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

We hope this update finds you well and that your spring semester is off to a great start! It is a privilege to serve you as the Presidents Council chair and vice-chair. Please contact us at any time about any issue as we fulfill co-leadership duties during the upcoming year.

This quarterly update highlights the 2015 NCAA Convention in Washington, D.C., including a legislative voting recap, the Issues Forum and other Division III Programming. An article detailing the Presidents Council’s meeting, prior to the 2015 Business Session, can be found here.

2015 NCAA Convention Legislation

During the Business Session, the Division III delegates approved 12 of 15 legislative proposals, defeated two proposals, and referred one proposal. Additionally,
delegates voted to refer to the Interpretations and Legislation Committee a noncontroversial proposal that addresses student-athlete eligibility impacted by financial aid violations. Voting results and complete information about the 15 Convention proposals can be found [here](#).

Proposal No. 6, a membership-sponsored proposal, co-sponsored by Presidents Council, called for an up to 10 percent decrease of the traditional segment contest and dates of competition maximums in sports other than football and cross country. The proposal was referred to the Management Council’s Playing and Practice Seasons Subcommittee in order to begin a deliberate and comprehensive review of playing and practice seasons. The review will extend beyond contest limits and include all rules related to playing and practice seasons - including nontraditional segments, contest exemptions and the length of playing seasons. The deliverables for this referral will include proposed models for discussion and feedback during the Issues Forum at the 2016 Convention and possible legislative initiatives at the 2017 Convention.

The membership adopted three of the four proposals developed by the Recruiting Working Group. The passed proposals were: contact with recruits after their sophomore year of high school; a nonbinding celebratory athletics signing form; and a proposal to allow coaches to contact recruits on each day of multi-day events after competition has finished for the day. A proposal to permit on-campus evaluations was defeated by nearly 80 percent of the membership.

One other decision of note was the defeat of a proposal to allow contact during spring football. With the defeat, spring football in Division III remains a no contact strength and conditioning activity. Additionally, more than 90 percent of delegates voted to establish women's sand volleyball as a Division III sport.

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**Convention Issues Forum and Town Hall Topics**

Division III held its annual Issues Forum on the Friday prior to the Business Session. Approximately 1,100 attendees discussed the topics of budget planning, nontraditional seasons, and diversity and inclusion in a roundtable format. Feedback regarding these topics will shape the division’s agenda this coming year. When asked about additional sources of revenue for budget planning, 86 percent of delegates, via a straw poll vote, favored a Division III membership dues increase. Delegates also favored a dues increase over a change to the current 1:6.5 championships access ratio in team sports. When asked about the current allocation of Division III funding, 75 percent to championships and 25 percent to
nonchampionships, the straw poll results were evenly divided. Another notable outcome from the Issues Forum included a straw poll in which two-thirds of respondents indicated their preference not to change the current nontraditional segment format. Lastly, seventy-five percent of the delegates favored support for the creation of a Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. A full recap of the Issues Forum can be found here.

Delegates also received presentations on three key topics during a town hall session: (1) Recruiting pressures; (2) Financial Aid Best Practices; and (3) the newly created Division III Sportsmanship and Game Environment Working Group. A full breakdown of all straw poll votes from the Issues Forum and Town Hall sessions can be found here.

Division III Presidential Luncheon

After the Issues Forum, the presidents gathered for a luncheon and roundtable discussions. This luncheon served as an opportunity to continue discussions from the Issues Forum as well as reviewing Association-wide issues. The presidents in attendance expressed their support to continue exploring a possible dues increase to offset championships and other budget expenses. The other topic that elicited significant feedback was playing and practice seasons. The presidents recognized the value of the current model, but expressed a commitment to exploring different options and possible modifications. The Presidents Council and President’s Advisory Group (PAG) heard the concerns, and will address these topics at their April and August meetings.

"You Can Play"

During the past year, the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) engaged in discussions around inclusion for student-athletes within the LGBTQ community, led by the NCAA value that every student-athlete's experience would be of quality and respect. SAAC decided to create a "You Can Play" video. The "You Can Play" project affirms that every student-athlete be given a fair opportunity to compete. During the Business Session, SAAC presented the video to the membership and encouraged all delegates to use this video on their respective campuses and begin discussions about LGBTQ issues and respect in general. The video is accessible on the Division III homepage and can be found here.
Division III Financial Aid Reporting

During its Convention meeting, Management Council approved the first significant changes to the Division III financial aid reporting program since its inception over a decade ago. The changes are intended to make the review process more effective and lessen the burden for financial aid personnel. The changes include replacing the current "four percent variance" with an annual sport-specific review. With the approval of these changes, the Division III Financial Aid Committee will now be tasked with educating campus administrators and financial aid directors over the coming months. Last year, the committee published a new financial aid resource to facilitate communication among all constituencies on campus and help ensure compliance.

Division III Week

The fourth annual Division III Week will be held **April 6-12, 2015**. The event is an opportunity to celebrate the unique academic, athletic and extra-curricular achievements of our student-athletes. During the week, every Division III school and conference office is encouraged to conduct a type of outreach activity that falls into one of three categories: academic accomplishment, athletic experience or leadership/community service/campus involvement. Resources for use in planning the event, including a communications kit and suggestions of activities for the week can be found here.

Quarterly Summary of Actions

View the detailed winter 2015 Quarterly Summary of Actions from the Presidents and Management Council meetings here.

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Thank you for your continued dedication to and passion for the Division III student-athlete experience. Please feel free to contact 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. Have a great spring semester!

Alan Cureton and Jay Lemons

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DIII: Follow your passions and discover your potential

| Proportion: | Appropriate relation of academics with opportunities to pursue athletics & other passions. |
| Comprehensive Learning: | Opportunity for broad-based education and success |
| Passion: | Playing for the love of the game, competition, fun and self-improvement |
| Responsibility: | Development of accountability through personal commitment and choices. |
| Sportsmanship: | Fair and respectful conduct toward all participants and supporters. |
| Citizenship: | Dedication to developing responsible leaders and citizens in our communities. |