A Message from the Division III Presidents Council
Chair and Vice-Chair

We hope this Quarterly Update finds you and your campus well as the fall semester quickly comes to a close. This update highlights the Presidents Council’s October 29-30 meeting as well as legislation and programming at the 2015 NCAA Convention in Washington, DC. A full recap of the October meeting can be found here.

You can access the Presidents/Chancellors Convention schedule here.

2015 Proposed Legislation

The Presidents Council reviewed the 2015 Convention proposed legislation and took positions on key proposals. A total of 15 Division III proposals will be up for debate and membership vote during the Business Session on Saturday morning, January 17. Key proposals of presidential interest include:

a. **Maximum Contest Reduction:** To decrease the traditional segment contest and dates of competition limits in most sports by up to 10% to help control costs, reduce mid-week contests and lessen student-athlete time demands. This proposal is co-sponsored by the Presidents Council along with the Old Dominion Athletic Conference, Centennial and Midwest Conferences. After three women's coaches associations noted a possible Title IX concern, the Council directed staff to do an in-depth exploration. At its January meeting, staff will report its findings and the Council will revisit its co-sponsorship of this proposal.

b. **Football Nontraditional (Spring) Segment:** To provide football student-athletes with skill instruction
and development opportunities, including contact, similar to the opportunities provided to student-athletes participating in other sports during the nontraditional season. Both the Presidents Council and Management Council are opposed to this membership-sponsored proposal. Management Council expressed concerns related to increased athletic training, equipment staff pressure and responsibility, and the demand on facilities. The Presidents Council echoed the Management Council's concerns and also discussed the potential negative impact on dual sport student-athletes and students who want to pursue other extracurricular activities during the off-season.

c. **On-Campus Evaluations of Prospective Student-Athletes:** To allow the on-campus evaluation of prospective student-athletes to reduce the time coaches spend off-campus. The Presidents Council sponsored this proposal, proposed by the Division III Recruiting Working Group, for a vote at this year's Convention, to be responsive to the eighty-four (84) percent of the delegates that voiced their support for further consideration of this concept at the January 2014 Convention. The Council did not take a position on the merits of the proposal.

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### Convention Issues Forum and Town Hall Topics

On Friday January 16, Division III will hold its annual Issues Forum and a Town Hall session. The Division III membership will discuss key issues in a roundtable format and have the opportunity to make comments or ask questions. The roundtable discussion topics will be: (1) Division III budget planning; (2) Nontraditional seasons; and (3) Diversity and inclusion.

The Town Hall session topics will be: (1) Recruiting pressures and how they impact institutions; (2) Financial aid best practices; and (3) Sportsmanship/RESPECT initiatives (time permitting).  

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### Key Conference Meeting Discussion Points

We know many conferences may meet prior to or in conjunction with the Convention to discuss Division III topics. Some topics to discuss further with your presidential conference colleagues include:

a. **The budget planning process.** During the Division III Issues Forum, delegates will have an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback to the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, Championships Committee and both Councils regarding the budget process, related policies, budget projections and revenue, and expenditure options. An overview, from the recent monthly updates, on the division’s budget process and policies can be found [here](#).

b. **2015 Proposed legislation.** Please discuss the 2015 proposed legislation to gauge your conference's opinions and garner feedback prior to the business session. The entire slate of proposals can be found [here](#).

c. **New financial aid resource.** This one page resource from the NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee is intended to facilitate communication across all campus constituencies with a role in the institution's financial aid awarding process. All stakeholders - athletics, financial aid, admissions and enrollment - need to be on the same page. You, as a president, can help by first, facilitating these communication lines and second, by directing your colleagues to this NCAA-produced resource. Click [here](#) for the resource.

d. **2013-14 Academic Success Rates (ASR) and Graduation Rates.** The 2013-14 academic year saw the Division III national, four-year average ASR hold steady at 87 percent, based on a voluntary representative sample of 140 schools. It also showed student-athletes again performed better than the general student body related to federal graduation rates with student-athletes at 69 percent compared to 59 percent for the general student body. The Council discussed ways to identify and increase ASRs for some sports, with an initial focus on football student-athletes. Click [here](#) for the Division III Aggregate Graduation Rates Report and Summary.
Sportsmanship Working Group

Division III will be establishing a membership-based working group to examine programs and enhance the division's sportsmanship and game environment initiatives. The working group will identify best practices in this area and provide tools and resources for member institutions. The working group will begin its efforts starting later this winter and work throughout the upcoming calendar year.

2015 Presidents Council and Vice Chair

The Council elected the incoming chair and vice chair for the 2015-16 term. President Alan Cureton, the current vice chair from the University of Northwestern, MN, will serve as the chair during 2015, while Susquehanna University President Jay Lemons was elected vice chair. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as your vice chair during 2013 and your current chair in 2014. I would also like to recognize the service of other Council members whose terms expire after Convention: Bob Antonucci, Fitchburg State University; Charley Edmondson, Alfred University; Barney Forsythe, Westminster College (MO) and Pamela Reid, St. Joseph's University (CT).

Quarterly Summary of Actions

View the detailed fall 2014 Quarterly Summary of Actions from the Presidents and Management Council meetings here.

Thank you for your continued dedication to and passion for the Division III student-athlete experience. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or feedback. Alan Cureton (alancureton@unwsp.edu) and I (president@whittier.edu) have been privileged to represent you on the Division III Presidents Council and are eager to address your questions. Have a great finish to the fall semester!

Sharon Herzberger and Alan Cureton

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DIII: Follow your passions and discover your potential
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proportion: Appropriate relation of academics with opportunities to pursue athletics &amp; other passions.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passion: Playing for the love of the game, competition, fun and self-improvement.</td>
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<td>Responsibility: Development of accountability through personal commitment and choices.</td>
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<td>Sportsmanship: Fair and respectful conduct toward all participants and supporters.</td>
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<td>Citizenship: Dedication to developing responsible leaders and citizens in our communities.</td>
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