



# BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Office of the President

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September 29, 2005

Dear Colleague:

I write regarding several significant legislative proposals submitted by Division III member schools for consideration at the 2006 NCAA Convention. The proposals call into question the Division III philosophy and important reform legislation adopted in 2004.

At the 2004 Convention, the membership adopted a landmark legislative "reform agenda." These proposals were intended to reinforce the Division III philosophy and to help set the future course of the division in several critical areas, including financial aid, recruiting, eligibility, and playing and practice seasons.

Division III presidents and chancellors played a critical role in the adoption of the 2004 reform agenda. The Division III Presidents Council supported the proposals. More importantly, over 100 presidents and chancellors, a record number, attended the convention. Your attendance and active participation helped to ensure that institutional votes reflected the unique viewpoint we share regarding the proper integration of athletics in higher education.

Some member schools now have submitted proposals for the 2006 Convention that would negatively affect legislation adopted as part of the 2004 reform agenda, or otherwise would call into question tenets of the Division III philosophy. These proposals are summarized on the enclosed chart.

While the Presidents Council will not take a formal position on these proposals until its October 27 meeting, I wanted to express my concern and ask for your support and advice as the council develops its position on these proposals.

Your feedback regarding this legislation will be very helpful to the council in fulfilling this responsibility. Enclosed is a chart that identifies members of the council to whom you can forward comments, based upon your conference affiliation. You may also write me. I encourage you to discuss these proposals with campus constituents and conference colleagues, and to share your thoughts with members of the council prior to October 24.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your commitment to Division III.

Sincerely,



Phillip C. Stone

Encls.

2006 Division III Convention Legislation

Topical Area	Title	Source	Intent	Rationale	Comments
Championships Postseason Events	DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP - PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT - ELIMINATION OF IN-REGION COMPETITION EMPHASIS	College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin	To eliminate the emphasis on in- region competition within the Division III philosophy statement and the championships selection process for all Division III team sports.	The regional competition emphasis in the championships selection process has adversely affected many Division III institutions. First, this emphasis has prevented institutions with National Championship aspirations from scheduling games outside of their region, including areas valuable to enrollment generation. Second, schools are forced to play in-region games against lesser quality teams simply because the games are considered to be in-region. Often, such games do not provide any benefit to either team other than being considered in-region games. Third, teams that have been historically successful in certain regions now struggle to find in-region games and must now look outside their region, impacting championships possibilities. Finally, the Division III philosophy statement declares that the purpose of the NCAA is to assist its members in developing the basis for consistent, equitable competition while minimizing infringement on the freedom of individual institutions to determine their own objectives and programs. The current in-region emphasis is contrary to that statement as it handcuffs schools aspiring to NCAA championships. This change supports the basic premise that 'a game is a game' regardless of location and enables schools to choose where and against whom they will play in conjunction with their own institutional objectives.	
Eligibility	ELIGIBILITY - SEASONS OF COMPETITION	Massachusetts State College Athletic Conference	To re-establish the permissibility of "redshirting" by specifying that a student-athlete shall use a season of eligibility when he or she participates in any regular-season competition (including scrimmages occurring after the first contest or date of competition and competition in the nontraditional segment) or postseason intercollegiate competition.	Recent studies indicate that a student's success and retention is directly linked to the student's connection to the university. At the majority of Division III institutions, athletics staff are extremely limited in number. Many times due to financial considerations, or a desire to concentrate more on academics, a "redshirt" year is critically supportive to the student-athlete's personal well-being and academic success. This issue is one that was overwhelmingly supported by the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association and by the national Student-Athlete Advisory Committee at the 2004 NCAA Convention. We created the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association as well as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and each group's voice should be heard.	

