

**NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet**  
**Subcommittee on Financial Aid**  
**2007 Financial Aid Workshop**  
**Executive Summary**

**Overview.**

During the February NCAA Division I Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet meeting, the Subcommittee on Financial Aid hosted approximately 32 individuals from the institutional financial aid community, conference representatives, institutional athletics administrators and student-athletes to share best practices and identify current issues relevant to the financial aid community, athletics programs and student-athletes. Ten round-table discussions were conducted in which issues related to institutional and need-based aid, outside awards, processing countable aid, education and resources, one-year period legislation, international student financial aid issues and summer financial aid were discussed. The subcommittee compiled and discussed the resulting recommendations. The subcommittee will continue its discussions of the recommendations and possible action plans during its June meeting.

**Purpose.**

The purpose of this executive summary is to provide the Cabinet with a brief outline of the items identified during the workshop discussion.

**Institutional Aid and Need-Based Aid.**

1. Impact of NCAA legislation on student-athletes with a demonstrated financial need.
  - a. Determine ways in which institutional need-based aid can be received without counting against team limits.
  - b. Have equivalencies apply only to student-athletes without need. Recruited student-athletes who have a demonstrated financial need are not subject to equivalency limitations unless they receive athletics aid.
  - c. Eliminate equivalencies. Make all sports head-count sports.
  - d. Impact of co-mingling athletics aid and institutional aid. Allow student-athletes to receive one or the other.
2. Academic Competitiveness Grant and National Science and Mathematics to Retain Talent Grant (SMART).

- Treat similar to other identified government grants (e.g., do not count against individual limits).
3. Mistrust amongst the membership.
- Allow financial aid offices to apply “professional judgment” when dealing with issues involving student-athletes/athletics aid. Establish oversight mechanism to prevent abuse (e.g., document and keep on file incidences where “professional judgment” was used for a situation involving a student-athlete/athletics aid).

### **One-Year Period Legislation.**

1. Unintended consequences of the period of award legislation.
  - a. Identify circumstances where additional exceptions are warranted.
  - b. Create a legislative exception to allow leftover aid or newly available aid to be awarded at midyear to any student-athlete as long as the team and student-athlete remain within team and individual limits.
2. Multi-year athletics scholarships.
  - Permitting multi-year awards did not initially receive overwhelming support. Some support was given for two-year awards for incoming freshman student-athletes. This would allow a student-athlete to acclimatize and would place increased accountability on a coach to make sound recruiting decisions.

### **Processing Countable Aid and Calculation of Room and Board.**

1. Frequent mistakes in processing aid for student-athletes.
  - a. Simplify the legislation to reduce the processing mistakes (e.g., walk-ons, recruited status, sources of aid and outside aid).
  - b. The financial aid community needs to provide insight and expertise to the athletics administrators.
  - c. Establish a checks/balances system.
  - d. Identify best practices related to the calculation of countable aid.

