

MINUTES OF THE
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP ON MEMBERSHIP

Indianapolis Marriott Downtown
Indianapolis, Indiana

August 8, 2007

Participants:

Daniel Curran, University of Dayton, chair
Valerie Cushman, Randolph College
Doug Echols, South Atlantic Conference
John Fry, Franklin and Marshall College
Jim Johnson, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association
Cynthia Jones, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Jane Meier, Northern Kentucky University
John Nazarian, Rhode Island College
Greg Sankey, Southeastern Conference
Dick Strockbine, University of Dallas
David Berst, NCAA
Jack Copeland, NCAA
Bernard Franklin, NCAA
Eric Hartung, NCAA
Delise O'Meally, NCAA
Leah Nilsson, NCAA
Mike Racy, NCAA
Terri Steeb, NCAA
Wendy Walters, NCAA

Kristen Hall, Bard College was unable to attend. Myles Brand, attended a portion of the meeting.

[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.]

The NCAA Executive Committee Working Group on Membership meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by the chair, President Curran. All members were present as noted above.

1. Divisional membership processes. The working group reviewed the current membership processes for each division, including the new Divisions II and III membership standards. The group noted that the Division III Presidents Council likely will vote to allow the Division III membership moratorium to expire in January 2008.

2. Division III Working Group report. The working group received a report from the Division III working group that concurrently has been reviewing the membership issue. Some important themes that have emerged related to models to create a subdivision or new division include:
 - a. Division III as a default position. An institution would remain in its current membership grouping unless it elects to join the new grouping. Institutions would not be assigned to the grouping regardless of affiliation, sports sponsorship, or voting patterns.
 - b. Delayed effective date. The effective date of any legislative changes adopted at the 2009 convention should be delayed by at least two years, to permit adequate time for institutions and conferences to make informed decisions regarding future affiliation.
 - c. Increased sports sponsorship. A new grouping would most likely feature increased sports sponsorship and might include other more restrictive legislation.
 - d. Traditional rivalries. It is important to keep traditional rivalries in mind as institutions choose to join the new grouping.

3. Interaction with the NAIA. The working group also received an update on a recent meeting with the leadership of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The purpose of that meeting was to provide information on membership activities within both organizations. The NAIA expressed its willingness to participate in focus group discussions with a subgroup of the Executive Committee Working Group on Membership. A joint meeting will be scheduled in late September.

4. Division II financial study. The working group received a report on a recent Division II financial study. The goal of this study was to help members and prospective members in Division II better understand both the real costs of investments made by Division II institutions, and the value they receive in return for their investment. The study included 15 institutions, both public and private. The group anticipates a more comprehensive report

in October, and noted that the Division II membership will engage in a broad-based discussion on this issue at the 2008 NCAA Convention.

5. Division I membership issues. The working group received a report on current Division I membership standards. The working group noted recent reclassification trends and discussed the possibility of a Division I membership moratorium. Given the current membership climate and the interrelation of membership issues across the Association, the working group supported the idea of a membership moratorium in Division I.
6. Next steps. The working group will conduct its next meeting in October, in conjunction with the divisional presidential meetings. During the October meeting, the group will review additional information from the Division III working group regarding alternative membership grouping concepts, and the legal and legislative framework for these membership models. The working group agreed to focus on identifying the best options for membership structure, and then determine the most appropriate means of funding. The group also noted that discussions regarding the identity of the new grouping would occur subsequent to membership discussion of this issue at the 2008 Convention.
7. Timeline. An Association-wide forum will be held at the 2008 Convention to outline the membership models and a membership survey will be initiated in spring 2008. Legislation to implement a new membership model will be considered during the 2009 Convention, with a delayed effective date for implementation.
8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

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