Officials.**

   a. **Evaluations.** The committee reviewed the officials evaluations. Staff is directed to share feedback with the regional coordinators.

   b. **Process and procedures for selecting officials.** The committee reviewed the procedures for officials. Changes were made to the semifinals/finals assignment rotation to reflect the region that was not assigned in 2016 due to the consolation game not being played. The committee created a new rotation should the recommendation to eliminate the consolation game is approved.

   c. **Officials’ history.** The officials’ history chart was reviewed.

9. **Manuals Review.** The committee reviewed the various manuals and made updates as needed.

10. **Other Business.**

    a. **Women’s basketball presentation.** Anucha Browne, NCAA vice president women’s basketball championships, spoke to the committee about the current issues in women’s basketball. Additionally, there was conversation concerning the joint championship with Divisions I and II.
b. Championships and Alliances presentation. Mark Lewis, executive vice president of championships and alliances, spoke to the committee about current issues for championships.

c. Division III presentation. Louise McCleary, NCAA director of Division III, spoke to the committee about Division III items that came out of the NCAA Convention and other initiatives pertinent to Division III.

11. Dates of Future Meeting. The dates for the 2017 annual meeting will be April 17-19.

12. Championships Committee requested feedback.

a. Third/fourth ranking. The women’s basketball committee wholly supports using the teams ranked in the third and fourth rankings to count in the criterion of ‘results verses ranked teams’. With the sheer number of games that already have been contested at that point, and knowing that the only games contested between the third and fourth rankings are conference tournament games, the committee feels that any team in the third ranking, but not in the fourth and final ranking, is a quality team worthy of being considered as “ranked”. Any team that slips out of the fourth ranking (probably upset in its conference tournament, an environment where upsets often occur), is likely as good as any team that slips into the final ranking (probably upsetting a higher seed in a conference tournament).

In addition, using only the fourth ranking can skew the data for selections. In the fourth ranking, the rank order of teams for a region is decided, and this order is used for consideration for selection. However, when selections occur, the data can change after the fourth ranking is archived. A real life example happened in 2015 when Team A was 3-2 verses ranked teams in the fourth ranking; data was archived. Team C, who Team A had played and beaten three times, falls out of the final ranking; Team A is now 0-2 vs. ranked teams. When selecting the Pool C candidates, 0-2 did not stack up well in comparisons to the teams in other regions. But, Team B, who was ranked behind Team A in the fourth ranking, actually would have compared more favorably because their results verses ranked teams did not change. This stalled that region and no other teams got into the bracket. This data change actually made the rank order incorrect. If the committee ranked again using the selections data, Team B who was ranked below Team A in the fourth ranking, would have moved ahead of Team A in the ranking.

b. Published fourth ranking. The committee supports publishing the fourth and final ranking, but only if the third and fourth rankings count for the criterion of ‘results vs. ranked teams’. There can be too much disparity between the data used in the fourth and final ranking and the data used for selections. When the final rankings are archived, the data in the results verses ranked teams can change. If the final ranking is published, but
the data used for it is different than the data used for selections, it will cause unfair assumptions to be made about the committee’s work during selection.

c. **Non-conference strength-of-schedule.** The committee does not think non-conference strength of schedule is good as a criterion because it disadvantages teams in geographically isolated areas who are unable to schedule “strong” teams because of cost of travel. This would cause a disparity in the number of opportunities between regions (particularly the West and South regions). It also disadvantages teams that do not have the opportunity to play many non-conference games due to conference requirements of having to play conference teams twice in the regular season. The committee believes that range to be as many as 15 opportunities for some conferences to play outside of conference, to as few as two opportunities in some conferences. The committee also believes that teams with strong strength-of-schedule numbers will not schedule games verses teams with low strength-of-schedule numbers because there is no incentive to schedule since it will only hurt the team with a high strength of schedule (even if they win), but help the team with a low strength of schedule (even if they lose). This is counterproductive since the concept is to go schedule “good teams” but the “good teams” will be hesitant to schedule them.

The committee asserts that the non-conference strength of schedule already is addressed when the committee drills down in the strength-of-schedule number to understand the makeup of the calculation. However, the committee does not support it to be a stand-alone criterion.

*Committee Chair:  Keri Carollo, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference*

*Staff Liaison:  Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division III Women’s Basketball Committee</th>
<th>April 18-20, 2016, Annual Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joeleen Akin, Agnes Scot College</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keri Carollo, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karin Harvey, Montclair State University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesley Irvine, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobbi Morgan, Haverford College</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Scheible, University of Rochester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Thompson, Roger Williams University</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Absentees:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
- Ethan Walker, Championships and Alliances
- Kelly Whitaker, Championships and Alliances

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
- Anucha Browne, Championships and Alliances, women’s basketball
- Mark Lewis, Championships and Alliances
- Louise McCleary, Division III Governance