ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

   a. Noncontroversial Legislation - NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.3 - Eligibility - Transfer Regulations - Two-Year College Transfers - Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid - All Other Qualifiers, Partial Qualifiers and Nonqualifiers – English, Math and Science.

      (1) **Recommendation.** Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit a student-athlete who has earned credit hours at a previous two-year institution (prior to the student-athlete's most recent attendance at a four-year institution) to use those credit hours to satisfy the two-year college transfer requirements for English, math and science.

      (2) **Effective Date.** August 1, 2016, for student-athletes enrolling in a Division II institution on or after August 1, 2016.

      (3) **Rationale.** Current legislation does not permit a student-athlete to use credits earned at a two-year college prior to their most recent attendance at a four-year institution (e.g., 2-4-2-4 transfer) to meet the English, math and science core credit-hour requirements at the certifying institution. This change would prevent student-athletes from having to re-take courses they have already successfully completed at a two-year institution to satisfy two-year college transfer requirements.

      (4) **Estimated Budget Impact.** Will vary. Prospective student-athletes will not be responsible for additional tuition and fees to repeat classes that were successfully completed solely for the purpose of meeting the two-year college transfer requirements.

      (5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Prospective student-athletes will have additional flexibility to use credits earned at a previous two-year institution to satisfy the two-year college transfer requirements for English, math and science.

   b. Modification of Wording – NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.7.9 - Eligibility – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements – Eligibility for Competition – Fulfillment of Credit-Hour Requirements After Designation of Degree – Credits Earned in a Voluntary or Optional Minor – Regular Academic Terms.

      (1) **Recommendation.** Adopt a modification of wording to amend NCAA Bylaw 14.4.3.7.9 (credits earned or accepted toward a minor) to clarify
that a student-athlete may use a maximum of six credit hours earned in a voluntary or optional minor per regular academic term to fulfill the credit-hour requirements for meeting progress toward degree; further to clarify that hours earned in a voluntary or optional minor during the summer may not be used to meet progress toward degree requirements.

(2) **Effective Date.** August 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** Proposal No. 2016-3 (eligibility -- progress-toward-degree requirements -- eligibility for competition -- fulfillment of credit-hour requirements after designation of degree -- credits earned in a voluntary or optional minor) was adopted by the membership at the 2016 NCAA Convention. The membership sponsors of the proposal did not intend to permit credit hours earned toward a voluntary or optional minor during the summer to be used to meet progress-toward-degree requirements. The wording of the original proposal does not reflect the sponsors’ intent. This change will clarify that summer hours earned in an optional minor may not be used to meet progress-toward-degree requirements. This change is also consistent with the intent of the NCAA Division II Presidents Council, NCAA Division II Management Council and the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee, which noted in their formal position statement in support of the proposal that placing limits on the number of hours reduces the opportunity for abuse of the legislation.

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

(5) **Student-Athlete Impact.** Student-athletes will not be permitted to use credit hours earned in a voluntary or optional minor during the summer to satisfy progress-toward-degree requirements.

c. **Incorporation of Interpretation into the NCAA Division II Manual.**

(1) **Recommendation.** To incorporate the following official interpretation into the NCAA Division II Manual:

Application of Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements When Using Return to Original Institution Exception (II)

The Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that a student-athlete who returns to the certifying institution using the two-year or four-year college return to original institution exception must satisfy all progress-toward-degree requirements that the student-athlete triggered during his or her previous enrollment at the certifying institution (e.g. annual credit hour requirement) before being eligible for competition.
[Reference: Bylaws 14.4.3.2 (term-by-term credit hour requirement), 14.4.3.2.1 (application or rule to transfer student), 14.4.3.3.2 (application of rule), 14.4.3.3.2.1 (application to a midyear enrollee), 14.4.3.4 (annual credit hour requirement), 14.4.3.4.1 (application of rule), 14.4.3.4.1.1 (application to a midyear enrollee), 14.5.4.6.4 (return to original institution exception), 14.5.5.3.7 (return to original institution without participation or with minimal participation exception].

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Incorporating the February 18, 2016, official interpretation into the Manual will clarify the application of the progress-toward-degree requirements for student-athletes who transfer and return to the certifying institution using the return to original institution exception.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Estimated Student-Athlete Impact. Student-athletes will be required to satisfy applicable progress-toward-degree requirements at the certifying institution prior to being eligible for competition.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   • None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Review of Foundation for the Future Funding Requests. The committee agreed to support three proposals for funding through the Foundation for the Future initiative. Those proposals include, in order of priority:
   a. Funding for conference offices in the areas of academic support, broadcast support, officiating improvement and branding.
   b. Development of a comprehensive online coaches’ education program that will deliver legislative and health and safety related content to Division II coaches.
   c. Review and assessment of the utilization and accuracy of academic data currently gathered in Division II, and the development of additional metrics that could guide academic policy in the division.

2. Discussion of Academic Misconduct. The committee reviewed proposed academic misconduct legislation that will be considered by the NCAA Division I Council in April. If the Council adopts legislation for Division I at that time, the committee will consider
options for sponsoring a legislative proposal in Division II during its summer teleconference.

3. **Discussion of Eliminating the Window of Reconsideration During the Division II Business Session at Convention.** The committee discussed whether the Presidents Council should sponsor legislation for the 2017 NCAA Convention to eliminate the window of reconsideration during the divisional business session at the NCAA Convention. The committee agreed that it would support eliminating the window of reconsideration, noting that reconsideration reduces the importance of the original vote and that holding only a single vote would promote more thorough consideration of each proposal prior to Convention.

4. **Status Report on Pending Changes to SAT.** The committee received an update on the changes to the SAT that will take effect in March 2016. Staff noted that the concordance between scores on the old test and scores on the new test will not be available until May. An editorial revision to current legislation was published February 10, 2016, indicating that the minimum combined SAT score required for tests taken on or after March 1, 2016, will be evaluated based on the concordance established by the College Board.

5. **Update on 2016 NCAA Convention Proposals That Impact Eligibility or Were Sponsored by the Committee.** The committee reviewed three 2016 NCAA Convention proposals that impact student-athlete eligibility. Specifically, the committee discussed concerns about whether the limit of six credit hours per term in an optional or voluntary minor that may apply toward progress toward degree requirements is appropriate for institutions on the quarter system (Proposal No. 2016-3). The committee agreed that the current limit of six credit hours remains appropriate for all institutions, but will continue to monitor the issue as the new progress-toward-degree legislation comes into effect.

6. **Review of Initial-Eligibility Waiver Policy Regarding Partial Qualifiers Who Meet 2018 Standards.** The committee discussed whether staff should approve initial-eligibility waivers for partial qualifiers who meet the sliding-scale standard that is scheduled to take effect in fall 2018. Staff noted that these prospective student-athletes typically have a comparatively high core-course grade-point average and minimal deficiency in standardized test score. The committee agreed that the new scale was approved in part because research indicated that it would more accurately and efficiently predict first-year academic success in college, and that this should be factored into the waiver process. The committee approved granting automatic initial-eligibility waivers for all partial qualifiers who meet 2018 standards, effective for those first enrolling in a Division II institution in fall 2016.

7. **Review List of Institutions Failing to Meet the Academic Performance Census (APC) Deadline in the 2015-16 Academic Year.** The committee received an update on the institutions that failed to meet their deadline to submit APC data, which was 15 weeks after the institution's first day of classes of the fall term of the regular 2015-16 academic
year. Five institutions failed to meet the original 15-week deadline. However, four of those institutions received deadline extensions under a policy adopted by the committee in February 2011 that authorized staff to grant single, three-day extensions. Those institutions met their extended deadline and were not subject to the penalty for failure to submit APC data per NCAA Constitution 3.3.4.15 (academic performance census – failure to submit). Stillman College received an automatic three-day extension, then submitted a request for a further extension on the same day that the school announced it would cease being an NCAA member at the end of the 2015-16 academic year. The school never submitted its data. The committee approved a revised deadline of March 3, 2016, and directed staff to inform the institution of the new deadline and to indicate that it would be penalized according to Constitution 3.3.4.15 if it failed to meet that deadline.

8. Review of Research Data. Staff presented data to the committee from the 2015 Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in College (GOALS) survey and the 2014-15 APC. The committee noted that first-year eligibility and retention rates rose in Division II in each of the first two years after the core-course requirements increased from 14 to 16 in fall 2013.

9. Discussion Regarding the Use of the Return to Original Institution Transfer Exception and Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements. The committee discussed interpretive guidance that staff has recently provided to the membership in cases where a student-athlete who does not meet progress-toward-degree requirements transfers to a second four-year institution for a term or terms, then wishes to use the return to original institution transfer exception to return and be immediately for competition.

The committee agreed to issue the following interpretation and requested that the interpretation be incorporated into the NCAA Manual [See Legislative Action Item 1c):

Application of Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements When Using Return to Original Institution Exception (II)

The Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that a student-athlete who returns to the certifying institution using the two-year or four-year college return to original institution exception must satisfy all progress-toward-degree requirements that the student-athlete triggered during his or her previous enrollment at the certifying institution (e.g. annual credit hour requirement) before being eligible for competition.

[Reference: Bylaws 14.4.3.2 (term-by-term credit hour requirement), 14.4.3.2.1 (application or rule to transfer student), 14.4.3.3.2 (application of rule), 14.4.3.3.2.1 (application to a midyear enrollee), 14.4.3.4 (annual credit hour requirement), 14.4.3.4.1 (application of rule), 14.4.3.4.1.1 (application to a midyear enrollee), 14.5.4.6.4 (return to original institution exception), 14.5.5.3.7 (return to original institution without participation or with minimal participation exception).]
10. **Discuss Impact of Length of Enrollment Prior to Withdrawal on Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Decisions.** The committee discussed whether the Division II progress-toward-degree waiver directive should be amended to address cases where a transfer student-athlete withdrew from the previous institution following minimal attendance. The current directive calls for staff to deny requests to waive the progress-toward-degree requirements in situations where there is no extraordinary and documented reason for withdrawal (e.g., not liking the city or becoming homesick do not meet the threshold for a waiver). The committee directed staff to provide additional flexibility in waiving the requirements of Bylaw 14.4.3.2.1 (application of rule to transfer student) when there has been no significant mitigation presented, but the student-athlete was enrolled for less than 14 consecutive-calendar days at the previous institution and did not compete. In these circumstances, staff may consider other factors, such as the student-athlete's academic record and whether the previous institution supports the waiver request. The committee recommended that the progress-toward-degree waiver directive be adjusted to reflect the additional flexibility.

11. **Review of the NCAA Division II Strategic Plan.** The committee reviewed a progress report on the implementation of the 2015-21 Division II Strategic Plan. Staff noted that the report was a summary of everything the divisional governance structure is doing to support the plan, and that future reports will focus more on new initiatives related to the plan (e.g., Foundation for the Future grants).

12. **Update on Division II Educational Initiatives.** The committee received an update on the planning and development of regional compliance seminars. The seminars provide rules education and professional development for athletics administrators, coaches and representatives from the offices of financial aid, registrar and admissions locations within selected regions. The number of regional compliance seminars will expand from three in 2015-16 to as many as six in 2016-17.

13. **Update on Path to Graduation Toolkit.** The committee reviewed data about usage of the educational materials on NCAA.org related to the Path to Graduation legislative changes.

14. **Review of the NCAA International Student Records Committee Report.** The committee received a report from the International Student Records Committee meeting in October 2015.

15. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee Report.** The committee reviewed and approved its September 2015 committee report.

17. **Future Meeting Schedule.** The committee agreed to conduct its summer teleconference in June or July 2016 (date to be determined) and its fall in-person meeting September 8, 2016.

*Committee Chair: Brenda Cates, University of Mount Olive*

*Staff Liaisons: Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs*  
*Gregg Summers, Research*

| NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee |  
| February 18, 2016, In-Person Meeting |  
| **Attendees:** |  
| Damon Arnold, Grand Valley State University |  
| William Biddington, California University of Pennsylvania |  
| Brenda Cates, University of Mount Olive |  
| Tonya Charland, Great Lakes Valley Conference |  
| Jennifer Heimstead, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona |  
| Joseph Kissell, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania |  
| Perry Massey, Fayetteville State University |  
| Lindsay Reeves, University of North Georgia |  
| Dene Thomas, Fort Lewis College |  
| Shawn Ward, Le Moyne College |  
| **Absentees:** |  
| Corbin Greening, Henderson State University |  
| **Guests in Attendance:** |  
| Ashley Beaton, University of Illinois at Springfield |  
| Gary Brown, Division II Governance Contractor |  
| **NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:** |  
| Susan Britsch and Gregg Summers. |  
| **Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:** |  
| Lydia Bell, Emily Capehart, Shauna Cobb, Amanda Conklin, Greg Dana, Miranda Giddens, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Jane McGill, Tom Paskus, Julie Rainey, Elizabeth Sellers, Stephanie Smith, Katherine Sulentic, Angela Tressel, Jill Waddell and Quintin Wright. |