ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items.
   - Automatic qualification.
     a. Recommendation. That the following 13 conferences be approved for automatic qualification (AQ) for the 2017 NCAA Division I Women’s Lacrosse Championship:

        America East Conference; Atlantic 10 Conference; Atlantic Coast Conference; Atlantic Sun Conference; Big East Conference; Big South Conference; Big Ten Conference; Colonial Athletic Association; The Ivy League; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation; Northeast Conference; and Patriot League.

     b. Effective date. 2017 championship.

     c. Rationale. All the conferences have met requirements to receive automatic qualification; however, the committee is recommending the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation for one more year as it had been previously misidentified as a qualified conference. Because of the potential impact on student-athlete well-being, the committee supports one more year; however, the conference understands that it is no longer eligible for an AQ after 2016-17.

     d. Estimated budget impact. None.

     e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Approval of 2015 meeting report. The committee reviewed and approved the report from last year’s annual meeting.

   a. Evaluations. Teams provided negative feedback on hotels that a couple of sites selected.
Additionally, bid materials will reflect that rooms need to be held beginning Wednesday night prior to first-round competition.

b. **Misconduct review.** The committee agreed to send an inquiry letter to an institution that left a team locker room in poor condition after its game. The committee will determine final action once a response is received.

c. **Hotel accommodations.** The committee continues to feel strongly that hotel accommodations should be 30 miles or less from the competition venue. Graduation ceremonies falling on the same weekend as preliminary-round competition has made it challenging for some institutions to reserve the necessary rooms. NCAA staff will review hotel accommodations outlined on an institution’s bid to ensure hotels fall within the desired range.

3. **2016 championship review – finals**

a. **Evaluations.** Despite a low response rate, the feedback provided cited Talen Energy Stadium, Saint Joseph’s University and the city of Philadelphia as hospitable hosts.

b. **ESPN.** The ratings remained the same from last year for the championship game on ESPNU. The committee felt that changing the game time from 8:30 p.m. to noon enhanced the student-athlete experience.

c. **Banquet.** Participants again appreciated the banquet being held with the Division I Men’s Lacrosse Championship participants. The Franklin Institute provided a unique backdrop, and the teams enjoyed the exceptional experience the museum was able to provide.

d. **Game times.** The 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. slots on Friday night for the semifinals continue to be a great option. The change to a noon championship game was also perceived as positive by the participating teams and the committee. The committee desires staying between noon and 3 p.m. for the championship game next year.

e. **Awards presentation.** The committee continues to support the national runner-up exiting the field after the championship game and the national champion receiving its awards on the field after the game. Participating teams support this as well.

f. **Talen Energy Stadium feedback.** Hosting the championship for a second year at Talen Energy Stadium provided consistency for all parties. The staff was exceptional and provided a first-class experience to teams and fans alike.

4. **Selection weekend.**

a. **Selection criteria.** The committee wants to explore a possible bonus/penalty structure for
home, road and neutral games. This structure could possibly replace the significant wins and losses criteria. NCAA staff will run a mock Rating Percentage Index (RPI) factoring in a bonus/penalty structure and report back to the committee on findings. Should the committee support such a structure, feedback will be requested at the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association meeting in November.

b. RPI. No changes were recommended to the RPI system other than the exploration noted in Item 4a. above.

c. Timing of conference tournaments. The committee recommends asking conferences to play their championship game on Saturday in order to provide more time for discussion prior to selections ending.

d. Regional bracketing. The committee discussed ways to ensure optimum integrity for the bracket within existing parameters that limit the number of flights.

e. Release of rankings. The committee discussed releasing a top eight the last two weeks of the season before selections. The committee agreed to discuss this next spring before the first ranking call to determine whether this would create some interest pre-championship.

5. Strategic planning and future initiatives.

a. Sponsorship and conference affiliation. The committee reviewed changes regarding conference re-alignment and sport sponsorship for 2016-17. NCAA staff will update the various sponsorship documents.

b. 2017 championship. Campbell University and the Town of Cary will host the women’s lacrosse championship for the first time. The committee noted the importance of having Campbell and Cary staff on-site in Philadelphia to obtain first-hand experience in hosting the championship. A site visit will be scheduled later this year.

c. Mountain Pacific Sports Federation appeal. The committee supported the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation’s (MPSF) appeal to receive automatic qualification for the 2017 championship. The committee noted in its report to the Competition Oversight Committee that the MPSF is no longer eligible for AQ consideration after 2017 (see Nonlegislative Item 2) and will inform the MPSF once a response is received.

d. Future bids/combined championship. The committee discussed possible hosts for the 2018-22 bid cycle. NCAA staff and committee members will contact the various institutions to gauge possible interest. The committee is not opposed to future combined championships options in the future.
e. **Bracket expansion.** The committee reviewed the access ratios for all Division I team sports. Women’s lacrosse provides the highest access (1:4.27) for a women’s championship and is the fourth best overall. However, bracket expansion discussion will likely not be feasible until sponsorship grows by another 40-50 programs.

6. **Officials.**

a. **Selection and assigning process.** National Coordinator of Officials Melissa Coyne detailed the selection and assigning process. She relied on conference assigners for evaluation of officials in their areas. Additionally, she used two officials new to Division I in first- and second-round games and used four officials at the finals site who had never worked a national semifinal. Assigning qualified, new officials to the tournament supports the committee’s charge.

b. **Postseason requirements.** The committee recommended incorporating the fitness test into the requirements, as well as not allowing officials who have a daughter competing in the Division I tournament to officiate a game at any site.

c. **Evaluations.** Officials evaluations were positive overall at all rounds of the championship.

d. **Report from the national coordinator.** Ms. Coyne reported on her year in review. The committee applauded her for the work she did and looks forward to working with her next season.

e. **Use of fourth official.** The committee discussed the use of the fourth official (table official) during the tournament, as this is not a practice used during the regular season. The committee is concerned, however, with the behavior that some coaches exhibited toward the fourth official during the 2016 semifinals and final and recommends that only head coaches be allowed to approach and talk with the fourth official. Additionally, the committee would like the women’s lacrosse rules committee to discuss the rule in place regarding team designees being able to discuss calls with the officials.

7. **Playing rules update.** Staff reviewed a rule change for 2016-17 and shared positive feedback from surveys regarding the rules changes this past year.

8. **Corporate relations.** Staff reviewed activation strategies at various championships throughout the year. The committee asked staff to explore whether a fan interaction zone can be implemented at the finals site that would appeal to families with children.

9. **Regional advisory committee (RAC) replacements and committee chair.** The committee noted one change to the RAC for the 2016-17 season. NCAA staff will reach out to the appropriate conference this fall for a replacement. The committee voted Janna Blais, deputy
director of athletics at Northwestern University, as chair for the 2016-17 season and applauded John Sung for his efforts as chair this past season.

10. **Review of manuals and timeline.** NCAA staff will make appropriate updates to the various manuals used for the championship.

11. **Future meeting dates.** The 2017 meeting will be held June 12-13 in Indianapolis.

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**Committee Chair:** John Sung, Winthrop University; Big South Conference  
**Staff Liaison:** Mary Berdo, Championships and Alliances

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<tr>
<th>Division I Women’s Lacrosse Committee</th>
<th>June 13-14, 2016, Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Janna Blais, Northwestern University; Big Ten Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Bokker, Stanford University; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela McMahon, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Atlantic 10 Conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alanna Shanahan, University of Pennsylvania; Ivy League.</td>
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<td>Scott Straismeier, U.S. Naval Academy; Patriot League.</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Sung, Winthrop University; Big South Conference.</td>
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<td><strong>Absentees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>None.</td>
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<td><strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Coyne, NCAA Coordinator of Officials (via teleconference).</td>
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<td><strong>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<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>Jacquelyn Endsley, Championships and Alliances</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Willard, Championships and Alliances.</td>
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