ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

   a. Incorporation of Official Interpretation – Classification of a Varsity or Subvarsity Contest - 17.02.2.

      (1) **Recommendation.** To approve the incorporation of the official interpretation [Reference: 12/17/15, Item No. 2a] into the legislation.

      The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee determined that, for purposes of NCAA Bylaw 17 maximum institutional contest and date of competition limitations, an institution shall define a contest as either varsity or subvarsity (e.g., junior varsity). Further, an institution is not permitted to change the classification of a given contest or date of competition after that contest or date of competition has commenced.

      [References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 17.02.3 (contest, countable, institutional), 17.02.6 (date of competition, countable, institutional), 17.5.1 (maximum limitations - institutional); an Official Interpretation (3/30/89, Item No. 5), which has been archived, a Staff Interpretation (11/2/90, Item No. c), which has been archived]

      (2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

      (3) **Rationale.** The committee issued the interpretation to reduce confusion as well as avoid the unintended consequences that existed with previous guidance on defining a varsity contest (See NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee Report dated December 17, 2015 Item No. 2a). Incorporating this interpretation further serves to reduce the previous confusion by clearly setting forth in the manual the new expectations for defining a varsity contest and the associated timeline for so defining.

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

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

(1) **Recommendation.** To approve in concept noncontroversial legislation to specify that an institution may provide the cost of round trip transportation for a student-athlete to travel from campus to the event site and back to campus even if the student-athlete does not travel with the team. The student-athlete would only be required to pay the difference associated with traveling to/from another site.

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** Current legislation allows an institution to provide actual and necessary travel expenses for a student-athlete to represent the institution on a foreign tour; however, institutions are limited to providing round-trip travel expenses from campus to the competition site and back to campus. For a regular season contest during a vacation period, an institution is permitted to provide travel expenses equivalent to the cost of round-trip transportation for a student to travel from campus to the event site and back to campus, even if the student-athlete does not travel with the team. The committee agreed that the institution should have the same flexibility in providing travel expenses for foreign tour travel.

(4) **Budget Impact.** While this is a permissive expense and not mandatory, it would have a budget impact if institutions decide to pay for these travel expenses.

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Student-athletes could have travel expenses that they were previously responsible for, paid for by the institution.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

a. Approval of Official Interpretation – Classification of a Contest.

(1) **Recommendation.** That NCAA Division III Management Council approve the following official interpretation:

Classification of a Contest (III). The NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee determined that any contest between two or more Division III institutions must be classified (e.g., scrimmage, exhibition, regular-season contest) the same by all participating Division III institutions (as opposed to a contest against a non-Division III opponent which may be classified differently). Further, an institution is
not permitted to change the classification of a given contest after that contest has commenced.

[References: NCAA Division III Bylaws 17.02.2 (Contest), 17.02.3 (Contest, Countable, Institutional) and 17._.5.3 (Exemptions).]

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** While current legislation does not dictate the way an institution must classify a particular contest, Division III media coordination and statistics policy does not have a mechanism for allowing two Division III institutions to classify the same contest differently. This interpretation clarifies that any contest between two or more Division III institutions must be classified the same way by all participating Division III institutions.

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

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

b. **Approval of Official Interpretation – Preparation for Participation in the Indoor Track and Field Championships Counted in the Playing Season.**

(1) **Recommendation.** That Management Council approve the following official interpretation:

   **Preparation for Participation in the Indoor Track and Field Championships Counted in the Playing Season (III).** The Interpretations and Legislation Committee determined that preparation for and participation in the indoor track and field championships must be included in the indoor and outdoor track and field playing season, inasmuch as the indoor track and field championships (as opposed to the outdoor track and field championships) do not occur at the conclusion of a distinct playing season.

   [References: NCAA Division III Bylaw 17.23.1 (length of playing season) and a Staff Interpretation (10/14/98, Item No. 1), which has been archived]

(2) **Effective Date.** Immediate.

(3) **Rationale.** During its February 2016 meeting, the Interpretations and Legislation Committee reviewed an updated staff interpretation that clarifies that preparation for and participation in the indoor track and field championship must be included in the playing season. The committee
agreed that elevating the existing staff interpretation to an official interpretation is necessary to ensure that the membership understands the application of this interpretation.

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

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

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and Announcements.** The committee chair, Shana Levine, welcomed new committee members Sean Cain, Jim Cranmer and Gregg Kaye.

2. **Committee Roster.** The committee reviewed the roster and agreed to submit any corrections to staff.

3. **Review December Report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its December 17, 2015, teleconference.

4. **Review NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform.** The committee reviewed the NCAA Division III Strategic Positioning Platform.

5. **Update on Governance Issues.** The Division III governance staff provided the committee an update on the primary topics within the Division III governance structure for the 2015-16 year. The topics included:

   a. Division III budget;
   
   b. Division III week;
   
   c. Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee *It's On Us* campaign;
   
   d. Sport Science Institute advisory group;
   
   e. Sport Science Institute mental health best practices document;
   
   f. Diversity and inclusion working group;
   
   g. Athletics direct report working group;
   
   h. Technology users group;
   
   i. Sportsmanship and game environment working group; and
j. Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee review.

6. **Review of Interpretations and Legislation Committee Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures.

7. **Review Divisions I, II and III Staff Interpretations.** The committee reviewed staff interpretations issued in Divisions I, II and III between September 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016 and took no action.

8. **Review Division III Official Interpretations.** The committee reviewed official interpretations issued in Division III between September 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016 and recommended that an official interpretation [Reference: 12/17/15, Item No. 2a] be incorporated into the manual (see Legislative Action Item No. 1a).

9. **Review Divisions I and II Official Interpretations.** The committee reviewed official interpretations issued in Divisions I and II between September 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016. The committee recommended staff review Division II official interpretation [Reference: 11/19/15, Item No. 10] clarifying that all NCAA legislation applies to a coach who is employed on a regular and continuing basis even if the contract is for a period of less than a full year and draft a similar staff interpretation.

10. **Review Divisions I and II Legislative Actions.** The committee reviewed legislative actions in Divisions I and II between September 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016 and took no action.

11. **Review Division III Editorial Revisions.** The committee reviewed editorial revisions issued in Division III between September 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016 and took no action.

12. **Review Division III Educational Columns.** The committee reviewed educational columns issued in Division III between September 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016 and took no action.


   - **Question and Answer Document.** The committee reviewed the question and answer document for the 2016 legislative proposals and instructed staff to do the following:

     (1) Draft question nos. 3, 9 and 11 of Division III Proposal No. 2016-5 as an official interpretation(s) for future review by the committee;
(2) Draft question nos. 2 and 3 of Division III Proposal No. 2016-6 as an official interpretation(s) for future review by the committee; and

(3) Draft question nos. 1 and 2 of Division III Proposal No. 2016-9 as an official interpretation(s) for future review by the committee.

14. **Division III Interpretive and Legislative Issues.**

a. **Newly Hired Institutional Athletics Staff – Existing Friend/Follower of Prospective Student-Athletes.** The committee reviewed whether new institutional athletics staff members are required to unfriend and unfollow prospective student-athletes on social media sites when the action of friending/following occurred prior to the individual being hired by the athletics department. Staff has provided the guidance that current legislation precludes an institutional coach from being a friend or follower of a prospective student-athlete; hence, athletics department staff members are required to unfriend/unfollow prospective student-athletes. The committee agreed with the staff position and took no further action.

b. **Fantasy Sports Update.** The committee received an update on fantasy sports wagering and will review the legislative penalty for sports wagering at a future meeting.

c. **Prospective Student-Athlete's Family Paying for Recruiting Expenses.** The committee reviewed the issue of whether a prospective student-athlete's family member is permitted to pay for an institutional coach's expenses during the recruitment process. The committee agreed that a prospective student-athlete's family member would be permitted to provide an institutional staff member a meal at the home of a prospective student-athlete, but would not be permitted to directly pay for a coach's expenses (e.g., meal in a restaurant). The committee requested staff draft a staff interpretation to reflect this position.

d. **Out-of-Season Game Film Review.** The committee reviewed the issue of whether a coach is permitted to use a program that makes game film available to student-athletes for review, outside the playing and practice season, if the program allows the coach to track whether or not the student-athletes have accessed the film. The committee agreed that the ability for a coach to identify whether the student-athlete has accessed the film only confirms receipt of the film and is permitted outside the defined playing season. However, a coach would not be permitted to take the next step and monitor the student-athlete's review of the film as it would no longer be considered a voluntary activity. The committee...
recommended that this topic be discussed with the Division III commissioner's legislative group and took no further action.

e. **Athletic Department Suspension and Athletic Eligibility.** The committee reviewed the issue of whether a student-athlete who has been suspended by the athletics department is considered athletically ineligible in that sport. The committee agreed that a team or athletics department suspension, that is not considered an institutional decision, does not impact athletic eligibility in any sport. The committee recommended that staff reflect this position by rewriting an official interpretation [Reference: 7/14/06, Item No. 5a] for future review by the committee.

f. **Referral from Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.** The committee reviewed a request from the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee related to concerns regarding the application of the practice after receipt of hardship waiver legislation. The committee agreed that the intended application of the legislation permits a student-athlete who meets the criteria for a hardship waiver to practice without jeopardizing the likelihood of receiving the hardship waiver. The committee requested that staff editorially revise the existing legislation to clarify this application.

g. **Leadership Programming.** Per request from Management Council, the committee reviewed the recent interpretation [Reference: 11/19/15, Item No. 1] clarifying that leadership programming involving sports related information occurring outside of the playing season may not be limited to a single team. Specifically, Management Council requested that the committee consider whether an exception to the playing and practice seasons legislation for leadership programming was appropriate. The committee agreed that allowing sport-specific leadership programming outside the playing season would be inconsistent with the intent of the prohibition on out-of-season athletically related activities and took no further action.

h. **Varsity Coach Involvement with Club Team.** The committee reviewed the issue of whether a varsity cross country coach could also coach varsity cross country student-athletes on an institution's track and field club team. The committee agreed that coaches and student-athletes may not be involved in the same team outside of the playing season. Thus, if a varsity cross country coach is also the coach of the institutional track and field club team, varsity cross country student-athletes would not be permitted to participate on the club track team if it occurs outside the cross country playing and practice season. The committee requested that staff archive an existing official interpretation
[Reference: 12/12/94, Item No. 14] and draft an official interpretation reflecting this position for future review by the committee.

15. Requests/Self-Reports Online. The committee received an update from staff regarding the Requests/Self-Reports Online (RSRO) Case Management System.

The committee reviewed Division III interpretive requests, including response time, bylaw cites and urgency status, that have been submitted to staff using RSRO.

16. NCAA Regional Rules Seminars. The committee reviewed session titles for the 2016 NCAA Regional Rules Seminars and received an update on the regional rules working groups.

17. Future Meetings. The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule and identified September 15-16 and February 16-17, 2017, for future in-person meetings.

18. Other Business. No issues were presented.

19. Adjournment. The committee adjourned at 4:24 p.m. Eastern time February 11, 2016. The committee agreed that it did not need to meet February 12, 2016.

Committee Chair: Shana Levine, Lewis and Clark College
Staff Liaisons: Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs
Sarah Otey, Academic and Membership Affairs
Joni Williamson, Academic and Membership Affairs