ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - Elite Eight seeding.
     
     (1) **Recommendation.** That the Division II Championships Committee allow the women’s basketball committee to seed the eight regional winners that advance to the Elite Eight.

     (2) **Effective date.** 2017 championship.

     (3) **Rationale.** Seeding at the Elite Eight increases the likelihood that the top teams will advance in the championship. The committee will use the current selection criteria to evaluate teams and seed them one through eight after the regionals have been completed. A majority of coaches at the 2016 WBCA convention supported seeding at the Elite Eight.

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

     (5) **Student-athlete impact.** Seeding at the Elite Eight provides the most competitive matchups for student-athletes at the championship.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of schedule.** The committee reviewed the agenda and meeting schedule and made no adjustments. This year’s annual meeting was scheduled to begin the day after the Division II national championship game, which was held in conjunction with the Women’s Final Four in Indianapolis. A review of championship manuals was not included in this year’s agenda due to a shortened timeframe for the meeting.

2. **Approval of 2015 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from the 2015 annual meeting.

3. **Women’s Basketball Coaches Association update.** Members of the committee presented a mock selection to the Division II women’s basketball coaches at the WBCA convention in Indianapolis. The coaches appreciated this presentation, and the committee will continue to
find ways to educate coaches and the membership regarding the selection process. Coaches communicated concerns regarding first-round conference matchups at the NCAA championship. (NOTE: The Division II Championships Committee is reviewing regionalization in an attempt to mitigate this concern, among others.)


a. Rankings. The NCAA staff provided a PowerPoint for national and regional advisory committee members to use as a resource for ranking teams, which was especially helpful for new committee members. The committee asked that additional time be scheduled between the first national committee orientation teleconference and the regional advisory committee orientation teleconference. The committee shared best practices for conducting rankings teleconferences, which included calling new committee members before the first ranking and asking each member to send their top 10 teams directly to the national committee chair before each teleconference.

b. Selection process, criteria and notification of teams. Conference championships scheduled for Sunday afternoon continue to be a significant concern for the committee. The final bracket must be available by 7 p.m. for the 10 p.m. selection announcement, which is a short timeline for games ending late Sunday afternoon. Committee members will begin sending a summary of their respective regions after their regional advisory committee selection teleconferences to assist with preparations for selection Sunday. The selection call will be scheduled to start at 11 a.m. next year, and the NCAA staff will provide a schedule of the conference championships along with an order of which regions will be completed Sunday morning.

c. Review of regionals. Facility and space concerns occurred this year at a select few of the regional sites. NCAA staff will create a tracking document should these sites be selected again. The committee reviewed established game times for quarterfinal competition and asked NCAA staff to communicate the noon, 2:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m. start times again next year.

d. Review of Elite Eight. The Sanford Pentagon continues to provide a high-quality championship experience for Elite Eight participants, and the participating teams enjoyed the community engagement at local Sioux Falls schools. NCAA staff will provide feedback to the host regarding the hotel internet connection, as it was an issue again this year.

e. Review of Women’s Final Four. The committee was very pleased with the experience provided to the student-athletes, coaches and fans for the two teams that advanced to Indianapolis. The crowd of approximately 6,400 fans for the Division II and Division III national championship games far exceeded attendance at previous national championship games. The committee commended the work of the local organizing committee for successfully integrating all three divisions throughout the weekend. The committee fully supports continuing a combined championship in the future.
5. **Officials.** The committee discussed the process for determining official evaluators for regionals and believed many of the evaluators did a good job advancing officials. The committee acknowledged the work of Rob Doss as the Elite Eight evaluator of officials. This Elite Eight position will be open next year for another two-year term.

6. **2017 championship.**

   a. **Regional format.** The committee discussed the cross-regional concept introduced during last year’s annual meeting. The committee wants to keep the regionalization model but avoid first-round conference matchups and potentially improve the competitiveness at the Elite Eight. This cross-regional concept pairs regions based on geographical location. As such, the South and Southeast, East and Atlantic, Midwest and Central, and the South Central and West regions would be paired together. The No. 1 seed in each region would remain the host of that region, and the two, four, six and eight seeds would travel to their cross region.

   For example, the two, four, six and eight seeds from the South region would compete in the Southeast region at the No. 1 seed. The two, four, six and eight seeds from the Southeast region would compete at the South region’s No. 1 seed. The tournament format would not change, and the winner from each would advance to the Elite Eight (which does not guarantee that each region would be represented at the final site). NCAA staff will finalize the travel analysis for this concept, and the committee will gather feedback from coaches and the regional advisory committees and potentially make a formal proposal during the next budget cycle.

   b. **Elite Eight seeding.** See the nonlegislative item above.

   c. **Upcoming bid cycle.** The committee reviewed the timeline for the upcoming bid cycle and is prepared to serve as a resource for institutions and cities planning to bid for a future Elite Eight.

7. **Review selection criteria and transparency model.** Committee members did not receive any feedback from the membership regarding the new selection criteria transparency model.

8. **Review national and regional advisory committees.** The committee acknowledged Lynne Andrew and Patricia Thomas for their service on the committee.

9. **Committee chair appointment.** Chris Ratcliff was voted to replace the outgoing chair, Lynne Andrew.

10. **2017 annual meeting dates.** The 2017 annual meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with the men’s basketball committee. The 2018 Elite Eight will be combined with the men’s championship at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

11. **Other business.** None.

Committee Chair: Lynne Andrew, Fort Lewis College, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
Staff Liaison(s): Kelsey Cermak, Championships and Alliances

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCAA Division II Women’s Basketball Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendees:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynne Andrew, Fort Lewis College <em>(chair)</em>, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darlene Bailey, William Jewell College, Great Lakes Valley Conference.</td>
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<td>Melanie Ford, Shepherd University, Mountain East Conference.</td>
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<td>Eliane Kebbe, South Atlantic Conference.</td>
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<td>LaNay Larson, Academy of Art University, PacWest Conference.</td>
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<td>Chris Ratcliff, University of Arkansas, Monticello, Great American Conference.</td>
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<td>James Rice, Benedict University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Patricia Thomas, University of the District of Columbia, East Coast Conference.</td>
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Absentees:
None.

Guests in Attendance:
None.

NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Kelsey Cermak.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
None.