ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

   - **Start of Practice.** 2018 NCAA Convention Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 17.3.2.1 – Playing and Practice Seasons – Men’s Basketball – Preseason Practice – On-Court Practice – 30 Days of Countable Activities Within 42 Days Prior to the First Contest.

     (1) **Recommendation.** Sponsor legislation for the 2018 Convention to amend Bylaw 17.3.2.1 (on-court practice) to specify that in men’s basketball, an institution shall not commence on-court preseason basketball practice sessions prior to the date that is 42 days prior to the start of the institution’s first regular-season contest; further, to specify that an institution shall not engage in more than 30 days of countable athletically related activities prior to its first regular-season contest.

     (2) **Effective date.** August 1, 2018.

     (3) **Rationale.** Current legislation permits an institution to begin on-court preseason basketball practice on October 15, and the first permissible countable contest may not be played prior to the second Friday in November. Therefore, the first contest date varies based on the calendar year, and in some years, results in as few as 24, or as many as 31, preseason practice days. This change will result in a consistent 30 days of countable athletically related activities every preseason. In addition, since many institutions are challenged in scheduling its facilities during the fall due to the overlap of the fall and winter championship sport seasons, this change would permit more days in the men’s basketball preseason practice period and will provide athletics staff more flexibility when scheduling activities. However, during the period when the sports seasons overlap, it is recommended that administrators prioritize scheduling its facilities for sports still competing in their championship segment (women’s volleyball). Finally, it is anticipated that this change will result in the improved management of time demands of student-athletes, coaches and athletic trainers. It will provide more days off to men’s basketball student-athletes during the preseason thereby offering more time to focus on their academic endeavors.

     (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** On-court practice will begin on an earlier date, but additional days off will be included during the preseason practice period.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

   a. **Transparency of data.**

      (1) **Recommendation.** That the team sheets, along with the current score reporting data, be made available to teams following each of the respective ranking calls.

      (2) **Effective date.** 2017-18 season.

      (3) **Rationale.** The committee believes that providing the team sheets to the membership is a much more helpful piece of information and will provide greater transparency to the process.

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

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

   b. **Additional selection criteria.**

      (1) **Recommendation.** That the KPI index be used on a pilot basis to help the committee evaluate teams for rankings and selections.

      (2) **Effective date.** 2018-19 season.

      (3) **Rationale.** The KPI is a results-based metric that ranks a team’s resume by assigning a value to each game played (e.g. +1 for the best win, -1 for the worst loss, and 0 for a virtual tie). The KPI adjusts each game based on where it was played, the quality of the opponent and the percentage of total points scored. Game values are then compiled and divided by the number of games played to determine a team’s KPI. To evaluate whether the KPI would provide an effective tool for the committee, staff applied the KPI over the past few seasons and discovered a high correlation with teams the committee selected for the tournament (over 95 percent accuracy; not necessarily in the same order but with selected teams overall). When comparing teams, the committee often discusses the quality of wins, and the KPI can greatly assist in this evaluation. The committee believes the more information that is available to assist the committee in the evaluation of teams, the better the selection process can become. The use of the KPI will be in addition to the current use of the RPI.

      (4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.
(5) **Student-athlete impact.** The additional data-based assistance the KPI provides will help the committee identify the most deserving teams for the championship bracket.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **2016 annual meeting minutes.** The Division II Men’s Basketball Committee reviewed and approved the 2016 annual meeting report as written.

2. **2016-17 Division II Championships Committee actions.** The committee reviewed relevant action and information items from 2016-17.

3. **National Association of Basketball Coaches meeting.** Jeff Wilson reviewed the meeting with the coaches in Phoenix and also discussed relevant items that emerged from the National Association of Basketball Coaches Congress meeting with representatives from each of the conferences. Mr. Wilson provided feedback from the coaches on their support of legislation that would mirror the starting date of practice with Division I.

4. **Review of 2017 championship.** The committee was pleased with how all rounds of the championship were administered. Members discussed the selection call and announcement, and the challenges surrounding each, since many conferences conduct their championship game on Selection Sunday.

   In its review of regional competition, the committee was pleased with each of the regional sites. Committee members noted the great attendance at a number of sites, including sold-out or nearly sold-out venues at Bellarmine, Northwest Missouri State, Fairmont State, Queens (North Carolina), Colorado School of Mines and Alabama-Huntsville. The committee discussed the pilot program with Anthony Travel securing hotels and noted the challenges that host institutions had with the process. Most sites noted there was not enough communication with Anthony Travel, and that the existing relationships they had with hotels in their markets caused some anxiety.

   As for the finals, the committee was pleased with the championship in Sioux Falls. The committee felt the venue created tremendous atmospheres for each game of the tournament. The committee noted the challenges regarding fan egress near the team locker rooms as well as the interview areas upstairs. The committee asked to see if the interviews, media dining and media work space could be set up in the auxiliary gym areas for the 2018 championship. The committee would also like to see a full LED scorers table, but that may require a row of seating to be moved to accommodate the table. The committee would prefer that an Elite Eight logo be placed on the floor if at all possible in 2018.
The committee believed that the community engagement events went well and that having military personnel hold the full-court flag for the national anthem should be continued in the future.

The committee liked the PowerPoint that was used at both regionals and the Elite Eight and thought that attendees were more engaged during the pre-tournament meeting.

5. **Officials.** The committee discussed the process for determining officials for regionals and their subsequent advancement to the Elite Eight. The committee believes the evaluators did a good job at regionals identifying the best officials and moving them forward. The committee believed that the officiating at the Elite Eight was very good and commended Eddie Jackson for his work with the officials. JD Collins also joined the meeting to discuss his plans for the future with regard to officiating. Mr. Collins addressed the role technology plays in officiating, and that ultimately he would like to see a national coordinator appointed specifically for Division II. Mr. Collins discussed some of the proposed rules changes that the rules committee will discuss in the near future.

6. **Ranking calls.** The committee discussed the number of ranking calls and the RAC balloting and noted that the process went very well again this year with the new criteria. The committee was very pleased with the use of team sheets to assist with the ranking and selection process. The committee has proposed that the team sheets be available to the membership each of the ranking weeks along with the score reporting data currently available (see Nonlegislative Item 2-a).

7. **2017 championship.** The committee discussed recommended game times for the regionals and the Elite Eight and noted a few exceptions in last year’s tournament. The committee reiterated that the host can choose to play the evening session of the quarterfinals at 6 and 8:30 p.m., but only with prior approval from the men’s basketball committee. If the host chooses to play the games at 6 and 8:30, the host school can select either game time to play its game. Members noted that participants should wear appropriate team apparel when taking the floor. The committee believed that allowing 60 minutes on the floor (with basketballs) before the first game of a session has been well received. Committee members noted that if a game ends early, the teams playing in the next game can have additional warm-up time on the floor and that the host institution and site representative will determine how long that should be. The committee adjusted the time at which the national anthem will take place (13 minutes on the pregame clock) and teams must be on the floor for the anthem. At the regionals, the home team bench will be the bench that is normally used as the home bench during the regular season. At the Elite Eight, the home bench will continue to remain to the left of the scorer’s table when facing the table. The committee would like to add a temporary access credential (TA) to provide to team personnel rather than a VIP credential. The temporary access credential would provide access to the floor for pregame but the credential holder would need to find a seat for the games but then would be permitted back on the floor postgame as well as for locker room access. The
committee is also very concerned about the number of individuals with each team and wants to ensure that only 23 individuals are in the bench area and that they are properly credentialed. The committee also asked staff to evaluate using Synergy to help with the video exchange process.

8. **Seeding the Elite Eight.** The committee was very pleased with how seeding the Elite Eight transpired again this particular year. The committee believes it is better than a random process (as used in past years) and that it provides the best opportunity for the best teams to advance to the championship game rather than possibly meeting in the quarterfinals or semifinals as the case has been in previous years.

9. **Championship game at the Final Four.** The committee discussed the opportunity to have its championship game at the Division I Men’s Final Four in the future. Staff indicated that the proposal is currently being discussed with 2020 or 2021 as possibilities. The committee continues to be very supportive of the concept.

10. **Selection criteria.** The committee reviewed the new selection criteria in place again for the 2016-17 season. The committee believed that the team sheets are a positive addition and helped the process for both rankings and selections. The committee has looked at the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) index, a results-based metric that has had a very high correlation with the committee’s recent selections. As a result, the committee has recommended to add the KPI index as an additional metric on a pilot basis to evaluate teams for rankings and selections. The metric provides a value for each game a team plays based upon the quality of the team, the site of the game and the result. The index takes into account what makes each game different from another and provides the committee with a resume of each team from its best win to its worst loss.

11. **2018 women’s and men’s combined championship discussion.** The men’s and women’s basketball committees met jointly to discuss several aspects of the 2018 combined championships at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
   
   a. **Schedule of events.** The committees brainstormed several game and practice schedule options and agreed to modify the current format for each championship to accommodate the combined championship. The women’s committee is proposing a change to quarterfinal competition to schedule the women’s quarterfinals Monday and the men’s quarterfinals Tuesday. The women’s semifinals would be played Wednesday with the national championship Friday. The men’s semifinals would be played Thursday with the national championship Saturday.
   
   b. **Banquet.** A combined banquet is planned at a hotel ballroom for Sunday night in Sioux Falls.
   
   c. **Practice.** NCAA staff will develop a practice schedule for both committees to approve.
d. **Locker rooms.** Locker room assignments will not be affected since the men and women will not compete on the same day during the championship.

e. **Game times.** Quarterfinal game times will not change. NCAA staff will work with CBS to finalize semifinal and final game times, but no major changes are expected.

f. **Hotels.** NCAA staff will work with Anthony Travel to assign hotels and create contract addendums to allow the women’s teams to arrive one day earlier.

12. **Division II governance update.** The committee met with members of the Division II governance staff to discuss items related to Division II, including a Division II census survey to be mailed beginning in January 2018. The last census was done in 2013. Staff also provided an update on creating an online tool to help educate coaches related to legislation and student-athlete health and safety. Staff also indicated that there will be 36 Division II basketball games (18 men’s and 18 women’s) in the television contract for 2017-18 on the Watch ESPN app and ESPN3.

13. **Discussion with Dan Gavitt.** Dan Gavitt, NCAA vice president for men’s basketball championships, joined the meeting to discuss items related to the Division II Men’s Basketball Championship. Mr. Gavitt discussed some of the potential changes in the Division I men’s basketball landscape that could affect Division II, such as the earlier practice start time, beginning the season three days earlier, as well as some rules changes around the width of the lane, three-point line and quarters versus halves.

14. **Television.** The television rating for the championship remained flat with the past year at .8, but the committee noted that it was still a very solid rating for the championship.

15. **Legislative items.** Stephanie Quigg Smith, NCAA director of academic and membership affairs, joined the meeting to review academic requirements and legislative proposals. The committee discussed the feedback from the NABC convention in proposing legislation that would start practice 12 days earlier to be in line with the Division I rule. The committee noted the challenges from the previous legislation and indicated that more education would be needed to ensure that the recommendation would receive support through the governance structure.

16. **Automatic qualification.** The committee approved automatic-qualifying conferences for the 2018 championship.
17. **Sponsorship report.** Committee members noted a few changes for 2017-18, including the closing of St. Joseph’s College, Montevallo moving from the Peach Belt Conference to the Gulf South Conference, and a few schools reclassifying to Division III.

18. **Regionalization.** The committee discussed progress from the Regionalization Working Group that met in February. Staff indicated it was unlikely that any changes will come from the group that have a financial impact. The working group reviewed options that could allow committees to adjust a team’s seed by one line in order to avoid a conference matchup. Committee members noted that it should be permissive and not required for a committee to make such a change, as making the change could disrupt the integrity of the bracket. The committee would prefer to have some parameters around the option so that potential changes would be made only if teams met, for example, two or more times during the course of the regular season and conference tournament.

19. **Budgetary requests.** The committee reiterated its desire for the split regional concept and is open to moving the regional final to a Wednesday if it would help with the travel component of the recommendation.

20. **Tournament host manual.** Staff asked the committee to review the tournament host manual and recommend changes for the 2017-18 season. Committee members noted that teams that lose in the regional final do not need to stay on the floor for the announcement of the all-tournament team or the regional champion award. The committee also adjusted the time for the shootarounds at regionals to noon-12:55 and 1-1:55 local time.

21. **Committee operations manual.** The committee reviewed the current committee operations manual and recommended changes for the 2017-18 season.

22. **Recognition of outgoing member.** The committee acknowledged Willie Washington for his service on the committee over the past four years.

23. **2018 annual meeting.** The committee will meet April 11-13 in Indianapolis.

*Committee Chair:  Jeff Wilson, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference  
Staff Liaison:  Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances*
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<td>April 12-14, 2017, Meeting</td>
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**Attendees:**
- Brian Beaury, The College of Saint Rose, Northeast-10 Conference.
- Jason Boothe, Dixie State University; Pacific West Conference.
- Ken Gerlinger, Peach Belt Conference.
- Jon Mark Hall, University of Southern Indiana; Great Lakes Valley Conference.
- Jeff Morgan, Harding University; Great American Conference.
- Joel R. (JR) Smith, Chadron State University; Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
- Willie Washington, Benedict College; Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
- Jeff Wilson, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

**Absentees:**
- None.

**Guests in Attendance:**
- JD Collins, National Coordinator of Men’s Basketball Officials.

**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
- Donnie Wagner, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
- Dan Gavitt, Men’s Basketball.
- Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance.
- Ty Halpin, Playing Rules.
- Maritza Jones, Division II Governance.
- Ryan Jones, Division II Governance.
- Stephanie Quigg Smith, Academic and Membership Affairs.
- Juanita Sheely, NCAA Travel.