

FUTURE OF DIVISION III – PHASE II FORUM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MANAGEMENT OF GROWTH AND CHAMPIONSHIPS ISSUES

Management of Growth

If you believe that Division III will become too large, what would your solution to this issue be?

Championships and Other Postseason Opportunities

The Division III philosophy indicates that *“primary emphasis will be given to regional in-season competition.”* Survey results indicate that approximately 75 percent of respondents strongly support or support this philosophy. Regional competition has been an emphasis for championships selection criteria and other policies implemented to govern championships access. Should championships access policies be revised related to in-region competition? If so, how can this be accomplished while preserving the philosophy of emphasizing in-region competition?

It is anticipated that the current Division III championships format will max out by 2010, possibly creating a need to revamp the system to continue to support automatic qualification opportunities and defined access for Pools B and C. What alternatives should the Championships Committee pursue?

ACADEMICS AND CULTURAL ISSUES

Academic Success of Student-Athletes

The Division III Philosophy places *“the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience and on the successful completion of all students’ academic programs.”* Survey results indicate that 100 percent of respondents support this philosophy and approximately 90 percent of respondents indicate that this philosophical basis be addressed at the institutional level. Since this is a high priority at the institutional level, should institutions monitor the successful completion of its student-athletes distinguishing them from students generally? If so, should the division establish a related philosophical principle? Should the NCAA include this philosophical basis in the Institutional Self-Study Guide (ISSG), (e.g., grad. rate; GPA; class standing) and assist with the creation of definitions; forms; best practices?

Cultural & Campus Integration

Survey results indicate that approximately 90 percent of respondents strongly support or support the CEO being actively involved in the oversight of intercollegiate athletics. However, survey results also show that directors of athletics more frequently report to chief student affairs officers (48.7 percent) or chief academic officers (19.6 percent) as compared to the CEO (20.2 percent). Based on the athletics reporting structure in

Division III, should institutions identify strategies for engaging the Student Affairs and Academic Offices in the ISSG? Should the national office create flexibility for institutions to identify the chief student affairs officer and chief academic officer for NCAA communication initiatives (i.e., "Top 6 as opposed to Top 5")? What other strategies would better integrate these individuals?

Conference Affiliation

In order for a conference to receive an automatic qualification (AQ) to an NCAA championship, the conference must have a minimum of seven members sponsoring the specified sport and competing for a minimum of two years. The survey results indicate a split in support or opposition to permit conference realignment without loss of AQ. Is conference realignment a concept that should be further discussed? If so, should realignment without loss of automatic qualification, for a limited period of time be considered? If so, what is an appropriate time period?

SPORTS SPONSORSHIP AND PROGRAM EQUITY ISSUES

Sports Sponsorship and Broad Based Programs

86.4% of responses indicated support or strong support for maximizing the number and variety of athletics opportunities for students. Responses to adjust sports sponsorship based on enrollment were mixed, with approximately 30% in strong support or support, and 30% in strong opposition or opposition. (The responses to increase sports sponsorship requirements were similar.) If an alignment of sports sponsorship and institutional enrollment were to occur, would it be more appropriate to require institutions with greater than average enrollment to increase sports sponsorship beyond five for men and five for women, or for those with less than average enrollment to drop below five and five?

Sport and Program equity

Survey responses indicated support for the concept of implementing a policy to encourage sport equity or discourage tiering. How should the division manage this issue?

Sport and Program equity

77% of respondents supported (or strongly supported) the establishment of NCAA programming to enhance opportunities for the recruitment of minority student-athletes. What specific kinds of programming would assist Division III campuses in this effort?

