ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   a. Automatic Qualification.
         The anticipated pool allocations are as follows: Pool A – 7; Pool B-1; Pool C -2.
      (2) **Effective Date.** 2016 championship.
      (3) **Rationale.** All recommended conferences meet the criteria for automatic qualification (AQ) eligibility.
      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.
      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.
   b. Primary Criteria.
      (1) **Recommendation.** That results against ranked opponents will include teams in all published rankings.
      (2) **Effective Date.** 2016 championship.
      (3) **Rationale.** Using all three published rankings allows for consistency in evaluating teams throughout the season and allows for qualitative analysis that goes deeper than comparing common opponents.
      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** None.
      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** None.
c. Secondary Criteria.

(1) **Recommendation.** That the committee use the evaluation of a team’s win/loss percentage during the last 25 percent of completed matches as a secondary criteria.

(2) **Effective Date.** 2016 championship.

(3) **Rationale.** The use of the last 25 percent of completed matches allows the regional advisory committee and the national committee to formally apply this comparison as a secondary criterion.

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

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

d. Bracket Expansion.

(1) **Recommendation.** Increase the championship bracket size from 10 to 12, given the anticipated increase in sport sponsorship and the addition of another conference AQ.

In addition, given the change in the number of teams and the bracket, the committee recommends a study to determine if a change in the championship format needs to be put into place.

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

(3) **Rationale.** With the anticipated increase in the number of member institutions adding men’s volleyball, there will be a need to expand the bracket size for the 2017 championship. There will also be an additional AQ conference, which will increase the number of AQ bids to eight. Because of the increase in sport sponsorship, and given that the access ratio will remain the same, the 2017 championship will require a bracket size increase from 10 to 12.

When the bracket expands, there is a distinct possibility that the championship format will need to be changed to more appropriately accommodate first-round matches. The possibility of multiple first-round matches leading to a four-team final site is recommended by the committee. A cost analysis is recommended to determine the most economically sound format for future championships.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** TBD.
(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** The increase in the championship bracket size will afford more student-athletes access to the championship and the championship experience. Bracket expansion also keeps us in line with the established access ratio. If the bracket does not expand as planned, this would have a detrimental impact on current teams and institutions that are considering adding men’s volleyball programs.

e. **Official’s Fees.**

(1) **Recommendation.** The committee recommends investigating the possibility of increasing the championship officials’ fees. It is recommended that the men’s committee work with the NCAA Division III Women’s Volleyball Committee to determine the appropriate increase in fees.

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

(3) **Rationale.** With the current fee structure, it is very difficult to hire the most experienced and qualified officials to work at the championship, especially given the fact that the men’s championship overlaps with several high-level men’s volleyball championship events at the club and international levels. Those championship events pay officials at a much higher rate and therefore make it more attractive for the best officials to officiate at those events, rather than the NCAA championship. In addition, the regular-season and conference fee structures are substantially higher than the NCAA championship fees. It is the committee’s recommendation that we attempt to align the NCAA fee structure to be at least the same as the regular-season and conference fee structures.

(4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** TBD.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** We need to ensure that the championship officiating will be the highest quality and therefore provide the best game environment for the student-athletes.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Review Agenda and Meeting Schedule.** The committee reviewed the meeting schedule, approved the agenda, but added Liz Suscha to the agenda for Thursday morning.

2. **Review/Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting.** The men’s volleyball committee approved the minutes from the 2014 meeting.
3. **Review of the Division III Championships Committee Actions from Past Year.** The committee reviewed the actions from last year, discussed the AQ recommendations, as well as the additional AQ for the 2016-17 year.

The committee reviewed the decision to discontinue the use of an assignor of officials at the final site and after discussing the evaluation and assigning of officials at the championship site, determined that the decision was a good one. Although the original reason for adding the assignor was based on sound reasoning, it was determined that the committee members are qualified to evaluate the officials and assign the officials to the championship matches once the championship was underway. It was clarified that the committee will continue to use an assignor to assist with the identification of the best qualified officials for the championship, but that there is no need for the assignor to travel to the final site.

4. **Governance Update.** Jay Jones, NCAA associate director for membership affairs, provided a governance update for the committee.

5. **National Committee Composition.** Jose Pina’s term on the committee will expire September 1. He will be replaced by Dan Liberto, head volleyball coach at the State University of New York Polytechnic Institute. The committee and the NCAA staff expressed appreciation for Mr. Pina’s years of service to the committee and his help in developing and implementing the championship.

6. **Regional Alignment and Pool Allocations.** The committee reviewed the regional alignment and pool allocations and had an in-depth discussion about the East/West current alignment and the potential re-alignment in the next two years. There are currently 69 institutions sponsoring Division III men’s volleyball, with the anticipated addition of seven institutions for 2016-17. If this comes to fruition, there will be a need for bracket expansion and also an in-depth look at potentially re-aligning the East/West regions.

7. **Automatic Qualification Conferences/Sport Sponsorship.** The Continental Volleyball Conference has split into two conferences. Currently, the CVC has the AQ and the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League members are designated as independents and are listed in Pool B. In 2016-17, the MCVL will be eligible for an AQ if the NCAA Division III Championships Committee approves.

The North Eastern Athletic Conference will have an AQ for the 2016 championship. The NCAA staff will check the sponsorship lists in September and make all necessary updates.
8. **Review Site Selection Criteria (Preliminary Rounds).** The NCAA staff opened the online championship and bid profile system earlier to provide additional time for institutions to enter bids. Although there was a slight increase in the number of schools entering bids, we are still not getting the number of bids the committee would like so as to allow for a good pool of institutions available for selection as a first-round site. Currently, we are still at the point where the committee is forced to award a bid to a first-round host even though that site and financial bid is not considered the best. This issue was discussed at length, and the committee determined that they would continue to reach out to potential hosts early in the year to encourage those schools to submit a bid, thus deepening the pool of potential first-round host schools.

9. **Regional Advisory Committee/Process.** The committee reviewed and will make the necessary updates.

The committee discussed the concern expressed by the RAC regarding the display of the RPI on the score-reporting database. The issue was brought to the table because of the confusion expressed by RAC members about the RPI being displayed, but that they do not actually use it as a secondary criterion. It was determined that the chair will be clear on the RAC training teleconference that the RPI listing is there as a potential additional tool, but not a secondary criteria.

10. **Review of 2015 Championship.**

   a. **Fan Behavior.** The committee had an in-depth discussion regarding an incident that allegedly occurred during the Nazareth College vs. Springfield College semi-final match Saturday night, along with the perception of the Springfield officials of inappropriate fan behavior Sunday during the championship match between Stevens and Springfield.

   Based on a thorough evaluation of the allegations, and the follow-up investigations, the committee determined that the fan behavior during the Sunday championship match was not inappropriate and the event-management team at Stevens was very active and judicious in their monitoring and control of the crowd.

   Regarding the incident Saturday night and the allegations of inappropriate behavior on the part of a Nazareth student-athlete toward a Springfield student-athlete, it was determined that the two athletics directors and presidents will continue their independent investigations and come to a conclusion. It was determined that the officials acted appropriately, as did the committee and the event-management staff at Stevens.

   b. **Participant Hotels.** The committee expressed concern regarding the use of Anthony Travel as the agent securing the hotels at the championship site. This
issue was a significant issue at the Stevens site and caused a great deal of stress and unnecessary expense. While on the site visit in October, the NCAA representative and the committee chair felt that the initial hotels contracted by Anthony Travel were unacceptable. Because Stevens is located in Hoboken, New Jersey, in very close proximity to Manhattan in New York City, the availability of hotels in October to accommodate eight teams for the championship was very slight. Given the per-diem allocation and the cost of hotels in the area, the additional expense to accommodate teams was significant.

The committee recommends that a discussion take place at the September Division III chair’s meeting, and also at any other appropriate level, to determine the appropriateness of Anthony Travel contracting the hotels for championship finals at the Division III level.

c. **Championship Banquet.** The site of the banquet, the food and the service was very good. However, the length of the banquet was far too long. The committee discussed the format for the banquet and recommended changes in the format for future years.

d. **Division III Enhancement Fund Use.** The committee was unanimous in its opinion that the enhancement fund money should be able to be used for the student-athlete enhancement and not used for fan enhancement.

11. **Preview of 2016 Championship.**

a. **Match Times.** The match times at the preliminary rounds will remain at 4 or 6:30 p.m. Match times for the final site will be as follows: quarterfinals will be at 12:30, 3, 5:30 and 8 p.m.; semifinals will be at 3 and 6:30 p.m.; the final match will be at 2 p.m.

b. **Team Bench Size.** Due to the reduction in travel party size, the bench size has been adjusted appropriately. These changes were reflected in the participant manual, but will be reflected in all manuals for the 2016 championship.

c. **Banquet Video.** The addition of a banquet video, produced by the NCAA staff, was a welcomed addition. The committee recommends that the committee and the RAC reach out to participating schools after the first ranking to remind them that they may be requested to provide video for the banquet video so they are alerted early enough to be prepared to provide quality video to the NCAA production team.

d. **Administrative Meeting.** The committee chair will be even more direct at the administrative meeting Thursday about the expectations for fan and player behavior throughout the championship. This topic will be a focal point and head coaches and administrators will be well-informed about the protocols and the
actions that officials will take should they determine inappropriate behavior by players or bench staff.

12. **Future Championship Sites.**

   a. **Carthage College (2018).** The committee discussed, once again, the potential impact on the budget with regard to travel costs when the championship is held at Carthage College. Although the sport sponsorship may change over the next three years, the majority of schools sponsoring men’s Division III volleyball will still be in the Northeast, and therefore the number of flights for teams to attend the championship will most likely increase.

   b. **Number of Teams at Championship Site.** The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the format of future championships. With the anticipated increase in sport sponsorship, and the resulting increase in bracket size, the format change will become a necessity. The committee recommends a financial evaluation to determine the most feasible format, with the recommended focus being on an eventual four-team final.

13. **Rules.**

   - **Court Set-Up.** The committee will send a request for a rule change to the Playing Rules Oversight Panel to reinforce the existing USA Volleyball playing rule that identifies the “warm-up area” and establish that a restraining line, either painted or taped, be placed at the end of the bench or bench areas. All substitutes must remain behind the line, within the bench area.

14. **Protocol.**

   - **Changing Benches Between Sets.** The committee will add language to the manuals instructing the teams to change sides between sets in a way as to not pass each other. Student-athletes on the floor at the end of the set must rotate in a counter-clockwise direction to the other bench, following the floor team. Coaches and staff can pass each other at the scorers’ table to change benches.

15. **Update Forms, Championships Manuals.** The committee reviewed and updated all of the necessary forms/manuals and will continue to make updates as needed.

16. **Annual Meeting Dates.** The annual meeting will take place June 8-10, 2016, in Indianapolis. The meeting will begin June 8 at 4 p.m. with a working dinner and will adjourn June 8 at noon.
17. **September Division III Committee Chair’s Meeting.** Some areas of concern to bring up at the chairs meeting are as follows:

   a. Anthony Travel hotel arrangements for Division III.
   
   b. Official’s fees for the championship

*Committee Chair: Danielle Drews, Sage Colleges*

*Staff Liaison: Jo-Ann Nester, Championships and Alliances*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 2-4, 2015, Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle Drews, The Sage Colleges</td>
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<td>Sheila Gisbrecht, Elms College</td>
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<td>Jose Pina, New York University</td>
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<td>Other Attendees:</td>
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<td>Ben Brownlee, NCAA</td>
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<td>Linda Godby, NCAA</td>
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<td>Jay Jones, NCAA</td>
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<td>Jo-Ann Nester, NCAA</td>
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<td>Liz Suscha, NCAA</td>
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