Agenda

• Board of Governors updates.
  o Composition and presidential diversity pledge.

• Sport Science Institute (SSI) strategic plan.
  o Football pre-season practice recommendations.

• 2018 possible convention legislation.

• Division III updates.
  • Budget planning.
  • Championships webcasting enhancements.
Agenda

- Working groups.
  - FAR Engagement; Sportsmanship and Game Environment, Diversity and Inclusion; and LGBTQ.
- Eligibility Center profile page.
- Academic and Membership Affairs (AMA) resources.
- 360 Proof.
- Division III identity initiatives.
Board of Governors (BOG) Updates

• BOG Composition.
  o The BOG completed its multi-year review and discussion related to composition. Ultimately the BOG decided not to make any composition changes at this time.

• Presidential Diversity Pledge.
  o September 2016 – approved pledge and sent to all presidents asking to ensure diverse candidate pool in athletics searches. As of April 2017, 307 Division III schools and 36 voting conferences have signed the pledge.

BOG Composition – after close to three years of review, the BOG voted not to propose a change the BOG’s composition. Currently 16 members – 12 from Division I, 2 from Division 2 and 2 from Division 3.

The issue could return after Division I concludes the on-going review of its governance structure. However, during the review, renamed from Executive Committee to Board of Governors and established a vice-chair position (D2 or D3 if the chair is from D1).

In September 2016, all NCAA presidents and chancellors were encouraged to sign a diversity and inclusion pledge that was recently approved by the BOG. The pledge states the commitment of an institution to pursue and achieve ethnic and racial diversity and gender equity in college sports hiring practices. As of April, 307 Division III institutions and 36 Division III voting conferences have signed the pledge (69% participation). Remaining presidents and chancellors are still encouraged to participate. The BOG’s goal is a 80% participation rate by Sept. 2017.
The SSI has identified nine areas of particular on-going focus. The SSI’s goal is to provide education on these nine areas to improve the health and safety of student-athletes. The nine areas are the following: 1.) mental health; 2.) cardiac health; 3.) concussion; 4.) sexual assault prevention; 5.) doping and substance abuse; 6.) nutrition, sleep and performance; 7.) overuse injuries; 8.) data driven decisions; and 9.) independent medical care.

Recent initiatives include a joint interassociation with the NATA – expect best practices and the creation of an interassociation task force on sleep and wellness in May 2017; the creation and distribution of a substance abuse toolkit this Summer 2017; communicating with designated health care administrators per the Jan. 2017 NCAA Convention legislation; entering the third and final year of the Dept. of Defense (DoD) concussion study in 2017-18; and year-round contact recommendations from the 2nd Football Safety Summit.


Future initiatives include education related to recreational drug use and obtaining more data analytics.

CSMAS has recommended to the Board of Governors (BOG) that all items that fulfill any one of the following standards should be first reviewed by the BOG: 1.) new scientific evidence, 2.) impacts a core NCAA value (e.g. health and safety), 3.) Legal risk, or 4.) reputational risk. In essence, the recommendation would make the BOG a formal endorsing body for relevant CSMAS actions.
In mid-January 2017, the NCAA’s Sport Science Institute released Interassociation Consensus Recommendations on Year-Round Football Practice Contact for College Student-Athletes. The new recommendations update previously published guidelines (June 2014) addressing year-round football practice contact and include additional recommendations for preseason, in season, postseason and spring practice (DI and DII only). These updated recommendations, supported by the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, endorsed by the Division I Football Oversight Committee and 20 other scientific, medical and football organizations, are based on emerging scientific consensus. Key recommendations include:

• Recommendation to discontinue two-a-day practices.
• Recommendation to increase the preseason by one week (beginning one week earlier). This requires a legislative change
• Recommendation to reduce weekly live contact practices (tackling or thud) from four to three.
• Recommendation to ensure three non-contact/minimal contact practices per week.
• Recommendation to ensure non-contact/minimal contact practice the day following a scrimmage.
• Recommendation to add one day per week of no football practice.

The new pre-season recommendations required Division III to take two immediate actions (April Management Council meeting) to allow institutions to more easily comply with the pre-season recommendations.

The Council adopted noncontroversial legislation to eliminate football two-a-day practices from the Division III manual.

Presidents Council approved a one-time blanket waiver to allow athletically related activities, in the sport of football, on the current two legislated administrative days (e.g. issue equipment, team pictures) for the 2017 football preseason. The waiver would account for practice opportunities lost by eliminating traditional “two-a-day” practices per, “Interassociation Consensus: Year-Round Football Practice Contact for College Student-Athletes Recommendations.” While the Council noted concerns with potential budgetary impact and competitive equity related to a waiver to extend the preseason, it recommended the Presidents Council approve a one-time blanket waiver to allow athletically related activities on the first two administrative days for the 2017 football preseason. The waiver would not permit institutions to provide expenses to football student-athletes earlier than is permitted under current legislation. The Council believes this approach does not incur additional costs as football players are on campus, but and it would provide two practice opportunities that were lost with the elimination of traditional two-a-day practices

The Management Council’s Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee has received feedback from the Division III Football Committee related to long-term legislative recommendations. Anticipate a final recommendation in time for the Management Council’s July meeting, which, in turn, will meet the deadline for 2018 proposed legislation. The PPSS is seeking feedback from the membership, CSMAS, national SAAC, commissioners, and the Executive Advisory Group of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).
2018 Possible Convention Legislation

- Football playing and practice seasons.
- Sports wagering.
  - Internet, parlay card or bookie.
  - Doesn’t eliminate prohibition on sports wagering.
- Academic misconduct.
  - Requires academic misconduct policy for the entire student body.
  - Expands academic misconduct language.
- Graduate transfers.

Football playing and practice seasons. Initial parameters include the following:

a. Start 25 dates prior to the first game.

b. Preseason would occur in three phases:
   1.) acclimatization;
   2.) two weeks of practice with one required day off each week (7 day period) and
   3.) a practice week leading up to the first game [it was noted that the Interassociation Consensus Recommendations are different for this week than the two preseason weeks).

c. No two-a-days.

d. Mandated day off every 7 days after the acclimatization week.

e. Opportunity for two scrimmages, joint practices or exhibitions per standardization of contests per legislation adopted at 2017 Convention.

Sports Wagering

- The Management Council agreed to sponsor legislation for the 2018 NCAA Convention.
- Eliminate the legislatively mandated penalty for sports wagering via the internet, parlay card or with a bookmaker and move the penalties to the SAR guidelines.
- Current policy is an automatic one-year suspension and no appeal process.
- If adopted by Division III members at the 2018 Convention, the change would permit the committee to conduct a case-by-case evaluation of such sports wagering violations and would provide student-athletes the opportunity to appeal the committee’s decision, which is consistent with all other reinstatement requests. SAR believes it promotes more fairness.
- This proposal would not eliminate the prohibition on sports wagering, instead its focus is solely on the mandated penalty related to that infraction.

Academic Misconduct

- Adopted by Division 1 two years ago and Division 2 in Jan. 2017
- Would require every school to have an academic misconduct policy for the entire student body.
- Would recognize academic misconduct and impermissible academic assistance violations separately from rules pertaining to extra benefits or unethical conduct.
- Under the current regulatory structure, it can be unclear when academic misconduct involving student-athletes falls within the purview of the NCAA and when academic misconduct should be an institutional matter.

Graduate Transfers

Subcommittee for Legislative Relief reviewed the graduate/postbaccalaureate student transfers guidelines, directives and waivers processed from the past three years. The subcommittee recommended keeping the guidelines and directives as they are currently written and suggested that Division III Management Council have a broader discussion at its April meeting on proposing legislation to allow Division III student-athletes to transfer and pursue a graduate/postbaccalaureate degree at another Division III institution. The Council recommended the subcommittee draft proposed 2018 legislation that would deregulate the current transfer guidelines and allow Division III student-athletes to transfer and pursue a graduate/postbaccalaureate degree at another Division III institution.
Budget Planning Updates

- Planning year for 2017-19 budget biennium cycle, which begins Sept. 1.
  - Additional unanticipated revenue and reduced travel expense forecast.
  - August 2017, membership dues increase – one-year credit.
  - Per diem increases (individual and host).
  - New championship and nonchampionship initiatives.
  - Revised mandated reserve policy.
  - Intentional spend down of surplus reserve.


President and Management Councils approved the following budget recommendations:

There was additional unanticipated revenue from two sources:
1.) approx. $1.2 million from the sale of NCAA equities (realized gains) in the lawsuit settlement of the NCAA and several Division I conferences.
2.) The NCAA adjusted its team transportation forecasting policies, resulting in a $1.3 million savings.

Based on this unanticipated revenue, the following budget initiatives were endorsed by the Council:
1.) a one-year credit for the membership dues increase (savings of $1,100 for schools and $550 for conference offices) in 2017-18.
2.) championship per diems increase to $95 and host per diems will be reinstated at $30 per person in 2017-18.
3.) championship initiatives that include bracket enhancements for several teams sports; track and field participant increases, officiating enhancements, ground transportation reimbursement for teams and individuals that fly to a championship site, increase in travel party size to the 2013-14 levels prior to the 2014 reductions, and several sport specific requests.
4.) nonchampionship initiatives that include a 10% increase for the conference grant program; three additional diversity internships (up to 23 from 20) in 2018-19; increases in the NADIIIAA partnership; and funding of the Disney partnership in relation to the Sportsmanship and Game Environment working group.
5.) SPFC also proposed a slight modification to the division’s mandated budget reserve policy. The change went from a 50% annual reserve, including a $5 million insurance policy, to a 50% annual cash reserve policy, excluding the $5 million insurance policy. The change aligns with the Association’s budget reserve policy.
6.) Finally, SPFC and the Councils are maintaining their commitment to an intentional spend down of the accumulated surplus above and beyond the mandated reserve.

Similar to last year, the 2016-17 budget and the 2015-17 Division III Strategic Plan are posted on the Division III homepage. In Sept., will post the 2017-18 budget fact sheet as well as the 2017-19 strategic plan.
The Management Council endorsed the creation of a working group to research and possibly enhance the engagement of FARs. The working group will consist of FARs, athletics directors, commissioners and other key constituent groups. Outcomes may include conducting a survey of current Division III FARs, developing a best practices resource, and collaboration with commissioners.

FAR working group talking points
- The FARA Executive Committee is represented on the working group by Kurt Beron and Dennis Leighton (Management Council member).
- The working group created subgroups to address FAR engagement at each level — national, conference, campus.
- Campus Level: Work continues on the development of specific engagement-related questions that will be embedded in the national FARA Survey. This survey is scheduled for a late Spring release and will go to each DIII FAR. Historically, this survey has garnered more than a 50% response rate. The Working Group will promote participation in the survey to push that rate even higher. The questions will seek to learn about campus-level engagement as well as the reality and perceptions of conference and national level engagement.
- Conference Level: Data collection is ongoing. We’ve collected constitution/bylaws from 35 of 42 conferences. This will help the Working Group to learn more about the role of FAR’s in conference governance and activities. This will be followed-up with a survey to conference commissioners to learn more about their perceptions of how these structures (or lack thereof) serve the conference membership.
- National Level: Mike Miranda is compiling a report of national level engagement by FARs. This largely comes from attendance records at the national convention, the annual FARA meeting and the DIII FAR Institute.
- The Work Teams will review the findings from these data collections, compile reports and determine next steps throughout the remainder of 2017.
- A status report is planned for the national convention in January.
The Division III Sportsmanship and Game Environment Working Group has worked with the Disney Institute to create Division III Game Environment standards. The program is known as “Gameday the DIII Way”.

The program will culminate in training that takes 1 ½ hours to complete and will be offered through online and in-person delivery methods. The goal of the training is to develop Division III specific game environment standards and provide tools focused on improving parental and fan behavior. There is an informational flyer about this exciting project, which is expected to be launched in fall 2017.

In addition, the working group launched a Division III specific webpage. Watch this page for continued updates and timelines on the Disney Institute project as well as other sportsmanship information and tools.
Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

- New Division III Diversity and Inclusion Webpage.
- Diversity and Inclusion Working Group’s Initiatives:
  - Request presidents be champions of change.
  - Senior women administrators (SWA) professional development program. (October 2017)
  - Conference grants for diversity. ($2,500/conference)
  - January 2017, released the “Diverse Workforce”, a guide to assist schools in diversifying athletics searches.
  - Division III Student Immersion Program [42 participants attended the 2017 Convention]. Participants invited to attend Career in Sports Forum.

The Division III Diversity and Inclusion Working Group’s overarching goal is to have presidents and vice presidents/athletic direct reports (ADRs) be champions of change.

Two new initiatives in 2016-17 – SWA professional development program and diversity grants of $2,500 for conference offices (programming or internships) will continue in 2017-18.

The last three years, the turnover of athletics director positions has averaged 70 per year, but new hires have reflected the same demographic, which is primarily white males. The working group collaborated with the NCAA’s Office of Inclusion in the development of a hiring best practices resource, “The Diverse Workforce: Recruitment and Retention Basics for Division III Athletics Departments”. The resource offers best practices and other suggestions to make diversity a priority in seeking, selecting and retaining high-performing athletics administrators and coaches.

Division III Student Immersion Program. For the second year, the division funded 42 Division III ethnic minority students to attend the 2017 NCAA Convention. At the Convention, the students were paired with mentors and exposed to Division III, its members and its governance process. The program’s goal is to build the pipeline in an effort to ultimately diversify the administrative landscape in Division III.

As a companion piece, Student Immersion Program participants, interested in furthering their career in athletics, are invited to attend the NCAA’s Career in Sports Forum and a day of Division III specific programming. The program is called Career Next Steps and 18 student immersion participants will be attending May 31-June 4 in Indianapolis.
In the fall of 2016, the Management Council endorsed a proposal to establish a working group to address LGBTQ issues. The working group’s charge is to examine the current and potential programming, resources, and recognition of the LGBTQ community and its allies in Division III, and increase the engagement and collaboration at the institutional, conference and national levels. The first teleconference is scheduled for early February.

Five Ways to Have an LGBTQ-Inclusive-Athletics Department. This resource serves as a guide to ensure athletics departments are providing an environment that is inclusive of all student-athletes, especially those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or questioning. Included in the resource are samples of policies and codes of conduct; additional resources for coaches, players and staff; and LGBTQ inclusion training best practices.

Status report at the 2018 NCAA Convention.
The NCAA Eligibility Center (EC) has created a new free registration process for Division III prospective student-athletes (PSAs).

- The new free Profile Page provides PSAs (and current student-athletes) with information on the recruiting process and an NCAA ID number.
- Allows compliance officers to more easily use the NCAA’s free, on-line compliance forms.
- Staff has begun an intensive educational plan to educate the membership on the benefits, which included a series of webinars.

The Eligibility Center’s homepage is one the most viewed pages on NCAA.org. Having Division III now on the homepage is a tremendous advantage to promote our identity. Millions of users go to this homepage.

The new profile page is on the homepage and both prospective and current student-athletes can create a free profile to obtain an NCAA ID number.

Webinars, three total, held in April and May to explain how to have prospective and current student-athletes create a free profile page as well as how to use the NCAA free, online compliance forms. In 2016-17, approx. 80 of the 450 Division III schools used the free, on-line forms. Benefits to using the forms include:

1. Less paperwork (all electronic)
3. Easier roll over from year to year.
5. Easier submittal of student-athlete waivers. All waivers require an NCAA ID number
6. Ability to export data from recruiting services (e.g. Frontrush)
7. FREE

Institutions are not required to have students create a free, profile page with the Eligibility Center or use the NCAA free, online forms.
NCAA staff created an athletics recruiting quick reference guide. The guide includes quick references regarding allowable contacts, campus visits and social media guidelines. Other resources include a one-page reference detailing how to seek help with interpretative questions and waivers and a video detailing step by step instructions on how to use Request for Self Report Online (RSRO). The reference is available on NCAA.org.
Recently completed the second year of the pilot phase with approximately 36 schools participating. The overall goals include the following:

To reduce the consequences of alcohol use and enhance student success;
Achieve campus collaboration and integration; and
Build a model that can be expanded to other well-being issues and other institutions.

The collaborative will include three main elements, offered via a web portal, and accompanied by a training and implementation program and a branding and promotional effort. The three main elements of the program include:

A Personalized Feedback Inventory, which is an on-line survey instrument that provides feedback to students about their behavior and that of their peers. Immediately after completing a survey that includes questions about reasons for drinking, perceived norms, and drinking behavior, students receive feedback detailing their own drinking behavior, their perceptions of typical student drinking, and actual typical student drinking. This mechanism has been empirically shown to reduce the negative consequences of alcohol use by college students.

A campus assessment, which is a self-study instrument designed to help institutions assess where improvements can be made in the areas of policy, enforcement, education and prevention/intervention programs.

A best practices tool, which will include information from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) about the empirically proven levels of effectiveness of different intervention strategies.

360 Proof program launched in January of 2015 at the NCAA Convention. Currently 197 registered users.
Division III Week. The sixth annual celebration of Division III Week was April 3-9, 2017. 73% of the division participated in D3 Week – 322 institutions and 39 conference offices – up from 69% last year. Next year’s Division III week will be April 2-8.

Education and Promotion. With the identity activation now in its sixth year, the focus remains on high school guidance counselors, coaches and club coaches. In April, the NCAA updated its two-page recruiting resource detailing the differences among the divisions. It is housed in a prominent location on the Eligibility Center’s website.

Purchasing Website. On September 12, a new $500 credit was provided for each Division III member school (including provisional members), multisport conference and single-sport conference to purchase items on the Division III Purchasing Website. The credit ends August 31. Use the money to buy t-shirts, knit hats, bags, etc... As of mid-April 38% of our member institutions and conferences used the credit.

Social Media. From January to April we have increased our Twitter followers from 35,696 to 37,944. Just within the month of March, there was an audience growth of 706 new followers on Facebook. There are currently just over 25,000 Facebook friends. Since the start of 2017 our YouTube page maintains an average view time of 1:40 (1 minute, 40 seconds).

Championship webcasting. After membership feedback, staff made the following webcasting enhancements for the 2016-17 championships:

Division III player brand (e.g., Division III branding frame around the webcast).  
On-site announcers for all championships.  
A fourth camera for select championships.

All championship enhancements are funded through the Identity Initiative.

D3SIDA recognition. A partnership between Division III and D3SIDA (sports information directors) that recognizes outstanding written or video work three times a year. The winning submission receives a $1,500 grant to attend the CoSIDA Convention, including Division III Day. Our two recipients thus far were from Alfred University and Hiram College.

Special Olympics. As of April, 52 institutions and four conferences have reported a Special Olympics engagement prior to Division III Week.
Questions