A MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISION III PRESIDENTS COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

We hope you have had a positive summer and as the new academic year begins there is a spirit of excitement on your campus. In August we held our summer Presidents Advisory Group (PAG) meeting. Our discussions centered on three key issues; budget forecasts for Division III, conference communication strategies between presidents and commissioners, and review and potential changes involving playing and practice season regulations.

Earlier in the week was the Board of Governors meeting. The Division III chair and vice chair are voting members of the Board along with the Division II chair and vice chair and 12 Division I presidents. The Board is responsible for overseeing Association-wide issues and ensuring that each division operates consistently within the Association’s mission and purpose and abides by fundamental policies and general principles that govern the Association. As Division III leaders, we have an opportunity to voice our opinions and perspectives on behalf of all Division III institutions. At this meeting the Board voted to add a vice chair position filled by a representative president from either Divisions II or III. This decision creates a significant and welcome leadership opportunity on the Board of Governors for Divisions II and III.

At the invitation of the Division I leadership, the chair of the Management Council, Lori Runksmeier of Eastern Connecticut State University, along with the chair and vice chair of the Division III Presidents Council were invited to attend the Division I Strategic Summit. Even though we were guests, we were granted the opportunity to voice our perspectives on the challenging issues facing the leadership of Division I. The new Division I governance structure is providing an opportunity for the greater Association to discuss in the range of issues facing the NCAA. The Summit was led by the Division I Board of Directors chair Harris Pastides of the University of South Carolina.
BUDGET

The President’s Council approved a proposal from the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee recommending an increase in annual membership dues from $900 to $2,000 for Division III schools and from $450 to $1,000 for conferences. If adopted at the 2016 Convention, the dues increase would go into effect for the 2017-18 academic year. Membership dues for Division III have not increased since 1985. The additional funding created by the increase, approximately $520,000, will be targeted to partially restore financial adjustments to the championships budget which were implemented in 2014-15. For more on the proposed dues increase, click here.

CONFERENCE COMMUNICATION

A key discussion item at the President’s Advisory Group (PAG) meeting was the need and importance of enhancing presidential and conference commissioner communication and engagement. PAG reviewed a list of best practices developed by the leadership of the Division III Commissioner’s Association and the Division III governance staff. Click here for a list of best practices and proposed strategies to enhance president and commissioner communications.

2016 LEGISLATION

The President’s Council identified the following 2016 Convention proposals of particular interest: 1) deregulation of social media restrictions; 2) establishing dead periods in recruiting; 3) creating a nontraditional segment for football, that includes contact (which last year’s Presidents Council opposed); and 4) the increase in membership dues. To see the initial publication of proposed legislation, click here.

PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS

The Management Council’s Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee (PPSS) recently sent a survey to receive feedback regarding current playing and practice seasons regulations. Based on PAG feedback, a shorter, higher-level survey for presidents will be available. We encourage all presidents to complete the survey. For more information on the PPSS review, click here.

PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT AND ISSUES FORUM AT 2016
NCAA CONVENTION

The Presidential Luncheon and Issues Forum at the 2016 Convention will be held Friday, January 15, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. President Kirk Schultz, chair of the NCAA Board of Governors will be in attendance as he has requested an opportunity to engage the Division III presidents regarding Division I and Association-wide issues. We encourage your attendance. Convention registration opens Monday, September 14.

ATHLETICS DIRECT REPORT (ADR) INSTITUTE

Division III will host the inaugural ADR Institute at the 2016 Convention. The purpose of the program is to engage ADRs in best practices and to improve the relationships between ADRs and their presidents, athletics directors and conference commissioners. For more information on the ADR Institute or to nominate an ADR, click here. To access the ADR Working Group’s “8 Best Practices to Maximize the ADR’s Role,” click here.

It is our hope that the quarterly update provides the necessary and critical information you need to assist you in the oversight of Division III athletics on your campus. You can find a full recap of the August President’s Council meeting here in addition to the Summary of Actions that highlights all Council actions. We welcome any comments or questions. Good luck with the beginning of your school year!

Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or feedback. Jay Lemons (lemonsj@susqu.edu) and I (alancureton@unwsp.edu) look forward to serving you as vice chair and chair of the Presidents Council, respectively in the coming year.

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