KEY ITEMS.

- None.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- Automatic qualification.
  
  a. **Recommendation.** That the following 10 conferences be approved for automatic qualification for the 2017 NCAA Division I Field Hockey Championship: America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Big East Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mid-American Conference; and Patriot League.

  b. **Effective date.** 2017 championship.

  c. **Rationale.** All the conferences have met requirements to receive automatic qualification.

  d. **Estimated budget impact.** None.

  e. **Student-athlete impact.** None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **2016 meeting report.** The committee reviewed the 2016 committee report and made no adjustments.

2. **Division I Council/Competition Oversight Committee actions from past year.** The committee reviewed several recent championships business items. The review prompted discussion about the field hockey bracket size and consideration for expansion. As competitive
parity increases for the sport, there is interest to expand the bracket to 20 teams. Currently, 18
teams are in the field, including those competing in play-in games. The committee understands
that budgetary consideration and sport sponsorship growth are key factors in bracket expansion
decisions. The committee discussed hosting the play-in games at the sites of first- and second-
round competition to minimize time away from campus and reduce travel expense. The cost-
saving measure would help offset the expense of adding teams to the field. The committee
agreed to explore the concept further and welcomes input from the Competition Oversight
Committee.

3. 2016 championship review.

a. Bracket. The committee reviewed the 2016 championship bracket composition.

b. Selection show. Survey responses from student-athletes and coaches participating int he
championship indicated limited satisfaction with the selection show. The committee also
recommended that the top team (or host institution if not the top team) of each four-team
pod be announced first to specify the host institution. Further, the host institutions for the
play-in games also should be announced.

c. Play-ins, and first and second rounds.

   (1) Evaluations. The committee agreed to relay host-specific feedback as gathered through
   the championship survey to the host institutions (e.g., distance of hotel
   accommodations to facility).

   (2) Planning call with site representatives. The committee agreed to include all
   preliminary-round tournament directors in the planning call with site representatives in
   future years. This will improve host preparation and establish better communication
   among the national office, tournament directors and site representatives.

d. Finals site. The committee reviewed all aspects of the final championship site. As the
survey results confirmed, Old Dominion University provided a first-rate experience for the
student-athletes and coaches. The committee agreed that the speaker was a highlight of the
championship banquet and encouraged a similar quality of speaker for future
championships. Opportunities for improvement include a more spacious press conference
setup, better management of the champion team and fans for the awards ceremony, and
enhanced setup of the Family Gathering Place (tent) so that it has monitors to show a loop
of the championship video and is positioned to allow a view of playing field. The
committee also asked NCAA staff to explore the potential to incorporate interactive
displays and elements (e.g., skill demonstration, team autograph signings) to benefit fans.
The committee also strongly recommended that four separate full-service hotel properties of comparable quality be provided for future championships. When fewer than four are available, hotel assignment should be based on the order of the top four seeds in the championship, or the institution representing the pod if the seed does not progress in the championship. Teams that are paired in the semifinals will be assigned to separate hotel properties.

The committee also fielded suggestions from coaches and agreed to designate a Most Outstanding Player from those selected to the all-tournament team. The committee also discussed a proposal to use a yellow ball throughout the championship (as is done in the case of limited field visibility), but did not support a change.

e. **Misconduct review.** The committee agreed to issue private letters of reprimand to a student-athlete for publically criticizing championship officials and to the head coach for failure to adequately respond to the public nature of the criticism.

f. **Selection criteria.** The committee noted that the Division I National Field Hockey Coaches Association has formed a subcommittee to study the selection criteria and develop concepts for future consideration.

4. **2017 action plan.**

a. **Uniform colors.** The committee agreed to require participating teams to submit colors of uniform jersey, kilt, socks and goalie jersey to the games committee for each round of the championship. In turn, umpires will review the selected colors to ensure adequate contrast between the two competing teams. The committee suggested that teams be notified of any issue with the colors by Monday before the play-in games, Wednesday before the first- and second-round games, and Tuesday before the semifinals and final.

b. **Participant medallions.** The committee agreed to increase the number of participant medallions provided to 24 (versus 22). An increase to 24 recognizes all student-athletes allowed to participate in uniform as part of the squad size throughout the championship. Participating teams receive participant medallions ($11 per medallion) if they exit the championship before the semifinals. The increase will eliminate confusion and recognize student-athletes who are already fundamentally incorporated into the championship experience. The total cost associated with these awards is $308.

c. **Video replay.** The committee will allow first- and second-round competition sites to utilize video replay if the host is equipped to do so with experienced personnel. Video replay capabilities have become commonplace during postseason competition in several conferences. The championship finals site is equipped with video replay through the web stream setup and production.
The recent requirement to web stream preliminary-round championship competition will further expand host capabilities. Prospective hosts will be asked to outline video replay capabilities in the facility questionnaire; however, an inability to provide video replay will not exclude an institution from host consideration. The committee acknowledges that one first- and second-round site may have video replay while another does not, but views the setup at each site as independent from the others (i.e., the teams at the respective sites are competing under the same circumstances as the opponent). The Division I body of the National Field Hockey Coaches Association strongly supports adding video replay to the preliminary rounds of the championship.

Allowing video replay will also equip umpires with another tool allowed through the playing rules to improve the game officiating. Stoppages for video replay will extend the length of the game, but not to an extent that has a material impact to outweigh the benefits.

d. **Committee and staff responsibilities.** The committee reviewed the worksheet outlining the committee responsibilities at the finals site and made no changes.

e. **Umpires.** The committee expressed a greater interest in reviewing the pool of umpires being considered for championship selections before assignments are made.

f. **Stick checks at finals site.** The committee agreed to eliminate all stick checks from the championship to remain consistent with the sport rules modifications.

g. **Video review.** Refer to Nonlegislative Action Item No. 2-c. In addition, the committee agreed to consider the implementation of minimum standards for video replay setup.

h. **Manuals.** The committee divided the review of the committee policies and procedures manual, the pre-championships manual, the tournament operations manual and the site representative manual and will ask staff to update them as necessary. The committee asked staff to incorporate the National Field Hockey Coaches Association film exchange protocol in the tournament operations and documents communicated to the participating teams at the time of selections.

i. **Committee calendar.** The committee reviewed and approved the updated 2017 calendar.

5. **2018-21 site selections.** The committee evaluated submitted bid materials and developed host site selection recommendations for the 2018 to 2021 championships.

6. **Sport committee update.**
a. Committee composition. The committee thanked Jason Simms, outgoing committee member and chair, for his dedication and service to the championship. The committee also offered input on the committee replacement as requested by the Division I Nominating Committee.

b. Committee chair. The committee agreed that Jamie Mullin, senior associate athletics director at Syracuse University, serve as chair of the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee for 2017-18 and 2018-19. In addition, Chad Dwyer, associate commissioner at America East Conference, will serve as chair in 2019-20.

c. Regional advisory committee. Conference offices will assign replacement members for the regional advisory committees. NCAA staff will coordinate a timeline for filling those vacancies. The committee also asked for guidance on how to manage conference representation when a conference is represented in more than one region.

7. Injury report. NCAA staff will find out whether the Datalys Center report can be shared with team physicians.

8. Other business.

- ACC communication. The committee reviewed a request from the Atlantic Coast Conference to expand the championship bench size. NCAA staff will request more input from the conference, including a suggested increase and any recommended limitations for the bench area (e.g., limit non-athlete personnel).
**NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:**
Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Championships and Alliances.
Liz Turner Suscha, Championships and Alliances.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**
None.