

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 10, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**

- **None.**

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **Division III membership dues assessment.**
 - a. Recommendation. That the Management and Presidents Councils continue pausing the Division III membership dues assessment through FY27.
 - b. Effective date. Immediate.
 - c. Rationale. Due to the amount in the division's reserves coupled with the tight campus and conference budgets, the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee previously recommended, and the councils approved, pausing the division's dues assessment (\$1,100 for institutions and \$550 for conferences) for FY25 and FY26. The committee discussed whether to continue pausing the assessment and agreed that doing so is prudent, particularly given the upcoming review of Division III that the Presidents Council authorized conducting in the coming months, as well as the ongoing financial uncertainty surrounding higher education. While continuing the pause means the division overall sacrifices approximately half a million less in annual revenue, the committee reasons that the impact on the membership is meaningful and that the loss of revenue does not compromise the division's ability to provide resources and programming to benefit its members. The committee recommended that the pause be effective for FY27 and that whether to continue beyond would be subject to an annual evaluation by this committee and the councils.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. Division III institutions and conferences would continue experiencing a cost savings for FY27.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** The chair, Marc Camille, welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Eastern time.
2. **Report from the July 9 videoconference.** The committee approved the report from its July 9 videoconference as presented.
3. **Presidents Council/Management Council summary of actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the October Division III Presidents and Management Council

meetings, including the councils' agreement to conduct a comprehensive analysis of Division III to help the division's membership navigate the evolving landscape of higher education and intercollegiate athletics. The review will focus on key issues such as championship access, eligibility standards and membership criteria, and will begin with the Presidents and Chancellors Forum and the Division III Issues Forum during the upcoming 2026 Convention. The councils noted that this effort is intended to strengthen the division, not divide it, and build on recent evaluations conducted by Deloitte (finances), Lewis Rice (Enrichment Fund), and the Division III Philosophy Working Group.

4. **Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee report.** The committee reviewed the report from the subcommittee's most recent meeting, during which the subcommittee confirmed its updated mission and purpose, which is to serve as an action-oriented, future-looking thought leadership body that reviews and provides insights on current external issues with potential long-range impact on Division III intercollegiate athletics while simultaneously monitoring future issues. The subcommittee convenes at least four times annually and serves on behalf of the Presidents Council and in concert with the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.

The committee was informed that the Presidents Council during its October meeting reviewed whether the subcommittee composition, meeting frequency and reporting procedures ensure the subcommittee is best positioned to achieve its mission and purpose. The council agreed that these components should be discussed further during the subcommittee's next meeting in December and during a future Presidents Council meeting.

5. **SPFC policies and procedures.** The committee approved its policies and procedures document. This version includes previously agreed-upon budget priorities and the new policy the committee endorsed, and the councils approved, regarding steps required when a division-specific championship is created from an existing National Collegiate championship.
6. **Strategic priorities.** The committee reviewed a new document that highlights the division's strategic priorities by detailing recent successes and future opportunities. It also reviewed an updated document summarizing the work of the Division III national office staff to support the division's governance structure priorities. The document outlines staff's engagement with committees to provide support and timelines to allow the governance structure to move strategic priorities from concept to implementation.
7. **Division III budget.**
 - a. **2025-26 budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed the budget-to-actuals through the end of September. Staff noted the potential for championship spending this fall to be impacted by the federal government shutdown should it continue (i.e., travel, lodging and per diem).

meeting when it will make initial FY27 and FY28 budget recommendations to the Management and Presidents Councils.

a. Athletics communications.

- **Annual grant.** The Division III Athletics Communications Strategic Guide Working Group has asked to create an annual \$2,000 grant for FY27 and FY28 to support campus athletics communicators. The grant would be similar to the current Division III health and safety grant. SPFC members agreed this initiative is warranted and should be supported.
- **Photography proposal.** The Division III Sports Information Directors Association is asking for assistance from the NCAA to identify and fund photography support for Division III championship finals. SPFC members voiced initial support for this concept as well.

b. Mental Health First Aid. The committee was reminded that the division has committed \$930,000 for this year and next year to support mental health first aid training. The program ends in August 2027.

c. Health and safety grant. Last year and this year, the division provided grants of up to \$2,000 to help offset athletic training expenses. The SPFC will consider in March if it wants to extend the grant for the FY27 and FY28 budget cycle. The cost is \$860,000 annually. Last year, approximately 75% of institutions applied for the grant.

d. Championships. The Championships Committee will begin reviewing budget requests for the next biennial cycle (FY27 and FY28) at its February meeting. The committee is expected to consider bracket flexibility (i.e., allowance for additional flights); per diem, including the establishment of a high-cost city per diem; and ground transportation from campus to the airport, among others.

e. Affiliate group support. The division currently awards grants to NADIII AA (\$75,000) and Women Leaders (\$30,000) that fund scholarships for individuals to attend these professional development opportunities. The SPFC will discuss in March whether to increase the amount of these grants.

f. Strategic initiatives grant/request from the Division III Conference Commissioners Association. The D3CA is seeking financial assistance to help offset the increased expenses tied to conference website hosting and maintenance.

12. Regional Rules Seminar live streaming. Staff informed the committee that the Division III Membership Committee adopted a policy, effective immediately, allowing institutions to meet their once-in-the-three-year attendance requirement to the Regional Rules Seminar by attending in person or watching the live stream. The past few years, including this year,

the division has earmarked funds (approximately \$30,000) to pay for the live stream. Given the new policy, the SPFC will need to consider whether to recommend funding the live stream annually.

13. **Division III Enrichment Fund initiatives with a budget impact.** The committee received updates on the following programs and noted the positive impact of each on the division:
 - New Athletics Director Orientation.
 - Institute for Administrative Advancement.
 - College Sports Communicators Student Program.
 - FAR Institute.
 - SWA Program.
 - Student Immersion Program.
 - ADR Professional Development.
14. **Division III Philosophy Statement and Strategic Positioning Platform.** The committee reviewed the division's philosophy statement and strategic positioning platform as information.
15. **Division III budget guidelines and principles.** The committee also reviewed the division's budget guidelines and principles as information.
16. **Student-athlete experience resource.** The committee reviewed a resource that outlines the Division III student-athlete experience as information.
17. **Outgoing committee members.** The committee expressed its appreciation to Stephanie Dutton and Leonard Trevino, whose terms on the committee are expiring at the end of the January Convention, for their contributions to the committee and to the division overall.
18. **Future meetings.** The committee will convene in person in Indianapolis on a date in March to be determined.

Adjournment. The videoconference adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College
Staff Liaison(s): Louise McCleary, Division III Governance and Member Services
Bill Regan, Division III Governance and Member Services
Cara Hubert, Administrative Services
Jeff Myers, Division III Governance and Member Services

Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee November 10, 2025, Videoconference
Attendees:
Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts Boston.
Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College.
Stephanie Dutton, United East Conference.
Michael Harrison, Framingham State University.
Rob Larson, Luther College.
Angel Mason, Berry College.
Joe Onderko, Presidents' Athletic Conference.
Meghan Roman, Illinois College.
Chris Spells, University of California, Santa Cruz.
Leonard Trevino, Chatham University.
Shanna Trone, Agnes Scott College.
Absentees:
Lyn 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:
Grace Hadlich, Eric Hartung, Malik Henry, Bryn Mangold, Pedro Lara, Laura Peterson-Mlynski, Lisa Rogers, Ali Spungen and Liz Suscha.