ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - Automatic qualification.
     a. Recommendation. That the following 31 conferences be approved for automatic qualification (AQ) for the 2017 NCAA Division I Women’s Soccer Championship:

        America East Conference; American Athletic Conference; ASUN Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big 12 Conference; Big East Conference; Big Sky Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Big West Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; Conference USA; Horizon League; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; Missouri Valley Conference; Mountain West Conference; Northeast Conference; Ohio Valley Conference; Pac-12 Conference; Patriot League; Southeastern Conference; Southern Conference; Southland Conference; Southwestern Athletic Conference; The Summit League; Sun Belt Conference; West Coast Conference and Western Athletic Conference.

     b. Effective date. 2017 championship.

     c. Rationale. This reflects all eligible conferences at this time.

     d. Estimated budget impact. None.

     e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Approval of 2016 meeting report. The committee reviewed and approved the report from last year’s annual meeting.

   a. Evaluations. While most of the feedback was positive, there were some concerns regarding hotels and field amenities at various sites. Those comments will be shared with the host institutions.
b. **Game days and times.** Sites without lights will continue to start games during the second round at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to maximize daylight.

3. **2016 championship review – Women’s College Cup.**

a. **Evaluations.** The committee would like to see more feedback from the participants. However, the feedback provided applauded the West Coast Conference, San Jose Sports Authority and Avaya Stadium for a successful championship weekend. Additional student-athletes above the allowable squad size will continue to be issued Temporary Field credentials, which provide access pre- and post-game. The committee will work with the facility to determine the best seating opportunity for those student-athletes.

b. **ESPN.** The ratings increased slightly compared to last year’s viewership.

c. **Committee responsibilities.** The committee continues to rely on this document that outlines committee assignments for the championship. Members agreed to assign one or two coaches from the committee to collaborate with the NCAA media liaison next year to oversee the all-tournament team selection process.

d. **Avaya Stadium feedback.** Considering a site relocation that resulted in only 50 days to plan for the championship, all parties involved in San Jose came together to provide an excellent championship experience for the four teams. Evaluations noted concerns regarding the condition of the field, but committee members acknowledged that the higher than normal rainfall in the weeks leading up to the championship exacerbated the wet conditions. The committee did appreciate the gathering area provided on Sunday for student-athletes’ family members, which was an enhancement the Division I Competition Oversight Committee recently approved for various championship sites.

4. **Ranking calls and selection weekend.**

a. **Selection criteria.** The committee discussed all selection criteria and agreed to keep them the same for 2017.

b. **RPI.** Committee members discussed the bonus/penalty structure for nonconference opponents and agreed that the structure encourages teams to schedule appropriately.

c. **Regional/national rankings (top 45).** The committee agreed to continue ranking the top 45 teams on the last two ranking calls before selection weekend.

d. **Seeding and bracketing process.** The committee was pleased with the consistency applied throughout the entire selection process.
5. **2017 championship preparations.**

a. **Media room minimum requirements.** Committee members reviewed minimum requirements for the media space and agreed to urge future hosts to ensure sound quality and reduce outside noise during interviews. This will provide for a better experience for both the teams and media.

b. **Cooling-off period start time.** The committee identified a challenge when a coach does not immediately return to the locker room at the conclusion of the game. The committee will monitor this next year to ensure that a 10-minute cooling-off period starts in a reasonable time after the game should the coach choose to stay on the field.

c. **Schedule of events.** The committee proposed no changes to the overall schedule of events for championship weekend.

d. **Wilson pennies.** The committee recommended, based on teams’ feedback, that two different colors of pennies are needed for each team. NCAA staff will request 22 pennies per team with 11 being a different color than the other 11. The committee also noted the importance of ball person pennies being a different color than what is issued to the teams.

e. **Ages of ball people.** The committee prefers adult-aged ball people be assigned to all games; however, if adults are not available that 6th, 7th or 8th graders be used. The ball person role continues to be an important part of game flow, so it’s best not to use very young children.

f. **Practice options – Wednesday.** NCAA staff will work with the host to identify off-site fields that teams can schedule practices on Wednesday before the College Cup.

g. **Field setup (cones).** The committee agreed that teams in the College Cup can set their end of the field with cones before the 60-minute clock starting.

h. **Awards ceremony form.** The committee agreed to change the awards ceremony form to include only the 28 members of the official travel party to ensure that all individuals are provided an award during the ceremony.

i. **All-tournament team.** One or two coaches from the committee will run point on the all-tournament team selection process to ensure there are enough media to make decisions and that the appropriate student-athletes are identified throughout the weekend. The NCAA media liaison will continue to employ the online voting system.

6. **Site selection.** The committee discussed College Cup final site hosting options for 2018 through 2021. Final decisions will be made public in April along with championship final sites in other sports.
7. **Sponsorship and regional alignment.** The committee discussed the new regional structure, which has changed the number of regions from eight to five. The committee discussed the use of only one regional advisory committee (RAC) member per conference in each of the five regions. Conferences will need to update their RAC representatives this summer.

8. **Officials.**

   a. **Selection and assigning process.** National Coordinator of Officials, Ryan Cigich, detailed the selection and assigning process. He relied on conference coordinators and regional advisors for evaluation of officials in their areas. Additionally, he wants coaches to provide feedback in the fall and continues to ask more coaches to participate in the surveys. NCAA staff will also determine if coaches can provide evaluations through Arbiter after each tournament game.

   b. **Evaluations.** NCAA staff shared the officials’ evaluations with Mr. Cigich. The committee also reviewed the feedback.

9. **National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).** Rob Kehoe, from the NSCAA, met with the committee to review various items from the season. The committee asked for more feedback from the Division I women’s coaches in an effort to understand their desire for possible change. Mr. Kehoe noted the current absence of a chair on the Division I women’s side, but the committee noted the importance of this role in its work and urged that a chair be identified as soon as possible. Mr. Kehoe also cited venue selection, television and the appropriate format as key discussion items in future years.

10. **Rules committee update.** Ashlee Ferguson, the NCAA staff liaison to the soccer rules committee, discussed upcoming items on the committee’s agenda, noting this is a non-rules change year and that she will be soliciting proposals later in the fall for consideration in 2018. She noted a push from the men’s coaches to federate the rules between genders and among divisions. She noted that the soccer rules committee has the authority to approve rules changes between genders, but that rules changes among divisions must be approved legislatively. Ms. Ferguson also touched on video review and said many Division I conferences are not using it. Finally, she mentioned that red cards stayed steady compared to last year for the Division I women.

11. **Manuals.** NCAA staff will make appropriate updates to the various manuals used for the championship.

12. **2017 committee timeline.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2017 timeline.
13. **National and regional advisory committees.** The committee applauded outgoing members Shawn Farrell, Janet Rayfield, Stephanie Ransom and Mick D’Arcy for their service and dedication. Conferences will update their RAC representatives this summer.

14. **Future meeting dates.** The annual meeting will be January 29-30, 2018.

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Committee Chair: Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University; Atlantic 10 Conference  
Staff Liaison: Mary Berdo, Championships and Alliances

| Division I Women’s Soccer Committee  
January 30-31, 2017, Meeting |
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mick D’Arcy, Central Connecticut State University; Northeast Conference.</td>
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<td>Tony da Luz, Wake Forest University; Atlantic Coast Conference.</td>
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<td>Shawn Farrell, Seattle University; Western Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Karen Hancock, Oklahoma State University; Big 12 Conference (via teleconference).</td>
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<td>John McElwain, Sun Belt Conference.</td>
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<td>Foti Mellis, University of California, Berkeley; Pac-12 Conference.</td>
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<td>Chad Miller, Western Carolina University; Southern Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Oberle, Saint Louis University; Atlantic 10 Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Rayfield, University of Illinois, Champaign; Big Ten Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Absentees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Ransom, University of Georgia; Southeastern Conference.</td>
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<td><strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Cigich, NCAA Coordinator of Officials.</td>
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<td>Rob Kehoe, National Soccer Coaches Association of America.</td>
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<td><strong>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<td>Mary Berdo, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td><strong>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashlee Ferguson, Championships and Alliances</td>
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<td>Lauren McLaughlin, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<td>Keith Willard, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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