

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COUNCIL AD HOC FINANCIAL AID ISSUES WORKING GROUP
OCTOBER 27, 2015, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **Continued Discussion and Review of Themes.** The NCAA Division I Council Ad Hoc Financial Aid Issues Working Group continued discussing themes that emerged from its previous teleconferences. The group agreed that three of the themes should be forwarded as concepts for NCAA membership feedback.

a. Two of the concepts are as follows:

- (1) Maintain the current legislation, gather data and monitor over the next two-to-three years.

Background: The permissive legislation, which permits institutions to provide up to cost of attendance, has not yet been in effect for one full academic year. The working group determined that seeking feedback from the membership on maintaining the status quo for two-to-three academic years is appropriate to provide ample time to collect data on the impact of the legislation. Specifically, to determine whether institutions are using the legislation as it was intended.

- (2) Allow for provision of cost-of-attendance elements, other than previous full grant-in-aid, without impacting equivalency numerator or denominator, only in proportion to a student-athlete's equivalency computation.

Background: This is a combination of two themes that were reviewed by the working group. This concept permits additional athletics financial aid to be provided to a student-athlete in an equivalency sport to cover cost of attendance; only full grant-in-aid elements, however, would be used in determining equivalencies (e.g., similar to a state-mandated tuition waiver). The working group determined the combination of two previous themes was necessary as neither proportionality alone, nor zero impact on numerator and denominator alone, meets the charge of the working group.

- Proportionality alone allows for use of additional funds to be awarded to new counters.

- Exempting elements other than previous full grant-in-aid alone allows for additional equivalencies through full coverage of those other elements while limiting countable equivalency elements.
- b. A third concept is to adopt NCAA Division I Proposal 2015-67: Financial Aid – Maximum Limits on Financial Aid – Team Limits – Nonathletically Related Institutional Financial Aid. This proposal will have a direct effect on the charge of the working group if adopted and, therefore, the working group thought it would be prudent to engage in a feedback gathering exercise with the membership regarding the proposal.

- Adopt Proposal No. 2015-67: Financial Aid – Maximum Limits on Financial Aid – Team Limits – Nonathletically Related Institutional Financial Aid.

Background: This proposal will be acted on by the Division I Council in April 2016. Including this as part of the feedback exercise informs the Council's decision with real-time feedback from the membership and Division I constituents (e.g., coaches associations). The impact of this proposal on the cost of attendance legislation is that the exclusion of such awards from team limits will reward academic excellence, as well as be responsive to student-athletes' needs; however, depending on an institution's budget, this proposal may allow student-athletes to receive athletically related financial aid for the first time while maintaining equivalency and/or counter limits.

- c. In addition to the themes that will be included in the membership feedback exercise as concepts, the working group discussed the following themes, and ultimately determined that further discussion is not warranted.

- (1) Implement additional requirements for equivalency sports.

Rationale for no further discussion: The working group, and content experts, divided itself into smaller pods to review each equivalency sport and how additional requirements (e.g., roster limits) may mitigate the concerns with how institutions are applying the cost of attendance legislation. After in-depth discussions, the working group determined that additional requirements are not in the best interest of the impacted sports as data demonstrates institutions are currently not awarding the maximum amount allowed in equivalency sports. Therefore, implementing additional limitations may result in over-regulation. Further, the rationale

for implementing additional restrictions in the sport of baseball was academically based, not athletically related financial aid based.

- (2) Eliminate equivalencies and establish a head-count value for each sport.

Rationale for no further discussion: The working group also discussed transitioning all equivalency sports into head-count sports. While the group determined there would be an ease of understanding counter numbers, there was concern over a potential increase in these sports' budgets, as well as concern related to gender equity. Therefore, the working group decided not to recommend for membership outreach.

- (3) Revisit Proposal No. 2014-13-3: Autonomy Proposal – Financial Aid – Maximum Limit on Financial Aid – Full Grant-In-Aid – Other Expenses Related to Attendance Up To Cost of Attendance – Proportionality.

Rationale for no further discussion: This option is not being recommended for further review and discussion as a stand-alone item. However, it has been combined with another theme and is noted above. As a stand-alone item, this theme was determined not to solve the concerns raised by the membership.

- (4) Allow for provision of cost-of-attendance elements, other than previous full grant-in-aid, without impacting equivalency numerator or denominator.

Rationale for no further discussion: Similarly, this option is not being recommended for further review and discussion as a stand-alone item. It has been combined with another theme and is noted above. As a stand-alone item, this theme was determined not to solve the concerns raised by the membership.

- d. **Other Business.** The working group charged NCAA staff with establishing an appropriate forum to collect the Division I membership's feedback, including its constituents, on the three concepts. Once the staff creates the concept document and makes any edits pursuant to the working group's input, outreach will begin. In the meantime, the membership will receive notice that feedback will be sought in the near future.
- e. **Future Meeting.** The working group will conduct its next teleconference at 1 p.m. Eastern time Thursday, December 10.

Working Group Chair: Justin Sell, South Dakota State University, The Summit League
Staff Liaisons: Brandy Hataway, Academic and Membership Affairs
Matt Maher, Academic and Membership Affairs
Alex Smith, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Council Ad Hoc Financial Aid Issues Working Group Teleconference October 27, 2015	
Attendees:	
Julie Cromer Peoples, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; Southeastern Conference.	
Jimmy Gehrels, Pepperdine University; West Coast Conference.	
Kim Griffin, Canisius College; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Ken Kavanagh, Florida Gulf Coast University; Atlantic Sun Conference.	
Maggie McKinley, University of Cincinnati; American Athletic Conference.	
Mike Miller, University of California, Santa Barbara; Big West Conference.	
Martha Puttalaz, Duke University; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Justin Sell, South Dakota State University; The Summit League.	
Sheahon Zenger, University of Kansas; Big 12 Conference.	
Absentees:	
Ginger Fulton, Patriot League.	
Beth Goetz, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Big Ten Conference.	
Alisha Tucker, Norfolk State University; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Matt Banker, Jill Bodensteiner, Julie Dunn.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Brandy Hataway, Matt Maher, Alex Smith.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jenn Fraser, Todd Petr.	