

The 2013 NCAA Division III Conference Commissioners Survey Initial Report – May 16, 2013

The survey provided Division III conference commissioners with an opportunity to express their opinions concerning the current and future policies and priorities of Division III. The responses will help the Presidents Council, Management Council, Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, and the other governance committees assess membership satisfaction with existing Division III principles, legislative standards, programs and services.

Respondents were asked to complete the survey based on their unique perspective as a conference commissioner. They were not expected to poll their conference members to arrive at a response.

A total of 40 Division III conference commissioners responded for a response rate of 95 percent.

SECTIONS

- I. Current Perceptions
- II. Strategic Positioning Platform and Current Identity Initiatives
- III. Recruiting and Enrollment of Student-Athletes
- IV. Financial Aid
- V. Academic Performance and Continuing Eligibility
- VI. Sports Sponsorship and Membership
- VII. Presidential Leadership
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I. Current Perceptions

The following questions were designed to address the commissioner's current state of satisfaction with Division III.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. There is an appropriate opportunity for student-athletes to pursue academics, athletics and other interests.	28%	70%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2. Athletics participation is just as valuable to student development as any other co-curricular activity promoting comprehensive learning.	65%	28%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%
3. Division III encourages participation by maximizing the number and variety of sport offerings for their students through broad-based athletics programs.	33%	50%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4. A commitment to sport equity (e.g., equal treatment of all sports in areas such as finance, staffing, facilities, recruiting and scheduling) should be a key component of any Division III athletics department mission.	53%	38%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%
5. A policy to prioritize certain sports ahead of others in areas such as finance, staffing, facilities, recruiting and scheduling is not appropriate.	40%	25%	20%	13%	0%	0%	3%
6. Current Division III legislative standards are consistent with our conference's perspective on intercollegiate athletics.	13%	53%	33%	3%	0%	0%	0%
7. Division III legislative standards should generally become less permissive and more restrictive (e.g., reduce the number of permissible contests).	8%	13%	15%	23%	20%	13%	10%
8. Division III legislative standards should generally become more permissive and less restrictive (e.g., increase the number of permissible contests).	0%	0%	20%	23%	23%	28%	8%
9. Generally, current Division III legislative standards are appropriate.	8%	55%	30%	8%	0%	0%	0%

II. Strategic Positioning Platform and Current Identity Initiatives

As reflected in the Division III Strategic Positioning Platform, the Division III experience is intended to enable student-athletes to follow their passions and develop their potential both academically and athletically. The Division III experience provides for participation in a competitive athletic environment, where student-athletes push themselves to excellence and build upon their academic success with new challenges and life skills. The following questions were intended to assist in determining: a) if the platform has been effectively communicated and b) the utility of the platform for the commissioner’s conference.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. The Division III Strategic Positioning Platform has been communicated effectively by the national office to member schools.	13%	55%	28%	5%	0%	0%	0%
2. The Division III Strategic Positioning Platform has been communicated effectively by the national office to conference offices.	15%	63%	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3. The Division III Strategic Positioning Platform has been communicated effectively by the national office to external constituents (e.g., media, parents).	5%	20%	25%	20%	15%	0%	15%
4. The Division III Strategic Positioning Platform accurately portrays the reality of athletics in our conference.	18%	53%	28%	0%	3%	0%	0%
5. The Division III Strategic Positioning Platform is a useful tool to help our conference office clarify the values of Division III athletics.	10%	43%	43%	3%	0%	0%	3%

III. Recruiting and Enrollment of Student-Athletes

For many institutions, student-athletes make up an important part of the overall student body (19 percent on average). As such, issues related to recruiting and enrollment continue to be topics of discussion among the Division III membership. In this regard, Division III appointed a 14-person Recruiting Working Group in the fall of 2012 to discuss the challenges that Division III institutions face relative to the Division III recruiting process.

Please note that Divisions I and II have significant recruiting regulations, while Division III has fewer legislative standards in this area. In addition, Divisions I and II are permitted to offer athletically-related financial aid to prospective student-athletes while Division III is not. With this in mind, conference commissioners were asked to indicate their preference concerning current recruiting standards as they relate to Division III. This information will be of great assistance to the Recruiting Working Group as it continues its review of this matter.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. Recruitment of student-athletes is a key component in enrollment management strategies at schools in my conference.	58%	18%	15%	8%	0%	3%	0%
2. Division III should establish further limits on recruiting (e.g. recruiting calendars, more limited off-campus contacts).	10%	18%	30%	20%	15%	5%	3%
3. Division III should establish fewer limits on recruiting (e.g. permitting on-campus tryouts, no limits on the type of contacts, etc.).	8%	5%	20%	33%	18%	13%	5%
4. Division III should pursue greater restrictions for off-campus recruiting in exchange for additional on-campus recruiting opportunities during official and non-official visits.	8%	10%	38%	13%	20%	8%	5%
5. Division III should continue to examine the current recruiting model and its impact on coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) and prospective student-athletes.	38%	33%	18%	8%	3%	3%	0%
6. The current Division III recruiting model negatively impacts the work/life balance for coaches in our conference.	10%	28%	45%	5%	5%	3%	5%

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
7. Admitted student-athletes should fit the general academic profile of all incoming first-year students.	53%	40%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8. Admission policies for student-athletes should be consistent with the general student body.	68%	30%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
9. It is appropriate to admit students based on their athletics participation and/or ability who would not otherwise meet minimum admissions standards.	0%	3%	10%	23%	25%	33%	8%
10. The amateur status of all Division III student-athletes should be confirmed by the NCAA prior to participation (e.g. NCAA Eligibility Center) as is currently done at the Division I and II levels.	10%	13%	10%	13%	30%	15%	10%

IV. Financial Aid

Division III is the only NCAA division that prohibits the awarding of financial aid based on athletics leadership, ability, participation or performance. To ensure adherence to this principle, Division III enacted legislation in 2004 that requires institutions to participate in an annual financial aid reporting program. Each year, all active, provisional and reclassifying members are subject to review by the Financial Aid Committee. During the first seven years of the program, 140 institutions were selected for a Level II review by the committee and 61 of those institutions have been sanctioned to some degree for violations found through the Financial Aid Reporting Program.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. Student financial aid decisions made by the admissions, financial aid departments and other campus units should be entirely independent and free of influence from the athletics department.	68%	30%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2. The current prohibition of considering leadership in athletics (e.g., team captain) in the awarding of financial aid to student-athletes is appropriate.	28%	18%	18%	15%	8%	15%	0%
3. The NCAA provides an appropriate level of education relative to financial aid legislation.	8%	33%	25%	15%	10%	3%	8%
4. The Division III Financial Aid Reporting Program is a useful tool to help institutions assess compliance with NCAA bylaws.	15%	48%	25%	5%	0%	3%	5%

5. *Institutional sanctions beyond those focused on education (e.g. probation) for financial aid violations currently applied as a result of the reporting process are:*

Answer	%
Appropriate	68%
Too strict	5%
Not strict enough	28%

V. Academic Performance and Continuing Eligibility

Division III emphasizes the educational value of athletics participation and focuses on the academic success of its student-athletes. Institutional and conference autonomy in such matters as academic performance, academic progress and continuing eligibility has been the guiding philosophical and legislative principle of the division, with limited NCAA oversight.

Current legislation requires only that Division III student-athletes be enrolled in a minimum fulltime program of study (12 semester or quarter hours) leading to a baccalaureate degree.

Recent studies continue to show that student-athletes at Division III institutions graduate, on average, at a higher rate than their student-body peers. Responses to the questions below will provide additional assistance in evaluating the effectiveness of current principles, related programs and legislation.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. The academic performance of student-athletes should be, at minimum, consistent with the general student-body at all Division III institutions.	48%	48%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2. The current voluntary graduation rate reporting program is a useful and relevant tool to assess the academic performance of Division III student-athletes.	5%	48%	23%	10%	8%	0%	8%
3. Division III should continue its primary focus on intercollegiate athletics as a four-year undergraduate experience.	53%	28%	13%	3%	3%	3%	0%
4. Graduate students should be permitted to compete at an institution other than where they received their baccalaureate degree.	8%	23%	18%	18%	18%	18%	0%

VI. Sport Sponsorship and Membership

One of the key tenets of the division is that its member institutions offer a broad-based athletics program by maximizing the number and variety of athletics opportunities for students. On average, Division III institutions sponsor approximately 17 sports (nine for women and eight for men) with an average undergraduate enrollment of approximately 2,700 students. Additionally, one in five students, on average, participates in intercollegiate athletics. Current regulations require institutions to sponsor a minimum of 12 sports (six men's and six women's) with an allowance for schools with enrollment less than 1,000 (i.e. 10 sports – five for men and five for women) and single-gender institutions.

In addition, conferences are required to complete a Conference Self-Study Guide (CSSG) every five years. Further, conferences are required to attend a Regional Rules Seminar at a minimum of once every three years and the national convention annually.

1. Indicate your preference for a minimum sports sponsorship standard assuming certain allowances for schools with small enrollments and single-gender institutions.

Answer	%
Fewer	5%
8	3%
10	8%
12	33%
14	28%
16	25%
18	0%
20	0%
More	0%

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
2. Regional Rules Seminars are effective educational opportunities for our conference office staff.	23%	48%	18%	10%	3%	0%	0%
3. Regional Rules Seminars should be offered at locations that are closer in proximity to Division III conference offices.	45%	30%	18%	5%	3%	0%	0%
4. The Conference Self-Study Guide (CSSG) is a useful assessment tool for our conference.	0%	28%	28%	15%	25%	3%	3%
5. Annual conference attendance at the NCAA National Convention is an appropriate membership requirement.	55%	35%	8%	0%	0%	0%	3%

VII. Presidential Leadership

As with most issues on a college campus, the chancellor or president is ultimately responsible for institutional actions. As the chief decision-maker on a campus, chancellors or presidents also have a defined leadership role within the NCAA governance structure. The Presidents Council, the Presidents Advisory Group, service on the Management Council, and service on a number of additional governance committees are all avenues for chancellors and presidents to provide leadership to the division. Each Division III conference is also required to have as its ultimate authority a presidential governing board.

Responses from the 2008 survey indicated that at approximately 80 percent of Division III member institutions, the director of athletics reports to an administrator on campus other than the chancellor or president. The feedback requested below will provide assistance in further defining the appropriate level of involvement by chancellors and presidents or other administrators who are responsible for overseeing the administration of athletics at Division III institutions.

1. *Chancellors or presidents should be more actively involved in the governance of Division III intercollegiate athletics:*

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
a. At the national level.	23%	20%	43%	8%	5%	3%	0%
b. At the conference level.	30%	38%	15%	13%	5%	0%	0%
c. At the campus level.	50%	23%	15%	10%	3%	0%	0%

2. *The administrator to whom the director of athletics reports (e.g. Chief Academic Officer, Chief Student Affairs Officer, or Dean) should be more actively engaged in the governance of Division III intercollegiate athletics:*

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
a. At the national level.	18%	23%	35%	18%	3%	3%	3%
b. At the conference level.	18%	40%	20%	13%	5%	5%	0%
c. At the campus level.	50%	28%	13%	3%	3%	3%	3%

VIII. NCAA Championships

National championships are an important component of the programmatic offerings of Division III, funding for which represents approximately 75% of the divisional budget (approximately \$19.8 million for the 2012-13 academic year). At present, entrance to the national championship is either through a conference's automatic qualification slot (with related slots allocated to independents) or through at-large bids. Each national championship (with the exception of football) is conducted within a three-week timeframe. Current championships policy provides one berth for every six and a half institutions sponsoring a team sport.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. The ultimate measure of success for an athletics program is participation in NCAA championships.	3%	10%	33%	13%	18%	25%	0%
2. The ultimate measure of success for an athletics program is participation in conference championships.	8%	35%	23%	10%	20%	5%	0%
3. Participation in NCAA championships should be available to conference champions only (i.e., automatic qualification only with no at-large bids) with appropriate access for non-automatic qualifying conferences and independent institutions.	15%	3%	8%	5%	23%	48%	0%
4. The division currently meets the expectation of fully funding a school's participation in NCAA championships (e.g., expense reimbursement).	8%	30%	33%	13%	10%	0%	8%
5. The division should pursue opportunities for combined championships with Division I and II beyond the current joint championships (e.g., men's lacrosse and women's rowing) if it doesn't increase the current playing and practice season for those institutions participating in the championship.	5%	18%	28%	8%	18%	25%	0%
6. The division should pursue opportunities for combined championships with Division I and II beyond the current joint championships (e.g., men's lacrosse and women's rowing) even if it lengthens the current playing and practice season for those institutions participating in the championship.	3%	10%	3%	13%	15%	55%	3%

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
7. The division should consider conducting more than one championship at one location at one time. For example, the men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and men's and women's cross-country championships would be conducted at the same site in a "festival format".	8%	23%	35%	15%	5%	10%	5%
8. The student-athlete experience should continue to be a top priority for the Division III championship program.	75%	15%	8%	3%	0%	0%	0%
9. Whenever possible, Division III championships events should occur at on-campus facilities as opposed to off-campus facilities.	18%	25%	20%	25%	10%	0%	3%
10. For championship purposes, the current definition for "in-region" should be expanded to include bordering states. The current definition is: Any contest against a Division III institution within an institution's defined membership region (per NCAA Bylaw 4.13.1.1) or established sports region; all contests against conference opponents; and all contests against institutions within a 200-mile radius.	38%	30%	25%	3%	5%	0%	0%

At present the limit for brackets is 64 teams (other than football). In addition there is a three-week championships structure to establish reasonable limits on frequency of play and related travel as well as a consideration of the academic commitments for student-athletes.

11. *Indicate your preference for the maximum number of weeks allowed to conduct the championships.*

Answer	%
1	0%
2	3%
3	80%
4	18%
5	0%
Longer	0%

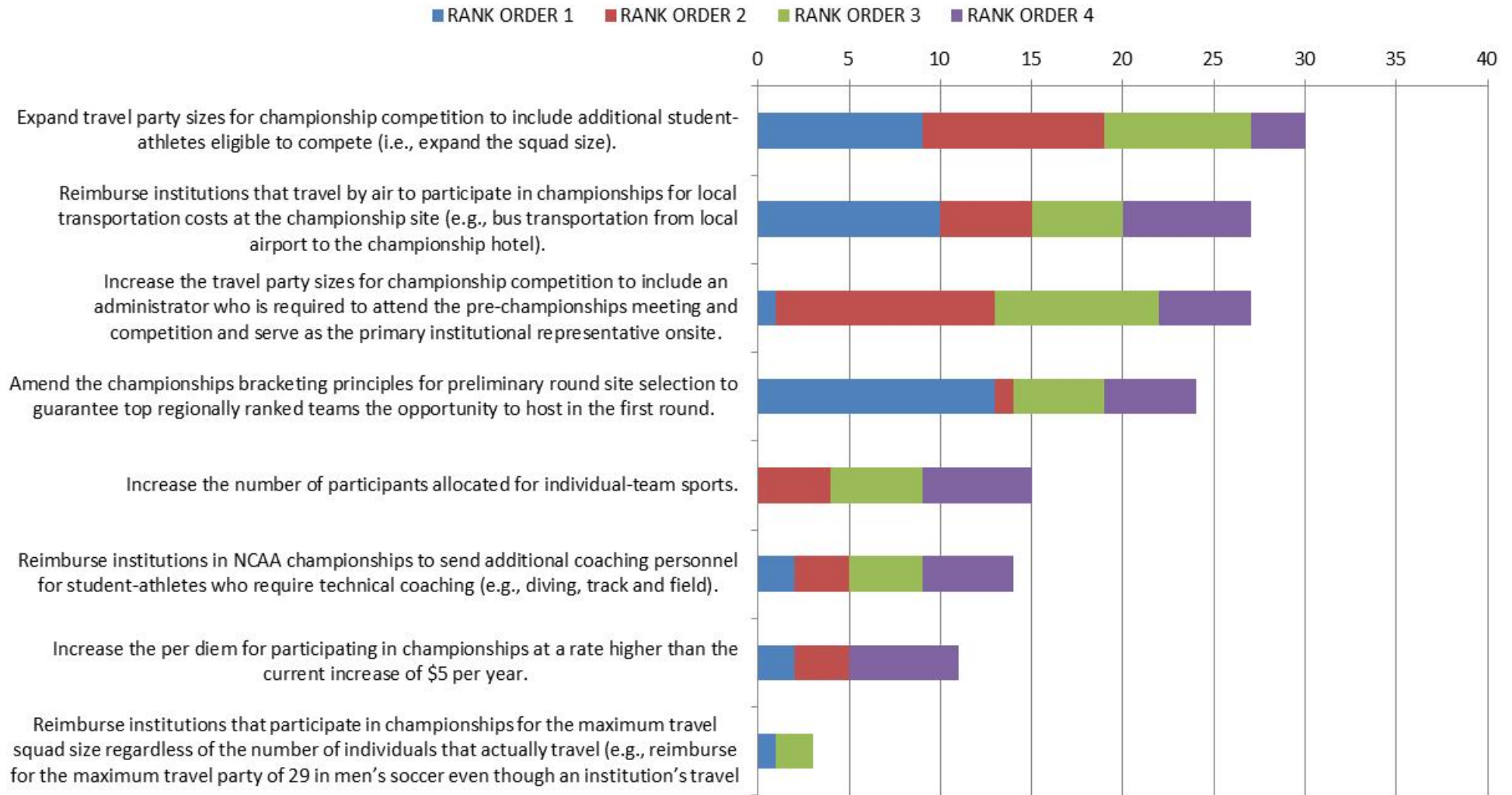
Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
12. The current policy of conducting mid-week contests in order to complete the national championship in three weeks is appropriate.	10%	45%	28%	10%	8%	0%	0%

The current championships access ratio in team sports stands at 1:6.5 with a limit for brackets of 64 teams. This ratio is used to determine the bracket sizes. With this ratio, there is one opportunity for every six and half teams participating in the sport. A higher ratio would mean fewer championships berths per number of institutions sponsoring a sport, while a lower ratio would mean a greater number of berths with higher championships costs.

13. *Indicate your preference for a championships team sport access ratio.*

Answer	%
Lower	3%
1:5	5%
1:6	18%
1:6.5	60%
1:7	15%
1:8	0%
Higher	0%

14. Of the following eight championship policies and/or potential enhancements, conference commissioners were asked to rank the top four (4) in terms of importance to them:



IX. The Governance Structure

The following information will assist in helping assess the knowledge and understanding that conferences have relative to the Division III governance process.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. Our conference office has a good understanding of the significant issues facing Division III.	50%	40%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2. The role of the Presidents Council and Management Council is clear to our conference office.	63%	33%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3. The role of faculty athletics representatives in the governance of the division should be further clarified and strengthened.	18%	43%	23%	8%	8%	0%	3%
4. The role of senior woman administrators in the governance of the division should be further clarified and strengthened.	15%	43%	20%	10%	10%	0%	3%
5. The role of the individual to whom the Director of Athletics reports (e.g. Vice-President, Dean) in the governance of the division should be further clarified and strengthened.	15%	30%	30%	13%	8%	3%	3%
6. The role of the conference and campus Student-Athlete Advisory Committees in the governance of the division should be further clarified and strengthened.	5%	28%	35%	15%	18%	0%	0%
7. Our conference office regularly follows the topics being discussed by the Presidents Council and Management Council.	45%	43%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%
8. Our conference office trusts the individuals who serve on the councils to make decisions in the best interest of Division III.	45%	30%	23%	0%	0%	0%	3%
9. Our conference office is engaged in the Division III governance process.	53%	38%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10. Our conference office regularly receives information on the work of the councils and committees.	35%	38%	18%	8%	3%	0%	0%
11. Our conference office knows where to find information regarding the work of the councils and committees.	38%	33%	20%	5%	3%	3%	0%

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
12. Our conference office has an adequate voice in the Division III governance structure.	23%	45%	20%	10%	3%	0%	0%
13. The student-athlete voice is clearly communicated throughout the Division III governance structure.	13%	50%	30%	8%	0%	0%	0%
14. Our conference office has a clear understanding of the process for nominating staff members to serve on NCAA committees.	78%	23%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
15. The process used for nominating committee members is adequate.	23%	55%	10%	8%	3%	3%	0%

X. The Legislative Process and NCAA National Convention

The information requested in response to the following questions will assist in determining the effectiveness of the Division III legislative process and the NCAA National Convention.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. Legislative proposals are written so that the membership understands what it is voting on.	20%	58%	20%	3%	0%	0%	0%
2. The current legislative calendar (i.e. annual submission of legislative proposals and voting on legislation at the NCAA National Convention) is appropriate.	18%	48%	28%	5%	3%	0%	0%
3. In general, the current legislative proposals address issues of national significance.	10%	35%	43%	10%	3%	0%	0%
4. The format for the NCAA National Convention (e.g. Thursday educational sessions through Saturday morning business session) is appropriate.	8%	48%	23%	5%	10%	8%	0%
5. The currently designed business session at the NCAA National Convention is the most appropriate way for the division to make decisions concerning legislative proposals.	10%	45%	25%	5%	13%	0%	3%
6. The NCAA National Convention is a good use of time for the Presidents/Chancellors in my conference.	3%	15%	23%	30%	13%	10%	8%
7. The sessions offered at the annual NCAA National Convention make attending the convention a good use of time for our conference staff.	10%	20%	48%	13%	10%	0%	0%

8. The following are helpful resources provided by the national office:

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
a. AMA online (for filing waivers)	20%	35%	25%	0%	3%	3%	15%
b. LSDBi (for researching bylaws and previous rule interpretations)	40%	35%	13%	5%	5%	0%	3%
c. General interpretation phone line (for obtaining rule interpretations)	18%	38%	28%	5%	5%	3%	5%
d. Conference contact program (for obtaining rule interpretations)	75%	23%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%

XI. Health and Safety

The NCAA was founded in 1906 in part for the specific purpose of establishing minimum standards to create a safe and healthy environment for student-athletes competing in intercollegiate athletics. Since then, the NCAA has continued to assist institutions in establishing and maintaining an environment that is safe and ensures fair play. The information provided in this section will provide useful information in helping determine the appropriate role for the NCAA to fulfill in the future in this regard.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. The NCAA is appropriately positioned to help protect the health and well-being of student-athletes.	3%	60%	33%	3%	0%	0%	3%
2. It is necessary to have national standards in the area of health and safety for student-athletes.	33%	53%	8%	5%	0%	0%	3%
3. Division III should support a specific drug/alcohol educational program for student-athletes on campuses.	20%	25%	38%	10%	3%	3%	3%
4. In addition to football, other fall sports should have a preseason acclimatization period.	23%	23%	28%	18%	3%	3%	5%
5. Division III schools should be required to designate a licensed physician to serve as team physician authorized to oversee the medical services for injuries and illnesses incidental to a student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics.	8%	23%	43%	15%	10%	0%	3%

XII. Communications.

As technology continues to change, the NCAA national office has attempted to keep pace with the methods used to communicate with the membership. The information requested below will assist in continuing to improve the national office's efforts to communicate effectively with the Division III membership.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. It is important for the national office to regularly communicate information regarding Division III governance activities.	55%	45%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2. Information regarding Division III governance activities is adequately communicated to my conference office.	20%	50%	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3. Our conference office is provided the opportunity to effectively communicate with the national office staff.	43%	43%	13%	3%	0%	0%	0%
4. Our conference office is aware of where to obtain Division III information we need from the NCAA.	28%	43%	20%	5%	3%	3%	0%
5. Our conference office receives duplicative information from the NCAA.	13%	20%	15%	25%	23%	3%	3%
6. The amount of information our conference office receives from the NCAA makes it difficult to prioritize what is important.	3%	15%	28%	23%	30%	3%	0%
7. Our conference office is satisfied with the appropriateness of the Division III information we currently receive from the NCAA.	5%	48%	33%	13%	0%	0%	3%
8. Our conference office is satisfied with the methods by which we currently receive Division III information from the NCAA.	5%	65%	25%	3%	3%	0%	0%
9. The national office efforts to engage the membership via Division III social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) are appropriate.	5%	48%	33%	3%	0%	3%	10%
10. NCAA Connect is an effective communication tool.	15%	40%	30%	3%	8%	0%	5%

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
11. The current partnership with the College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) can help the division in communicating the Division III story.	20%	33%	35%	0%	3%	0%	10%
12. Our conference office athletic communication staff/Sports Information Director plays an important role in communicating the Division III story.	30%	43%	20%	8%	0%	0%	0%

XIII. Strategic Planning and Budget

Division III's current annual budget is approximately \$25 million, which is 3.18% of the NCAA's annual operating budget. Of that \$25 million, per existing policy, approximately 75% (\$19 million) is being spent on championships and 25% (\$6 million) is being spent on non-championship initiatives such as the conference grant program and student-athlete leadership and internship programs. Division III is currently in the first year of a three-year budget (2012-2015).

1. Do you believe that the current allocations are appropriate?

Answer	%
Yes, current expenditures are appropriately balanced.	48%
No, we should allocate more to championships.	23%
No, we should allocate more to non-championship initiatives.	30%

The division has established a policy that mandates a reserve balance equal to at least 80% of the division's annual revenue allocation. The mandate equals approximately \$20 million in 2012-13. The division utilizes a financial recovery insurance policy of \$10 million to help fulfill this mandate.

2. Do you believe the current reserve policy is appropriate?

Answer	%
Yes	77%
No	23%

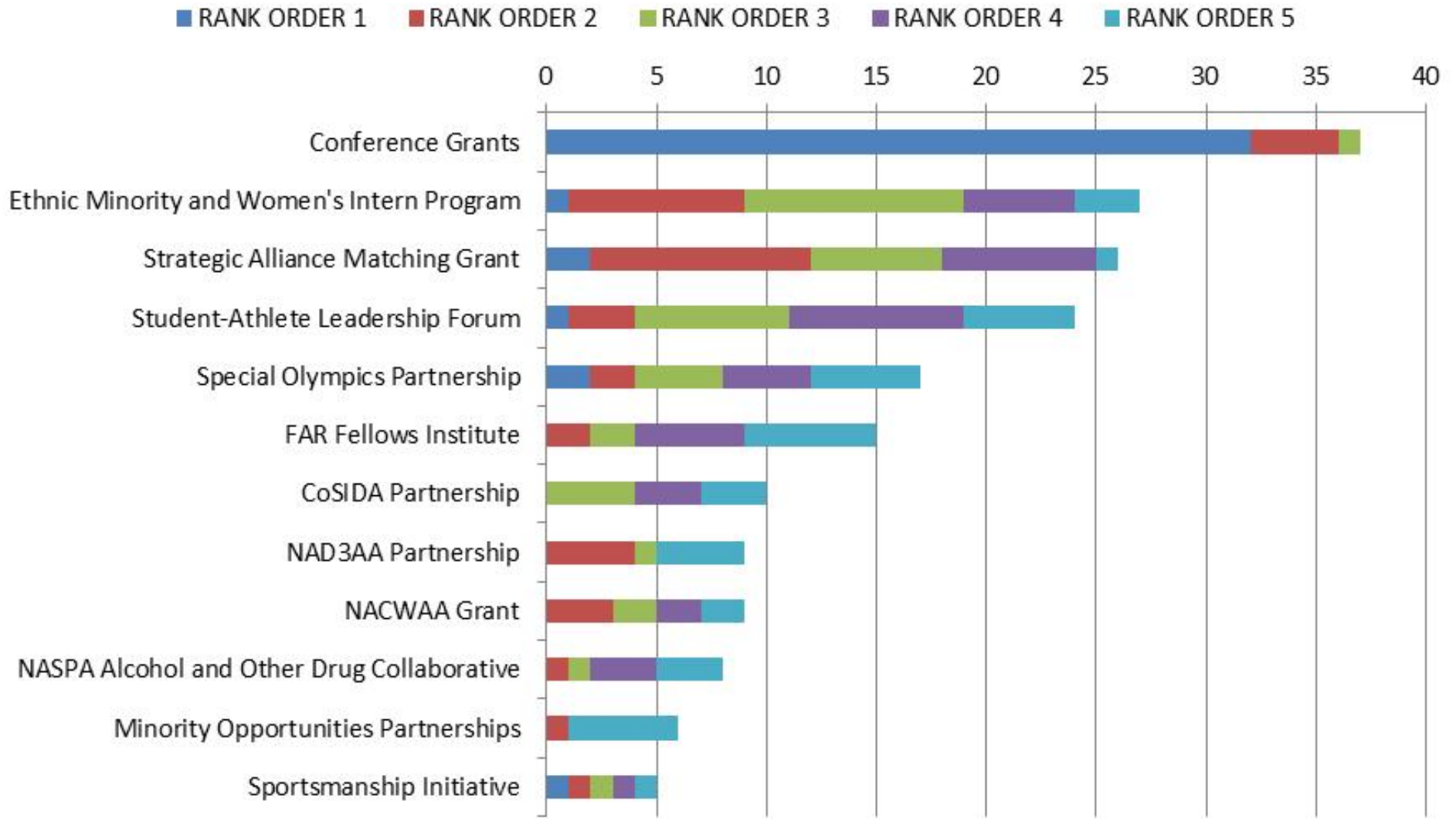
If current Division III budget commitments are fully satisfied for the next three years, effective with the 2015-16 budget, the Division III reserve balance (including the \$10 million provided for by the financial recovery insurance policy) will drop below the minimum “80% of the Division III revenue allocation” policy referenced above.

In order to avoid dropping below the 80% minimum, Division III could consider the following actions.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
3. Reduce funding for championships programs only.	0%	13%	8%	13%	30%	38%	0%
4. Reduce funding for non-championships programs only.	13%	8%	20%	13%	30%	18%	0%
5. Reduce funding for both championships and non-championship programs.	0%	10%	18%	15%	33%	25%	0%
6. Change the reserve policy to a percentage lower than 80%.	8%	30%	30%	15%	8%	5%	5%
7. Purchase additional financial recovery insurance (e.g., increase from \$10 million to \$20 million).	3%	25%	25%	10%	15%	3%	20%

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
8. In the past 5 years, budget issues have affected the ability of institutions in my conference to fully fund the conference office.	15%	18%	13%	18%	23%	10%	5%
9. In the past 5 years, budget issues have affected the ability of institutions in my conference to maintain their conference membership.	0%	3%	5%	13%	43%	35%	3%
10. In the next 3-5 years, budget issues could affect the ability of institutions in my conference to continue funding the conference office at its current level.	5%	25%	23%	18%	18%	8%	5%
11. In the next 3-5 years, budget issues could affect the ability of institutions in my conference to maintain their conference membership.	0%	5%	8%	20%	45%	18%	5%

12. Of the following 12 current programs, conference commissioners were asked to rank the top five (5) in importance to Division III.



XIV. Diversity, Inclusion and Gender Equity

As a core value, the NCAA believes in and is committed to diversity, inclusion and gender equity among its student-athletes, coaches and administrators. The information requested below will assist Division III in determining the effectiveness of current programs as well provide guidance to help the Division III improve in this regard in the future.

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. Athletics helps in establishing a diverse student-body on our campus (e.g., race/ethnicity, religion, socioeconomics).	23%	43%	30%	3%	0%	0%	3%
2. Division III should partner with external organizations to support innovative programs that promote inclusion.	10%	33%	40%	10%	8%	0%	0%
3. Division III should partner with its Division III conferences and institutions to support innovative programs that promote inclusion of persons identifying as LGBTQ.	13%	28%	35%	18%	5%	3%	0%
4. Division III should partner with its Division III conferences and institutions to support innovative programs that promote inclusion of persons with disabilities.	5%	28%	40%	18%	3%	0%	8%
5. Expand NCAA programming and resources to enhance opportunities for the recruitment of minority coaches and staff.	13%	30%	40%	8%	5%	5%	0%
6. Expand NCAA programming and resources to enhance opportunities for the recruitment of women coaches and staff.	8%	35%	43%	8%	3%	5%	0%
7. Expand NCAA programming and resources to enhance opportunities for women and minority student-athletes to become involved in coaching and athletic administration.	15%	38%	35%	8%	3%	3%	0%
8. Increasing and diversifying the pool of candidates for Division III committee service is important for the division.	8%	45%	38%	8%	3%	0%	0%

XV. Conference Affiliation

The vast majority of Division III institutions are members of one or more NCAA conferences. The information requested below will assist in further clarifying the role that NCAA member conferences play within the NCAA structure.

Question	Very Involved	Involved	Somewhat Involved	Not Involved	Involvement Not Expected	Don't Know
1. Monitoring Division III issues.	60%	35%	5%	0%	0%	0%
2. Requesting feedback from conference members regarding the work of governance bodies (e.g. committees, councils).	28%	43%	25%	0%	5%	0%
3. Providing timely governance information to conference members.	55%	33%	8%	3%	3%	0%
4. Educating conference members on legislative proposals in each legislative cycle.	68%	20%	10%	3%	0%	0%
5. Managing the conference grant program.	95%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%
6. Promoting gender and ethnic diversity on member institution campuses.	13%	25%	18%	25%	20%	0%
7. Promoting professional development opportunities for staff members on member institution campuses.	23%	38%	23%	10%	8%	0%
8. Promoting student-athlete welfare on member institution campuses.	23%	53%	10%	8%	8%	0%
9. Promoting integration on member institution campuses.	20%	30%	15%	20%	15%	0%
10. Encouraging member institutions to be involved in NCAA governance structure.	53%	38%	10%	0%	0%	0%

Conference members should:

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Don't Know
1. Share a similar institutional mission.	23%	38%	23%	8%	8%	0%	3%
2. Share a similar academic profile (e.g., selectivity).	8%	30%	40%	13%	8%	0%	3%
3. Be affiliated based on geographic proximity.	30%	40%	20%	8%	0%	3%	0%
4. Share a similar athletics profile (e.g., sports sponsorship, resource allocation).	20%	53%	25%	0%	3%	0%	0%
5. Be affiliated based on increasing championships access.	5%	13%	25%	23%	18%	18%	0%
6. Be affiliated based on institutional history and tradition.	13%	30%	30%	15%	8%	5%	0%
7. Be affiliated with any group of institutions, no common criteria.	3%	5%	13%	13%	38%	30%	0%
8. Be permitted to realign without loss of automatic qualification for a limited time period (e.g., two years).	18%	23%	15%	13%	25%	5%	3%