

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I ADMINISTRATION CABINET

The NCAA Division I Administration Cabinet submits this report from its September 16, 2009, in-person meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Cost savings bylaw review.** At the request of the Leadership Council, the cabinet engaged in a discussion of possible cost savings measures in legislative areas for which it has been assigned oversight responsibility. The group noted that any such measures ultimately identified and prioritized by the Leadership Council should be mindful of and consistent with the Association's core mission. The cabinet noted the need to balance priorities with cost expenditures.

2. **Committee Appointment Process.** The cabinet discussed the importance of providing the membership additional education regarding the Division I committee nomination and selection processes. The cabinet supported the staff's suggestion that developing a Web-based session may be the most effective way to thoroughly educate the membership and also identified several topics to be included in the presentation.

3. **Governance assessment tool.** The cabinet reviewed a draft of a preliminary tool designed to assess the 31-multisport conferences' knowledge of the goals and objectives behind the recent changes to the Division I governance structure. The group offered a number of helpful comments and approved sending the survey instrument to the conferences. The cabinet also identified a tentative course of action for conducting a broader assessment of the new governance structure.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

INFORMATION ITEMS.

1. Governance updates.

- a. Report of the Administration Cabinet. The cabinet received the report of the June 30, 2009, Administration Cabinet meeting and approved the interim actions of the Administrative Committee of the Administration Cabinet.
- b. Governance Reports. In keeping with Division I's efforts to enhance the level of governance communication and develop a more coordinated governance agenda, the cabinet received status reports from the Communications and Coordination Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. [Note: During the discussion of governance reports, the cabinet reviewed Board identified priorities for this academic year.]

2. Cost savings bylaw review. At the request of the Leadership Council, the cabinet engaged in a discussion of possible cost savings measures in legislative areas for which it has been assigned oversight responsibility. The group noted that any such measures ultimately identified and prioritized by the Leadership Council should be mindful of and consistent with the Association's core mission. The cabinet noted the need to balance priorities with cost expenditures. The cabinet recommended that the Leadership Council sponsor a proposal to establish a process for casting override votes on legislative proposals that does not require an institution to be present at the NCAA Convention Division I Business Session. It noted that such a proposal not only would result in reduced costs, but would reflect a more accurate representation of the "one institution/one vote" principle. The cabinet also identified the following additional suggestions for consideration:

- a. Conferences, cabinets and committees developing a legislative proposal should produce a "real time" [as opposed to varying or potential] cost impact as part of the proposal's budget implications.
- b. Reduction in length of time for in-person cabinet/committee meetings [particularly those that involve student-athletes' missing class time].
- c. The necessity for a "cultural shift" of the Division I philosophy in order to engage in successful deregulation efforts that result in cost savings.

3. Committee Appointments.

- a. Discussion regarding ways to better educate the membership about the committee nomination process. The cabinet discussed the importance of providing the membership additional education regarding the Division I committee nomination and selection processes. The cabinet supported the staff's suggestion that developing a Web-based session may be the most effective way to thoroughly educate the membership. It suggested that in the Web-based session should include an overview or explanations of the following topics:
- (1) The functionality of the NCAA committee nominating site.
 - (2) The process and timeline for committee appointments.
 - (3) Best practices for conferences in submitting the nominees, including a suggestion to pay special attention to committee qualifications.
 - (4) Cabinet selection priorities and policies.
 - (5) Macro issues impacting the committee appointment process.
 - (6) The need to present clear and complete nomination materials setting forth not only the nominee's qualifications but the factors that make the nominee appropriate for the committee.
 - (7) Issues that can impact consideration of a nominee's application in addition to the nominee's qualifications and the quality of the nomination materials.
 - (8) The politics surrounding the committee nomination process and suggestions regarding how best to appropriately address this concern, especially for those conferences that do not have a current seat on the cabinet.
- b. Plans for February committee appointments. As the new Division I governance structure completed its first year anniversary, cabinet members offered their personal assessments of their work to-date. Most indicated the cabinet has made great strides in seeking to identify the most qualified individuals for committee positions. The group noted they hope to continue to make improvements to this process and agreed that at its February 2010 meeting, the cabinet would consider the entire slate of nominees rather than only those nominees whose names were forwarded by a cabinet member for consideration. The cabinet additionally talked at length about the best way to ensure that nominees from all 31 multisport conferences receive fair consideration in the process, regardless of whether their conference is currently represented on the cabinet. The group discussed the importance of "checking their conference affiliation at the door" during cabinet meetings and encouraged the staff

from the ten conferences not currently represented on the cabinet to contact cabinet members to share information regarding nominees.

- c. Committee nominations. The cabinet approved appointments to Division I and Association-wide committees. A list of the appointments and reappointments is attached.
- d. Request for term extension. The Administration Cabinet approved a one-year term extension for Drew Galbraith, associate director of athletics, Dartmouth College, chair of the Men's and Women's Skiing Committee. The Skiing Committee requested the extension due to ongoing discussions regarding restructuring of regional allocations and the difficulty in identifying eligible administrator nominees.
- e. Length of student-athletes' terms on Division I committees once they have exhausted eligibility. The cabinet requested the Division I Men's Basketball Issues, Women's Basketball Issues and Football Issues Committees examine whether legislatively proscribed term should be established for student-athletes serving on those committees. Currently, the committees' composition does not include specific student-athlete representative term limits, yet rarely do student-athletes serve on those committees after the exhaustion of eligibility. [Note: A number of committees have specific legislative requirements that state a student-athlete may serve on a committee up to one year after completion of his or her intercollegiate athletics eligibility.]

4. Division I membership update.

- a. Advancement of Reclassifying Member. The cabinet advanced North Carolina Central University to Year Three of the Division I membership reclassification process, effective immediately.
- b. Waiver of Sports Sponsorship Requirements. The cabinet approved a waiver request pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 20.9.4.3.8.1 from Nicholls State regarding minimum contest requirements in the sport of women's cross country to permit the institution to use the sport to meet minimum sports sponsorship requirements for the 2008-09 academic year.
- c. Feedback to the Leadership Council regarding membership issues. Based on its experience with the current process for monitoring the progress of institutions

reclassifying to Division I membership, the cabinet identified and agreed to forward the following concerns to the Leadership Council as it continues its discussion of Division I membership requirements.

- (1) Poor academic performance rates.
- (2) The financial aid budget. [sources of funding predominantly being student fees or institutional funds outside the athletics department]
- (3) The role of conferences as gatekeepers.
- (4) Staffing responsibilities. [a lack of full-time staff members, full-time staff members performing multiple tasks]
- (5) Compliance/monitoring rules violations.
- (6) Low attendance numbers/deficient marketing strategies.
- (7) Commitment to diversity.
- (8) Cabinet's oversight role in the reclassifying process.

5. Discussion regarding governance activities.

- a. Update on efforts to develop a governance assessment tool. The cabinet reviewed a draft of a preliminary tool designed to assess the 31-multisport conferences' knowledge of the goals and objectives behind the recent changes to the Division I governance structure. The group offered a number of helpful comments and approved sending the survey instruments to the conferences. The cabinet also identified a tentative course of action for conducting a broader assessment of the new governance structure. This course of action includes:

- (1) Sending a brief survey instrument similar to the one sent to the conferences to Division I institutions;
- (2) Conducting interviews with chairs of the cabinets and councils;
- (3) Conducting exit interviews with departing cabinet and council members;
- (4) Surveying the Board as to its understanding of the goals and objectives for the new structure;
- (5) Developing a more detailed survey for both conferences and member institutions about their level of satisfaction with the current governance structure.

- b. Enhancing the level of diversity. The cabinet was informed that the Leadership Council at its October 6, 2009, meeting is expected to begin its work in earnest regarding ways to enhance the level of diversity serving at the Division I cabinet and council levels. The cabinet was provided a discussion document prepared to assist the Leadership Council and it discussed the complexity of the issues, especially given the role conferences play in the nomination process at the cabinet and council levels. The group was encouraged to provide any comments or suggestions regarding the discussion document to staff in advance of the Leadership Council meeting.
- c. Division I programming at the 2010 NCAA Convention. The cabinet was informed of proposed topics for the NCAA Convention's Division I Issues Forum, scheduled for January 15, 2010. Cabinet members were requested to provide NCAA staff with feedback regarding the proposed topics and asked to provide NCAA staff with ideas for additional discussion topics.

6. **Review of proposal referred to the cabinet from the 2009-10 cycle.** The cabinet reviewed a Division I legislative proposal assigned to it for review that will be considered by the Division I membership as part of the 2009-10 legislative cycle and offered the following comments:

2009-83 – Playing and Practice Seasons and Division Membership –Regulations For Playing Season and Minimum Contest Requirements For Sports Sponsorship-Women's Sand Volleyball Intent: In women's sand volleyball, to establish the playing and practice season and the minimum number of contests necessary for sports sponsorship purposes, as specified.

Cabinet's Comments : The cabinet supported subparagraph b of the Proposal No. 2009-83, which requires an institution's women's sand volleyball team to participate in a minimum of eight contests, of which no less than three shall be dual, one-day competitions in which five two-person teams compete [institution versus institution on a single day on which no other competition occurs]. The group noted that the minimum eight contest requirement for sports sponsorship purposes may require adjustment if the maximum limitation of 16 contests set forth in the proposal is amended. [For-11, Against -0, Abstain -8]

- 7. Life and Work Balance Initiative.** Over the course of this past year, the cabinet heard about the NCAA Executive Committee's charges to the division to consider possible legislative options to promote life-work balance and learned about on-going efforts to develop supporting best practices and policies. At this meeting, the cabinet was provided an opportunity to offer any recommended policy or legislative changes designed to enhance a sense of life-work balance. The cabinet elected not to recommend any related policy initiatives or legislative changes at this time. It noted that while the issue of work-life balance is exceedingly important, it felt that, given the NCAA's many other priorities and initiatives, it is more appropriate for the issues to be addressed by other entities (e.g. coaches associations, institutions, conferences).

- 8. Brief update from the NCAA Research Committee.** Given the cabinet's jurisdiction over the NCAA Research Committee, the cabinet received an update regarding the NCAA research staff's recent activities in both academic and non-academic areas, including: research on the academic success of transfer student-athletes; research on initial eligibility issues and historical standards; study of academic support units on Division I campuses; development of financial dashboard indicators; and tracking of sports sponsorship, participation rates, and student-athlete, coach and administrator ethnicity and gender trends. Additionally, the cabinet was informed of a policy change implemented by the NCAA to permit sharing its research data with select outside entities.

Cabinet chair: Rob Halvaks, Big West Conference

Cabinet liaisons: Beth DeBauche, governance

Steve Mallonee, academic and membership affairs

Delise O'Meally, membership and governance

Dave Schnase, academic and membership affairs

Sharon Tufano, governance

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (effective immediately):

- Eric Hall, faculty athletics representative, Elon University, Southern Conference.

Honors Committee (effective January 2010):

- Reappoint Roxanne Levenson, associate director of athletics, Pepperdine University, West Coast Conference
- Appoint Barbara Chesler, senior associate director of athletics, Yale University, Ivy Group.

Division I Women's Basketball Issues Committee (effective immediately):

- Anya Covington, women's basketball student-athlete, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Big Ten Conference.

Division I Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee (effective January 2010):

- Andrew Shoemaker, program associate II, LD specialist, University of Kansas, Big 12 Conference.
- Consuelo Stebbins, faculty athletics representative, University of Central Florida, Conference USA.
- Kim Callicoatte, associate director of athletics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Atlantic-10 Conference.
- Charles Fourtner, faculty athletics representative, University of Buffalo, the State University of New York, Mid-American Conference.
- Rodrick Perry, associate director of athletics, Wright State University, Horizon League.

Women's Gymnastics Committee (effective immediately):

- Bev Plocki, head women's gymnastics coach, University of Michigan, Big Ten Conference.

Division I Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee (effective immediately):

- Megan McHugo, assistant director, Ivy Group.