



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III
SPORTSMANSHIP AND GAME ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP
OCTOBER 20, 2016, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Item.

- **Development of Game Environment Training Program and Division III Service Standards.**

- (1) Recommendation. To approve the development of an online game environment training program and Division III service standards in conjunction with the Disney Institute.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. The program's primary goal is to create and sustain championship-level decorum and game environments at all Division III institutions.

The program's three primary benefits for the Division III membership will be:

- (a) A five-module online training program designed for each institution to evaluate, learn and improve on its game environment and customer service standards.
- (b) Division III game service standards that will define the proper environment at Division III for all regular season and championships athletics contests.
- (c) Tool kits and training through the Disney Institute that will ensure that the game standards are understood and able to be carried out for institutions at all resource levels.

In addition to an introductory section, the primary learning modules of the online program will be: an institutional self-assessment tool; Division III game service standards; tools for assistance with conflict resolution and bystander intervention; and a template to create an institutional action plan to institute positive change where needed. The online program will also integrate input and tools created by the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

- (4) Budget Impact. For the current year's budget, the working group is requesting to use \$500,000 during the 2016-17 year to develop an online training program in conjunction with the Disney Institute. This request represents \$450,000 of new dollars, as \$50,000 was previously budgeted for this initiative during 2016-17. In addition, \$50,000 was allocated in 2015-16 but was unused as the working group continued to study the most beneficial outcome for its efforts.

For future years' budgets, the working group also is requesting that \$250,000 annually be allocated for sportsmanship programming in both 2017-18 and 2018-19. This amount will allow the division to conduct one national and one regional sportsmanship summit each year.

The work of the Disney Institute is further defined in Attachment.

- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Consistent Division III game service standards that will define the proper environment at Division III for all regular season and championship athletics contests.

2. Nonlegislative Item.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Review and approval of June 30, 2016, teleconference report.** The working group reviewed and approved the report from its June 30, 2016, teleconference.
- 2. Update and discussion on building program modules.** The working group discussed the Disney Institute's proposal and developed the recommendation noted above. The Disney Institute built its proposal from work it had previously done with the National Basketball Association (NBA) and is paying special attention to the small campus, and often low-resource, aspects of Division III game environments. The working group looked at the proposed timeline for development of the module and saw no problems. The Disney Institute final work product would be used in building modules Two, Three and Four. In the development stage, the Disney Institute is committing to conducting two "discovery visits" on Division III campuses; teaching its philosophy to a group of staff and working group members at Walt Disney World Report; meeting in Indianapolis to develop common service standards specific to Division III; and holding an ambassador engagement session at Walt Disney World Report that would bring together leaders from all of Division III conferences.

Besides developing an introductory module, the working group noted a need to focus some of its own energies on module five (an institutional action plan). When discussing the need for additional research within the introductory module, the working groups decided that institutions already understand the importance of this topic and no extensive background research is needed. Finally, when discussing the possibility of partnering with Divisions I or II on the initial build of the program, the working group felt that focusing on a Division III specific effort allows for the standards and tools to be more focused on small campuses.

3. **Discuss content for Division III Sportsmanship webpage.** The working group discussed creating a Division III sportsmanship-specific webpage, and modelling its design on what the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group has recently put together. This new page can house the new RESPECT campaign materials, in addition to information on handling unruly fans and bystander intervention materials. Staff will gather the appropriate resources and create a nonlive webpage as a draft to be shared with the working group for its final approval.
4. **Discuss and agree on timeline for next steps.** The working group agreed to forgo scheduling an additional teleconference in November and plans to conduct its next teleconference as originally scheduled, December 15, 2016, at 2 p.m. Eastern time.
5. **Other business.** A one-page informational flyer, providing an update on the planned training program, will be developed for distribution at the 2017 Convention. Laura Mooney and Tracy King will work together to create a draft.
6. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. Eastern time

Chair: Gary Williams, Wittenberg University, North Coast Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison: Jay Jones, Division III Governance

Attendees:
Erik Bitterbaum, State University of New York at Cortland
Jennifer Jacobs, Augsburg College
Tracy King, Liberty League
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8
Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
Gary Williams, Wittenberg University, chair
Absentees:
Christopher O'Rourke, Becker College
Karen Tompson-Wolfe, Westminster College (MO)
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Jay Jones
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Ben Brownlee and Reed Fogle.