ACTION ITEMS.

• None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

• NCAA Proposal No. 2015-66 – Academic Misconduct. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics reviewed feedback on the proposal following the committee’s February 1-2, 2016, meeting. The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions recommended modifications to the proposal that were largely editorial in nature or were more expansive than editorial revisions but had been previously considered by the Committee on Academics during its multiyear legislative drafting process. The Committee on Academics reviewed the recommended modifications and noted that the more expansive recommended modifications were contrary to the majority of membership feedback and the committee position through the course of the review. The Committee on Academics, however, agreed with the Committee on Infractions that the proposal should be enhanced with the following editorial revisions:

a. The title of the bylaw defining an impermissible academic assistance violation should be amended to specify that the bylaw applies to impermissible academic assistance by institutional staff members or representatives of the institution’s athletics interests.

b. Language in the proposal that the established policies under which an institution is to investigate and adjudicate alleged academic misconduct be “applicable to all students” should be removed. The Committee on Academics concurred with the Committee on Infractions that “applicable to all students” could be misinterpreted to mean that an institution is required to follow its own academic misconduct policies and procedures only when a student-athlete is involved.

In addition, consistent with the core principles established by the committee to guide the misconduct review, the Committee on Academics agreed with the Committee on Infractions that a spectrum of level of penalties should apply to academic misconduct and impermissible academic assistance violations in light of the varying nature of these types of violations. Specifically, the Committee on Academics recognized that the leveling of penalties is not within the scope of its responsibilities, but recommended that the Committee on Infractions and NCAA Division I Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement should review any applicable leveling approach to academic misconduct penalties and the legislation, including potentially acknowledging when an institution has an NCAA violation but handles the situation appropriately.
The Committee on Academics also discussed feedback received from the membership during three educational webinars held in March. The webinars focused on educating institutions on the application of the legislation through case studies. The committee noted that more than 500 members participated in the webinars and that the membership favored the proposal to the current state. Pursuant to membership feedback, the committee agreed that the NCAA Division I Manual should incorporate the legislative flowchart used to educate institutions during the webinars into the Manual to serve as a resource to assist the membership in understanding the application of the legislation (Attachment).

Committee Chair: Roderick McDavis, Ohio University, Mid-American Conference
Staff Liaisons: Shauna Cobb, Academic and Membership Affairs
Azure Davey, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Committee on Academics
March 24, 2016, Teleconference

Attendees:
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University; Missouri Valley Conference.
Jerry Bovee, Weber State University; Big Sky Conference.
Tom Burman, University of Wyoming; Mountain West Conference.
Carolyn Callahan, University of Virginia; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Raymond Harrison, Jr., Texas A&M University, College Station; Southeastern Conference.
Rhonda Hatcher, Texas Christian University; Big 12 Conference.
Roderick McDavis, Ohio University; Mid-American Conference.
Thomas Yeager, Colonial Athletic Association.
Kurt Zorn, Indiana University, Bloomington; Big Ten Conference.

Absentees:
Carray Banks, Jr., Norfolk State University; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College; The Ivy League.
Greg Burke, Northwestern State University; Southland Conference.
David Clough, University of Colorado, Boulder; Pac-12 Conference.
Beth DeBauche, Ohio Valley Conference.
John DeGioia, Georgetown University; Big East Conference.
Pamela Eibeck, University of the Pacific; West Coast Conference.
Brandon Martin, California State University, Northridge; Big West Conference.
Frank Messina, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Conference USA.
Renae Myles, Alabama A&M University; Southwestern Athletic Conference.
Abigail Stefanides, Lafayette College; Patriot League.

NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Azure Davey.

Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Emily Capehart, Andy Cardamone, Jennifer Henderson, Ken Kleppel, Steve Mallonee, Naima Stevenson, Katherine Sulentic.