



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III
STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 15, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and roster.** The chair of the committee, Jim Troha, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Eastern time.
- 2. Report from the June 24 videoconference.** The committee approved the report from its June videoconference as presented.
- 3. Fall 2022 Presidents Council/Management Council Summary of Actions.** The committee reviewed the recent recommendations and final actions from the councils during their October 2022 meetings.
- 4. Division III budget.**
 - a. 2022-23 budget fact sheet.** The committee reviewed a document detailing the division's budget allocation for 2022-23, noting that 79% of the budget is devoted to championships and 21% to Enrichment Fund initiatives. The document is located on the Division III membership home page at [NCAA.org](https://www.ncaa.org) for the membership to view.
 - b. Final 2021-22 and 2022-23 budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed the final budget-to-actuals from 2021-22, noting a surplus of approximately \$4.4 million due to a combination of less spending than budgeted (championships was \$1.5 million under budget, primarily with travel, and the Enrichment Fund was \$780,000 under budget) and additional revenue (\$2 million). The surplus was added to the division's reserves. For 2022-23, the committee noted that to date there has been limited championships spend and that most significant grant dollars for the Enrichment Fund (e.g., conference and diversity) have been dispersed.
 - c. Future budget projections.** The committee also reviewed the future budget projections through 2032, the length of the NCAA's broadcast agreement with CBS/Turner. The future forecast includes the budget enhancements the committee recommended to the councils after its July meeting. The committee was reminded that in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the division will intentionally overspend its budget by an approximate average of \$2.7 million per year to reduce the amount above the mandated reserve. The overspend is intentional due to the second phase of the broadcast agreement beginning in 2025, when the division will realize a one-year 13% increase in revenues.

5. **Championships updates.** Chuck Mitrano, current chair of the NCAA Division III Championships Committee, updated the committee regarding two items being contemplated that may have a budget impact. One involves a potential change in bracketing that would apply the division's access ratio to the at-large selections in select sports (automatic qualifiers would continue being bracketed as normal), and the other would afford sport committees additional flights when bracketing to separate strong teams within a particular region to supplement the existing policy of avoiding first-round conference matchups. The Championships Committee is examining the budget impact of both concepts, neither of which if approved would be implemented before 2025.

6. **Division III Enrichment Fund initiatives.** The committee reviewed the following initiatives that include a budget impact.
 - a. Athletics Direct Report. During its June meeting, the committee acted to end funding for the Athletics Direct Report Institute (\$80,000 annual budget), noting that while participants regarded it as a positive professional development opportunity, the Institute was not highly ranked among Enrichment Fund initiatives in the 2022 Division III Membership Survey. During the summer and fall Management Council meetings, however, some members expressed the need for ADR professional development and wanted the SPFC to revisit the impact of its decision on such a significant membership constituency (70% of athletics directors report to someone who is not the president). After discussion, the committee reaffirmed that devoting such a significant dollar amount to stage the one-day Institute at the NCAA Convention was not the best use of those funds. However, the committee also agreed there is value in funding a professional development opportunity for ADRs. Accordingly, the committee asked staff to explore professional development options and report back to the committee to review and discuss during its March meeting.

 - b. Enrichment Fund evaluation. Both the Division III Management and Presidents Councils during their October meetings endorsed an outside evaluation of the Division III Enrichment Fund initiatives, programs and resources, and the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee was asked to provide feedback on key parameters for this review. The committee agreed that such an evaluation is prudent and that the SPFC is the appropriate governance group to oversee both the development of the request for proposals, as well as the resulting evaluation process itself, given the committee's budgetary and strategic planning responsibilities that tie so directly to the Enrichment Fund. The committee will revisit this issue during its March meeting and possibly submit a formal recommendation for the Management and Presidents Councils to consider in April.

 - c. Diversity and Inclusion Working Group proposal. The Division III Management and Presidents Councils during their October meetings approved the working group's request to pursue a multi-year contract with a third party to create an inclusive learning path for athletics professionals to improve the recruitment and retention of student-

- athletes that identify as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) while leveraging the power of athletics for positive growth. The cost of this program will be \$251,250 in 2022-23 and \$105,625 in fiscal year 2024.
- d. New Athletics Director Orientation feedback. Feedback from the orientation held in person this past summer was extremely positive, as 95% of those responding to a post-session survey said the programming was very helpful.
 - e. 2022 Institute for Administrative Advancement feedback. The in-person session this summer in Las Vegas also received positive feedback, again with almost all survey respondents indicating that the programming was very helpful. The 2023 program will be held in Orlando in conjunction with the NACDA summer meeting.
 - f. 2022 Senior Woman Administrator Program feedback. The SWA program also remains a highly regarded initiative, as the overwhelming majority of participants at this year's session held in conjunction with the annual Women Leaders in College Sports convention in October felt the programming was very helpful.
 - g. 2022 FAR Fellows Institute. The division conducted its fifth Institute in early November in conjunction with the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association annual meeting. Participants this year focused on clarifying the role of the FAR and developing action plans to take back to their campuses.
 - h. 2023 Student Immersion Program. The 2023 program once again will occur in conjunction with the NCAA Convention, and it continues to deliver on its charge to familiarize selected BIPOC students and student-athletes who have indicated an interest in athletics administration with Division III, its members, and its governance process.
7. **Division III financial planning and preparation update**. The committee noted that the Division III Administrative Committee during its August meeting agreed it was prudent and fiscally responsible to examine the division's future financial planning given the dynamic and evolving landscape of intercollegiate athletics and higher education and the potential impacts on Division III. The Management and Presidents Councils received an update in this regard during their October meetings. The Administrative Committee will meet again in early December to continue its discussion on potential financial impacts, establishing funding priorities, exploring potential new revenue sources and reviewing the division's current annual revenue. Another update will be provided to the councils during their January meetings.
 8. **Division III Philosophy Working Group update**. The committee received a report on the progress the working group has made to date on updating the Division III philosophy

statement. The working group's initial concept is to organize and review the current philosophy statements under the following focus areas:

- a. Division III institutional responsibility and oversight.
- b. Division III diversity, equity and inclusion.
- c. The Division III student-athlete collegiate experience.
- d. The Division III student-athlete athletics experience.
- e. Division III student-athlete financial aid.

The working group is seeking feedback on this concept which will be the basis of a membership survey to be distributed in either late November or early December. The Division III Management and Presidents Councils discussed this during their October meetings and generally supported the working group's direction, and the SPFC echoed those sentiments as well. Working group members noted a videoconference is scheduled later in November to begin developing the survey. There also will be time during Division III Issues Forum at the NCAA Convention to review survey results and discuss next steps.

9. Division III Strategic Initiatives Conference Grant Program Requests.

- a. Policies and procedures. The committee acknowledged recent changes to the program's policies and procedures as information.
- b. SPFC Conference Grant Review Subcommittee report. The committee reviewed the report from the subcommittee's August 29 meeting as information.

10. Captive insurance – event cancellation update. NCAA Controller David Lafiosca joined the videoconference to discuss the NCAA's event cancellation plans now that the insurance industry in that space has changed post-pandemic. In the absence of an insurer that will cover such catastrophic circumstances anymore, the NCAA has created a "captive insurance" collective that will be able to procure coverage that is not available via the current marketplace. The impact on Division III is that if the division chose to participate fully in the three event-cancellation coverages offered through the captive insurance, the annual premium would be \$760,497. Currently, Division III is participating only in the ticket and radio coverage portion of the policy (exclusive of COVID-19 and war) at \$48,145 annually. Due to the high annual premium cost, the committee does not recommend that the division change its current participation. The committee will receive an annual update regarding the status of the coverage and will be able to recommend opting in more fully in the future if premiums were to decrease.

11. Division III Convention legislation update. The committee reviewed a proposal heading to the Convention floor in January pertaining to the composition of key governance standing committees, and in particular, how it would alter the composition of the Strategic

Planning and Finance Committee. Alterations include reducing the committee from 13 to 12 members, and only two would be from each council, as opposed to the nine council members, with the remaining members appointed at large.

12. **Additional business.** The committee thanked the following outgoing members for their contributions throughout their terms of service: Bob Lindgren, Chuck Brown, Michelle Morgan, whose terms expire at the end of the NCAA Convention, and Maria Buckel, who is leaving her institution and consequently rolling off the Management Council.
13. **Future meetings.** Staff will send a Doodle poll to schedule the March 2023 in-person meeting in Indianapolis and to schedule the June 2023 videoconference.
14. **Adjournment.** The videoconference adjourned at 3:33 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Jim Troha, Juniata College, Landmark Conference

*Staff Liaisons: Mark Aiken, Administrative Services
Eric Hartung, Division III Governance
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs
Bill Regan, Division III Governance
Ali Spungen, Division III Governance*

NCAA Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee November 15, 2022, Videoconference
Attendees:
Jeff Abernathy, Alma College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Joanne Berger-Sweeney, Trinity College (CT), New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Chuck Brown, Pennsylvania State University Erie, the Behrend College, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.
Maria Buckel, Fontbonne University, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Tom DiCamillo, State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Stephanie Dutton, United East Conference.
Robert Lindgren, Randolph-Macon College, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Chuck Mitrano, Empire 8 Conference.
Michelle Morgan, John Carroll University, Ohio Athletic Conference (ex officio).
Adam Puckett, George Fox University, Northwest Conference.
Jim Troha, Juniata College, Landmark Conference.
Lawrence Ward, Babson College, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
Sabienea Winston, Geneva College, Presidents' Athletic Conference.

Absentees:
None.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Mark Aiken, Eric Hartung, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Ali Spungen.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Gary Brown, Gillian Burns, David Lafiosca, Laura Peterson, Chris Radford and Lisa Rogers.