MINUTES OF THE

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

DIVISION III FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE

Teleconference October 12, 2006

Participants:

Patricia Blodgett, Keene State College
Paul Boyer, Williams College
David Ellis, Emerson College
Travis Feezell, Macalester College
Sara Beth Holman, Lawrence University
Kevin McHugh, The College of New Jersey
Dan Preston, Linfield College, chair
Garnett Purnell, Wittenberg University
Ellen Shilkret, Vassar College
Debra Townsley, Nichols College
Richard Woodland, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden
Matthew Banker, NCAA
Eric Hartung, NCAA
Ann Kearns, NCAA
Charnele Kemper, NCAA, recording secretary

Dennis Hefner, State University College at Fredonia, was unable to participate on this teleconference.

[Note: These minutes contain only actions taken (formal votes or stated "sense of the meeting") in accordance with NCAA policy regarding minutes of all Association entities. While certain items on the committee's agenda were acted on at various times throughout the meeting, all final actions within a given topic are combined in these minutes for convenience of reference.]

Thursday, October 12

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. Eastern time by the chair, Mr. Preston.

1. Welcome and announcements. Mr. Preston welcomed the NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee members to the teleconference.

2. Committee roster. The committee referred to the 2006 Division III Financial Aid Committee roster as an informational item. The committee was directed to inform NCAA staff of any changes or updates to their personal contact information.

3. Minutes from the May 31 teleconference. The committee referred to the draft of the May 31 teleconference minutes. The committee reviewed the draft and took the following action:

   It was VOTED

   "That the May 31 teleconference minutes be adopted."

4. 2006-07 financial aid reporting process.

   a. Timeline. The committee referred to the 2006-07 financial aid reporting process timeline as an informational item. NCAA staff noted that they will survey committee members for availability for the March and May 2007 teleconferences within the coming weeks.

   b. Institutional reports available via NCAA secure Web site. NCAA staff noted that they are working to finalize data from the 2006-07 reporting cycle and will e-mail instructions to the committee for Web-based review during the week of October 16. NCAA staff estimated that 39 institutions will need to be reviewed based on conditions from the 2005-06 reporting cycle and there will be over 100 institutions to review for the 2006-07 reporting cycle. NCAA staff clarified that any institution that believes another institution is in violation of financial aid legislation can report that information to the NCAA enforcement staff but enforcement referrals will not be reviewed by the committee. The committee agreed to work after dinner at the November 2 in-person meeting if necessary to conduct reviews.

   c. Data-submission totals and deadline-extension requests. The committee reviewed the data-submission totals from the 2006-07 reporting cycle. NCAA staff clarified that there will not be any institutions withheld from NCAA championship events due to late submission because all institutions submitted their data prior to any championship events.

   d. Level I review – three new filters. The committee reviewed the three new Level I filters for review of financial aid reports for the 2006-07 reporting cycle. NCAA staff explained that the Web reports to be reviewed by the committee during the upcoming

Level I review will be separated into review categories that indicate why an institution is being reviewed. Institutions are reviewed based on conditions set by the committee (during the 2005-06 reporting process), an institution's 2006-07 variance or if an institution triggers one of the three new Level I filters.

e. Level II review – institutional written-justification template. The committee referred to the template for Level II justifications that will provide consistency in soliciting institutional written justifications. NCAA staff noted that the document will be posted on the Division III Financial Aid Committee Web site in order to provide access to institutions to use the document when preparing their justifications. The committee discussed the idea of posting examples of institution's justifications on the Web site. NCAA staff noted that institutions may rely too heavily on the posted examples and not consider the importance of the individuality of their responses. Additionally, NCAA staff noted concerns of confidentiality if institutions' reports are posted to the Web site. The committee requested that NCAA staff gather some examples of Level II written justifications from the 2005-06 reporting cycle for the committee to review at its November 2007 in-person meeting.

5. Discuss the impact of early admissions, early decisions and slotting on financial aid packaging at Division III institutions. The committee referred to several newspaper articles regarding early admissions, early decisions and slotting and discussed the impact of early-admissions slotting on student-athlete financial aid packaging. The committee agreed to not take action at this time and to see the outcome of the 2006-07 reporting cycle with the advent of three new Level I filters in order to determine the presence of early admissions on student-athlete financial aid packages.

6. Consider legislative exception for national governing bodies to provide educational expenses to student-athletes. The committee discussed whether to propose legislation to permit Division III student-athletes to accept educational expenses from national governing bodies per specified criteria. The committee took the following action:

It was VOTED

"To propose noncontroversial legislation to permit Division III student-athletes to accept educational expenses from national governing bodies per specified criteria."

7. Discuss use of leadership experience in athletics activities for purposes of financial aid packaging. The committee discussed whether student-athletes' leadership abilities and

experiences in relation to athletics be permissible financial aid packaging criteria. The committee noted that student-athletes are permitted to receive credit for their athletics abilities and participation in the admissions process. The committee noted concerns of monitoring institutional financial aid awarding processes if student-athletes are permitted to receive credit for their athletics leadership abilities. The committee agreed to maintain the status quo based on Division III philosophy and legislation.

8. Update on Division III financial aid education sessions and outreach to third-party associations. NCAA staff thanked committee members who have participated in recent financial aid presentations and noted two upcoming educational sessions at the Faculty Athletics Representative Association Fall Forum and the 2007 NCAA Convention.

9. Consider communication to Division III membership concerning confidentiality of financial aid data and implications of sharing institutional financial aid report and variance information. NCAA staff reminded the committee that the financial aid reporting process is completely confidential and the NCAA staff and committee will not share any data. Institutions and conferences can choose to share their data but NCAA staff cautioned that data should not be used for comparison purposes between individual institutions or conferences. NCAA staff will draft a letter that will be sent to Division III institutions specifying confidentiality measures in place and the potential ramifications of sharing institutional variance or related information. The memorandum will be available for the committee's review during the November in-person meeting before it is disseminated.

10. Solicit interest from committee members to present at the following Division III financial aid sessions:

    a. Faculty Athletics Representative Association Fall Forum from 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, November 17 (New Orleans); and

    b. 2007 Convention from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, January 8 (Orlando).

    NCAA staff requested that any committee member interested in co-presenting with the NCAA staff at either of the events should contact NCAA staff with his or her interest. NCAA staff specifically requested that an athletics director, chancellor or president and financial aid director present at the Convention.

11. Other business. The committee agreed for each member to bring a gift to exchange from their home state for the November in-person meeting. The committee agreed that each member should wear their favorite team gear to the in-person meeting Friday, November 2.

12. Future meetings. NCAA staff noted the current meeting and teleconference schedule and requested that committee members notify NCAA staff if they will be bringing their own laptop to the November in-person meeting. NCAA staff advised the committee that the agenda and supplements for the November in-person meeting will be e-mailed within the next two weeks. NCAA staff noted that the November in-person meeting will be Mr. Boyer's and Ms. Blodgett's last meeting and the identification of new committee members will occur in late November 2006.

13. Adjournment. The committee moved to adjourn the teleconference at 2:22 p.m. Eastern time.

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