



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WALTER BYERS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE  
APRIL 30 TO MAY 1, 2017, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Future of the scholarship.** The committee discussed at length the advantages and challenges of removing the current five-year deferral of the scholarship. After deliberating, the committee voted against eliminating the five-year deferral opportunity. The decision was based on the success the scholarship has had with recipients using the awarded funds. The committee also was concerned that removing the deferral would cause a decline in applications.
- 2. Jim McKay criteria change.** The committee voted to revise the scholarship requirements to allow students attending an NCAA member school, who seek to contribute to the sports communication industry or in public relations, the ability to be nominated for the scholarship starting Fall 2017. This change was agreed upon in lieu of other possible changes to enhance interest after a steady decline of student-athlete applications. The committee noted it was important to include individuals like Jim McKay, those who are not student-athletes but still have a love of the game and a genuine interest in sports.
- 3. Interview of Jim McKay scholarship finalists.** The committee interviewed three finalists via telephone. The committee selected Soren Frykholm, Colorado College and Kylie Klotzbach, Rollins College, as the 2016-17 Jim McKay Scholarship award recipients. The recipients will be honored during the FARA Symposium in November.
- 4. Interview of Walter Byers Scholarship finalists and selection of scholars.** Committee members attended a dinner with the three female and three male finalists for the 2016-17 Walter Byers Scholarship. The committee interviewed each finalist and selected Nandini Mehta, Northwestern University and George Burgarinovic, Johns Hopkins University, as the 2016-17 Walter Byers Scholarship award recipients. The recipients will be honored during the FARA Symposium in November.

*Committee Chair:* Christopher Woodard, Colorado State University  
*Staff Liaisons:* Jeff O'Barr, Administrative Services, Accounting  
Lori Thomas, Administrative Services, Accounting

<b>NCAA Walter Byers Scholarship April 30 to May 1, 2017, Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
	Paul Leidig, Grand Valley State University.
	Dennis Leighton, University of New England.
	Nicole McKinney, Purdue University.
	Dennis Thomas, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.
	Christopher Woodard, Colorado State University.
<b>Absentees:</b>	
	Gail Barksdale, Indiana University, Purdue University-Indianapolis.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
	None.
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
	Jeff O'Barr
	Lori Thomas
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
	None.