

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
JUNE 23, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

a. **Division III Strategic Plan implementation for 2026-27.**

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the implementation plan for FY27 as outlined in Attachment A.
- (2) Effective date. Sept. 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. The Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC) is charged with monitoring the division's strategic plan and has collaborated with the governance structure to update the planned implementation for FY27. The items in red font in Attachment A are the identified priority initiatives and programs for the year. In addition, the budget requests in Item b support funding for the identified initiatives.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. See Attachments B and C for the projected budget breakdown.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. The Division III Strategic Plan is developed to support the student-athlete collegiate experience as a core component. The 2026-27 implementation includes support for championships, programs, grants, and initiatives to help accomplish that goal.

b. **Championships and Enrichment Fund budget initiatives for FY27-FY28.**

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the championships and Enrichment Fund initiatives listed in Attachments B and C for the FY27-FY28 budget cycle.
- (2) Effective date. Sept. 1, 2026.
- (3) Rationale. The recommended budget allocations are the result of the Division III Championships Committee's comprehensive review of requests from sport committees along with initiatives that positively impact all Division III championships, as well as from the SPFC's comprehensive review of Enrichment Fund initiatives for the next cycle. These items have been vetted and supported through correspondence with sport committees and other entities affiliated with the division.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$3 million additional funding beyond the FY26 budget. See Attachments B and C for specific allocations. The division has

enough revenue to cover the proposed funding, including the remaining financial contribution to the Ray Settlement for FY27 and FY28.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. All the initiatives positively impact the student-athlete experience.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** The chair, Suzanne Davis, welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Eastern time and previewed key agenda items.
2. **Review of recent report.** The committee approved the report from its March 26, in-person meeting as presented.
3. **Presidents Council/Management Council summary of actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of the Division III Presidents and Management Council meetings in April, noting the councils' approval of the SPFC's initial budget recommendations for FY27-FY28 and the committee's new meeting cadence that convenes the group four times annually instead of three (one in-person meeting in March and three videoconferences in June, September and December) to align with the councils' quarterly cadence.
4. **Division III Analysis.** The committee received an update and engaged in discussion regarding the comprehensive analysis of Division III, which the Presidents Council authorized to help the division's membership navigate the evolving landscape of higher education and intercollegiate athletics. Specifically, members focused their discussion on the financial concerns reflected in the reports of the working group including the survey data from athletics directors (60% response rate) and commissioners (78% response rate). SPFC members agreed with those concerns and noted their trickle-down effect on staffing at many institutions where a single individual is expected to perform multiple roles. As the analysis continues to be a collaborative endeavor that will engage Division III stakeholders throughout the process, including the governance structure and the membership at large, the working group's recommendations regarding options to mitigate concerns will be distributed to relevant groups within the governance structure in addition to the councils.
5. **Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee report.** The committee reviewed a recent report from the subcommittee that focused on the Division III Analysis and opportunities cited in the 2024 Deloitte review.
6. **Division III budget.**
 - a. **2025-26 budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed the budget-to-actuals through the end of May.
 - b. **Future budget projections.** The committee revisited the projections reviewed during its March meeting, noting that the revenue for the new FY26 budget is approximately \$1.5 million more than FY25 budget due to the NCAA's broadcast

agreements and an increase in championships ticket sales. Also included on the projection is the division's three-year annual contribution the Presidents Council authorized as part of the Ray settlement.

7. **NCAA Captive Insurance Program update.** Staff updated the committee regarding the division's current insurance policy as part of the NCAA's captive insurance program. Division III currently has opted for coverage of lost ticket revenue and radio rights in the event the Division I Men's Basketball Championship is canceled. The SPFC discussed options for the upcoming year and recommended retaining the current coverage for fiscal year 2027. (This recommendation is included as part of the committee's overall budget recommendations for the councils in Action Item 2-b.)
8. **Championships budget requests.** The committee reviewed and supported recommendations from the Division III Championships Committee regarding budget requests for FY27-FY28. [See Action Item 2-b.]
9. **Enrichment Fund budget requests.** The committee revisited potential funding requests for either existing or new Enrichment Fund initiatives for the Management and Presidents Councils to consider. The following is a summary of new or updated initiatives the SPFC reviewed during this videoconference. Those the SPFC supported are included in Action Item 2-b, Attachment C.
 - a. **Athletics Communication annual grant, Regional Rules Seminar livestreaming, health and safety grant, and Mental Health First Aid program.** The committee was reminded that during its March meeting, it supported the budget recommendations for the athletics communication annual grant, Regional Rules Seminar livestreaming, continuation of the health and safety grant and the final year of the mental health program.
 - b. **Live streaming host stipend.** The committee was informed that with Paramount+ purchasing Warner Brothers there might be an impact on the Association's digital media rights. The division anticipates continuing to livestream all rounds of team championships without a paywall, similar to the last two years, but won't receive final confirmation until later in the summer.
 - c. **Chi Alpha Sigma grant proposal.** This is a new proposal seeking a partnership with Chi Alpha Sigma, the premier National College Athlete Honor Society, to ensure that every Division III student-athlete has access to this prestigious recognition. The proposal also requests financial assistance to provide and maintain an active Chi Alpha Sigma chapter at every NCAA Division III school. Currently almost 60% of the division already has a chapter. This proposal would pay for all 419 schools to have a chapter at a cost of \$100 per school for a total of \$41,900 annually. After discussion, the committee recognized the value of the program but thought this proposal should be an institutional or conference decision rather than an NCAA grant, and as such, the committee voted to not support it.

- d. Photography proposal.** The Division III Sports Information Directors Association is asking for assistance from the NCAA to fund photography support for Division III championships final sites by increasing the number of days photographers are at the finals site and enabling them to live-transmit photos for more immediate access. The original proposal included options that would provide a range of coverage (including the number of photographers on site and the number of days they spend at the championship, as well as their ability to live-transmit images). In March, the committee generally supported the concept but asked for a proposal that was narrower in scope to reduce the annual funding needed and would be available to a broader number of institutions. After discussion, the committee supported a revised proposal that includes full coverage with live-transmit of individual team sports (e.g., swimming and diving, track and field, tennis, wrestling).
 - e. Division III Commissioners Association proposals.** The Division III Commissioners Association is seeking financial assistance to help offset the increased expenses tied to conference website hosting and maintenance. In March, the committee generally supported the request but asked for additional data regarding traffic with conference and institutional websites. The commissioners were unable to attain this data but still seek approval of the proposal. The committee voted to support the proposal to keep conferences from having to pass on the increased web hosting expenses to conference members via their conference dues.
 - f. National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators grant proposal.** Division III provides an annual grant to the National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators for professional development. The organization is asking for additional dollars annually to support leadership and mentoring initiatives for new athletics directors and increase the number of grants to attend the annual summer forum. The committee voted to support the updated proposal.
 - g. Management Council Graduation Working Group.** The Management Council recently created a working group to examine and monitor Division III graduation rates. The working group is requesting \$10,000 to collaborate with the National Student Clearinghouse to obtain official enrollment records of Division III football student-athletes across higher education, which the SPFC supported.
- 10. FY27/FY28 Enrichment Fund requests.** The committee reviewed a summary of Enrichment Fund expenses that included the items above to evaluate the overarching Enrichment Fund budget.
- 11. Future budget projections with FY27/28 enhancements.** The committee reviewed a document that incorporates the proposed championship and Enrichment Fund spending for FY27 and FY28. The document indicates that the division has enough revenue to cover the proposed funding, but due to current one-time spending initiatives, including the

division's financial contribution to the Ray settlement, it will also reduce the reserves beyond the mandated policy.

12. Division III Strategic Plan.

- a. **Final 2025-26 strategic plan implementation.** The committee reviewed this year's strategic plan, noting the priority initiatives and their level of implementation (i.e., whether they have been accomplished or remain ongoing.)
- b. **Proposed 2026-27 implementation.** The committee also reviewed the FY27 strategic implementation plan, again noting the priority initiatives and programs. After discussion, the committee agreed to recommend that the Management and Presidents Councils approve the implementation plan as presented. [See Action Item 2-a.]

13. Additional business.

- **Committee roster.** The committee acknowledged that this is the final meeting for Crystal Gibson, the committee's Management Council representative who is leaving her institution for another in a different conference and thus will no longer serve on the council and in turn the SPFC. Committee members thanked Ms. Gibson for her significant contributions to both the SPFC and the council during her tenure.

14. Future meetings.

- a. Thursday, Sept. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
- b. Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2-4 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).

15. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Suzanne Davis, Greenville University
Staff Liaison(s): Louise McCleary, Division III Governance and Member Services
 Cara Hubert, Administrative Services
 Bill Regan, Division III Governance and Member Services
 Jeff Myers, Division III Governance and Member Services

Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee June 23, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Jessica Chapin, Brandeis University.
Suzanne Davis, Greenville University.
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland.
Michael Harrison, Framingham State University.
Angel Mason, Berry College.
Joe Onderko, Presidents' Athletic Conference.
Meghan Roman, Illinois College.
Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts Boston.
Chris Spells, University of California, Santa Cruz.
Shanna Trone, Agnes Scott College.
Absentees:
Shannon Howley, Montclair State University.
Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Salisbury University.
Guests in Attendance:
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Cara Hubert, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Bill Regan.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Eric Hartung, Bryn Mangold, Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Lisa Rogers, Liz Schneckenburger and Ali Spungen.