



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III STRATEGIC
PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 14, 2019, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Report from the June 20, 2019, teleconference.** The committee approved the report from its June 20, 2019, teleconference.
- 2. Budget.** The committee reviewed the 2019-20 budget-to-actual as of September 2019, the budget overview and the future budget model. The 2018-19 final budget reflected a surplus of \$1.5M in championships and a surplus of \$300K in nonchampionships. The overage will be added to the surplus above and beyond the mandated reserve.

The future budget model projects expenses through 2023-24, including an intentional spend down of the surplus above and beyond the mandated reserve. Currently, the forecast is shows slight overages in 2022-23 and 2023-24, and a minimal surplus above and beyond the mandated reserve in 2023-24. Considering that revenue is flat in 2022-23 and 2023-24, and the intentional spend down of the surplus above and beyond the mandated reserve during the same period, the numbers look favorable.

Staff updated the committee on the recent changes to the annual travel inflationary estimate. It increased from 3.5 to 4.94% for 2019-20 and will be reduced to 3.94% next year (2020-21). Future travel inflation policy will not change more than one percent higher or lower annually. Staff will update the future budget model to reflect the new travel inflation estimates for the committee to review at its March in-person meeting.

3. Division III Conference Grant Program.

- a. 2018-19 Conference Grant Impact Forms.** The committee noted the submission of the 2018-19 Impact Forms by 43 Division III conferences and the Association of Division III Independents, and the reviews by NCAA staff.
- b. Grant Policies Inconsistencies.** During the review of the impact forms, two conferences reported grant use not in alignment with the Strategic Conference Grant Program policies and procedures. The subcommittee confirmed the following policy in inconsistencies and recommended corrective action.

- (1) Empire 8.

Concern One: Tier Three – Athletics Training/Medicine/Nutrition – Athletics

Training Equipment for an Air Purification System for St. John Fisher College locker rooms.

Concern Two: Tier Three – Athletics Training to fund a strength coach to attend a professional development event.

Corrective Action: Because of these findings, the subcommittee asked the staff to issue a warning letter. In its discussion, the subcommittee noted the grant uses listed above were inconsistent and not in alignment with the policies and procedures of the grant. In addition to the warning letter, the Empire 8 has been selected for a level two assessment review for the 2018-19 reporting period.

(2) North Atlantic Conference (NAC).

Concern: Tier Three – Technology – Purchase of an amplifier for the Northern Vermont University – Johnson gymnasium sound system.

Corrective Action: Because of this finding, the subcommittee asked the staff to issue a warning letter. In its discussion, the subcommittee noted the grant use was inconsistent and not in alignment with grant policies. Further, this type of purchase should be considered a facilities and equipment expense.

- c. Review of 2018-19 Grant Rollover Plans. Ten conferences reported a carryover greater than \$300 per tier and \$1,000 overall. The subcommittee reviewed each rollover request and ultimately approved all requests. It also directed staff to remind the conference offices that any approved rollover funds beyond \$1,000 unspent at the conclusion of 2019-20 reporting cycle need to be returned to the NCAA.
- d. NCAA Internal Audit – Identification of Three Conferences for Level Two Review. For the 2018-19 review cycle, the subcommittee determined that the Empire 8 should receive a for-cause audit. For the second and third reviews, the subcommittee selected, at random, the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) and the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC). The subcommittee noted that the GNAC and the UMAC filed exemplary reports and identified no usage concerns; instead, the GNAC and UMAC were selected as part of the national office’s program to monitor grant funding.
- e. Proposed Amendment to Conference Grant Impact Form Due Date. The committee received a request from the Division III Commissioners Association Conference Grant Subcommittee to change the submission deadline for the Impact Forms from July 15 to August 1. The rationale related to new constituent groups added to Tier I in recent years (e.g., SIDs, ATCs) and the increasing number of professional development events taking place in late June, make it hard for conferences to meet the current deadline.

The Strategic Planning and Finance Committee approved the request noting that the disbursement of grant checks will be delayed to the third week of September.

- 4. Division III Initiatives with Budget Impact.** Staff provided an update on the following Division III initiatives.
- a. 2019 NCAA Summer Forum. The committee received a final summary showing the distribution of the \$75,000 to support the 2019 NADIII AA Summer Forum.
 - b. Women Leaders in College Sports. The committee received a final summary showing the distribution of the \$30,000 to support a total of 92 female administrators.
 - c. 2019 CoSIDA Student Program. The committee received a final summary showing the distribution of the \$15,000 to support eight students to attend the annual CoSIDA convention for a professional development opportunity.
 - d. 2019 New Athletics Director Orientation. The committee received a final summary showing the distribution of the \$79,870 to support 31 participants and nine speakers, noting the actual spending for this event was over by \$12,410.
 - e. 2019 Next Steps Program. The committee received a final summary showing the distribution of the \$29,000 to support the Next Steps Program. This two-day program is a continuation of the Student Immersion Program. Approximately 25 students receive professional development and attend the Career in Sports Forum.
 - f. 2019 Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) Institute. The committee reviewed the agenda and roster of the FAR Institute noting the attendance of 24 faculty athletics representatives.
 - g. 2020 Athletics Direct Report (ADR) Institute. The committee noted that approximately 30 ADRs will attend the institute during the 2020 NCAA Convention in Anaheim.
 - h. 2020 Student Immersion Program. The fifth Student Immersion Program will be held in conjunction with the NCAA Convention. Forty students of color were nominated and selected by a subgroup of the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group.
 - i. International Ice Hockey Pilot. The committee received an update on the ice hockey pilot noting a decrease in the number of student-athletes submitted compared to year one. For year two, student-athletes were responsible for the cost, with the governance structure reimbursing them 50%. Currently, staff doesn't anticipate continuing the pilot for another year.

5. **Championships Update.** The committee received an update from the Championships Committee's September in-person meeting, noting approval of the following items by the Management and Presidents Councils: (1) Alcohol sales at the 2020 Division III men's basketball championship; (2) Revised dates for the 2020 Division III men's basketball championship preliminary rounds; (3) Exception to bracketing policies for the Division III men's and women's ice hockey championships; and (4) Establishment of a men's and women's tennis rules subcommittee.

6. **Division III Strategic Plan Review.** The committee received an update on the proposed formation of a working group to comprehensively review the 10-year old Division III Strategic Positioning Platform. It noted that due to the delay of the Association-wide strategic plan until April, the working group won't be formed until the March in-person meeting.

7. **Reallocation of Denied/Deferred Budget Funding.** Approximately \$112,000 has been reallocated to the Division III miscellaneous budget due to the denial of two Division III staff requests (a new FTE and a reclassification).

8. **Association-Wide Updates.** The committee received an update on the Board of Governors (BOG) Working Group on State and Federal Legislation report. The BOG directed each of the three divisions to immediately begin considering modification and modernization of relevant NCAA bylaws and rules in harmony with the following principles and guidelines:
 - Assure student-athletes are treated similarly to non-athlete students unless a compelling reason exists to differentiate.
 - Maintain the priorities of education and the collegiate experience to provide opportunities for student-athlete success.
 - Ensure rules are transparent, focused and enforceable and facilitate fair and balanced competition.
 - Make clear the distinction between collegiate and professional opportunities.
 - Make clear that compensation for athletic performance or participation is impermissible.
 - Reaffirm that student-athletes are students first and not employees of the university.
 - Enhance principles of diversity, inclusion and gender equity.
 - Protect the recruiting environment and prohibit inducements to select, remain at, or transfer to a specific institution.

Each division will hold two webinars, as well as an Association-wide webinar to provide education to the membership. Key opportunities for membership feedback will include the NCAA Convention and Regional Rules Seminars.

9. **Other Business.** Staff acknowledged and thanked Margaret Drugovich, president, Hartwick College; Stevie Baker-Watson, athletics director, DePauw University; and Kate Roy, associate commissioner North Atlantic Conference, for their service on SPFC and noted that next year's chair will be Fayneese Miller, president at Hamline University.

10. **Future Meetings.** The next meeting of the committee will be in-person Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at the NCAA national office in Indianapolis.

11. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Committee Chair: Tori Murden McClure, Spalding University [St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference]

*Staff Liaisons: Louise McCleary, Division III Governance
 Dan Dutcher, Division III Governance
 Eric Hartung, Research
 Debbie Kresge, Division III Governance
 Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Mark Aiken, Administrative*

NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee November 14, 2019, teleconference
Attendees:
Stevie Baker-Watson, DePauw University.
Angela Baumann, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Heather Benning, Midwest Conference.
Margaret Drugovich, Hartwick College.
David Ellis, Becker College.
Robert Lindgren, Randolph-Macon College
Tori Murden-McClure, Spalding University, chair
Colby Pepper, Covenant College, student-athlete
Kate Roy, North Atlantic Conference.
Kent Trachte, Lycoming College
Joseph Walsh, Great Northeast Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
Kiki Jacobs, Roger Williams University
Dennis Shields, University of Wisconsin, Platteville
Michael Vienna, Emory University
Dan Dutcher, Debbie Kresge, Louise McCleary and Ali Spungen.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Mark Aiken, Brian Burnsed, Eric Hartung, Jeff Myers, Adam Skaggs and Liz Suscha