



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 7-8, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of goals/objectives.** Rhonda Bennett welcomed the committee, and Meredith Cleaver reviewed the schedule for the meeting.
2. **Executive session.** The committee conducted an executive session before continuing the meeting.
3. **Selection weekend information.** Rachel Kay reviewed the schedule and setup for Selection Weekend, which will take place at the Hyatt Indianapolis for the sixth consecutive year.
4. **Officials nomination, selection, assignment and advancement process.** Tina Krahn reported on progress regarding the officiating program. The committee approved a new policy earlier this year that delays the departure of game officials from the first-round site until one hour after the second game concludes to allow second-round assignments to be confirmed. The officials nomination process will close February 14. June Courteau, national coordinator of officiating, and all four of the regional evaluators will travel to Indianapolis to attend a meeting later this month to discuss the officiating pool. Ms. Krahn and Rick Nixon reviewed the pool reporter process for the group when they staff first- and second-round sites.
5. **Championship updates.**
 - a. **Approve 2019 Women's Final Four ticket pricing.** Tracie Hitz reviewed the pricing history for Women's Final Four tickets. The committee approved a \$25 increase to lower bowl seats along the sidelines for 2019.
 - b. **Lap child policy.** Ms. Hitz reviewed research about regular-season institutional policies and conference tournament policies related to ticketing children under two years of age. Most regular-season games allow children under two to enter for free. Conference tournaments are mixed with the policy. All other NCAA championships, except men's and women's basketball, allow children under two for free. The committee did not feel strongly about changing the policy, so it was tabled until further consideration is needed.

- c. **First- and second-round site selection update.** Ms. Cleaver reported on the bid process for non-predetermined first and second rounds. At this time, all teams under consideration for a top 16 ranking have submitted a bid to host.
 - d. **Championship policies.** Ms. Kay reviewed a list of policies and changes for the 2018 championship to prepare the committee for March.
 - e. **Committee hospitality at Women's Final Four.** Daress McClung reviewed a list of hospitality opportunities for the women's basketball committee.
6. **Broadcast update.**
 - a. **Feedback on first two top 16 announcements.** Natalie Steger asked for feedback on ESPN's reveal of the committee's first two public top 16 rankings. The feedback was very positive, particularly for the first reveal.
 - b. **Selection weekend access.** Ms. Steger reviewed some of the access ESPN is requesting for selection weekend. ESPN is entertaining the possibility of podcasts during the weekend and pulling the committee chair from the meeting for updates.
7. **March travel assignments.** Ms. Cleaver reviewed travel options and preferences for the committee during the championship.
8. **Review of February regional advisory committee reports/rankings.** Mr. Nixon reviewed the most recent reports from the regional advisory committee rankings and noted moves from the previous month. The committee noted the next series of calls is scheduled for February 26.
9. **Team discussion.** Committee members reported results on games thus far involving their assigned teams and conferences.
10. **Technology review and balloting exercise.** Ms. Cleaver ran a mock balloting exercise to familiarize the committee with the technology used during the March selection meeting.
11. **Teamworks training.** Faryn Roy, the account representative from Teamworks Online, joined the meeting and conducted a review to demonstrate the capabilities and framework of the Teamworks software and mobile app.
12. **Future meetings and teleconferences.** Ms. Cleaver reviewed the schedule of teleconferences and meetings for the committee through the fall.
13. **Other business.**

- Dan Gavitt joined the meeting and gave the committee some background regarding men’s basketball’s work with Google and KPI on evaluating metrics. The men’s group had six years of game data analyzed before deciding to visually rearrange their team sheets. The group emphasized how adjustments in men’s basketball may impact women’s basketball. Mr. Gavitt offered sessions with Google and KPI for the committee’s summer meeting to begin considering data-driven shifts in metrics for the women’s game.

14. **Adjournment.** Ms. Bennett adjourned the meeting.

Committee Chair: Rhonda Bennett, University of Nevada, Reno; Mountain West Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Lynn Holzman, Championships and Alliances
Meredith Cleaver, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Committee February 7-8, 2018, Meeting
Attendees:
Ceal Barry, University of Colorado, Boulder; Pac-12 Conference.
Rhonda Bennett, University of Nevada, Reno; Mountain West Conference.
Jill Bodensteiner, University of Notre Dame; Atlantic Coast Conference.
DeJuena Chizer, University of Houston; American Athletic Conference.
Leslie Claybrook, Southeastern Conference.
Jeff Konya, Northeastern University; Colonial Athletic Association.
Teresa Phillips, Tennessee State University; Ohio Valley Conference.
Debbie Richardson, Atlantic 10 Conference.
Tamica Smith Jones, University of California, Riverside; Big West Conference.
Diane Turnham, Middle Tennessee State University; Conference USA.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Mitch Heath, Teamworks Online.
Christina Myers, Extern.
Faryn Roy, Teamworks Online.
Chelsea Wilson, Extern.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Andrea Gaither, Tracie Hitz, Rachel Kay, Tina Krah, Daress McClung, Rick Nixon, Gabrielle Nottage and Natalie Steger.