# REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION III FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 10-11, 2020 MEETING

## KEYITEM.

• Level II reviews. The committee reviewed 17 cases and voted to refer three to NCAA Enforcement. In one of the three cases, the committee recommended the institution self-report an apparent consideration of athletics participation and leadership in the awarding of a scholarship. In the other two cases, the committee recommended NCAA Enforcement investigate to fully learn the extent to which an identified distinguishable pattern of financial aid awarding that provided an advantage for student-athletes is a potential recruiting and competitive advantage.

## ACTION ITEMS.

• None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Welcome and Introduction. New members, Ashley Bianchi (Williams College), Joyce Farmer (DeSales University), Eric Stacey (St. Catherine University) and Melissa Stephens (Western Connecticut State University), were welcomed.
- **Review November 2019 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its November 11-12, 2019 meeting.
- **3. Level II reviews.** The committee reviewed 17 cases. During the deliberations, members of the committee recused themselves as necessary in accordance with the committee's conflict of interest policy. On review, the committee took the following actions:
  - a. Voted to take no action on the following 12 cases:
    - (1) 2005-1-01;
    - (2) 2005-1-04;
    - (3) 2005-1-13;
    - (4) 2005-3-07;
    - (5) 2005-4-06;
    - (6) 2008-1-06;
    - (7) 2009-1-08;
    - (0) 2000 2 02
    - (8) 2009-3-03;
    - (9) 2013-2-02;
    - (10) 2019-1-01;
    - (11) 2019-4-01; and
    - (12) 2019-4-02.

- b. Voted to request additional information for two cases. The committee will convene via teleconference to review the information and make a final decision.
  - (1) 2005-3-19; and
  - (2) 2019-1-03.
- c. Voted to refer the following three cases to NCAA Enforcement with recommended next steps:
  - (1) 2005-4-03;
  - (2) 2006-1-09; and
  - (3) 2019-1-02.
- 4. Follow-up on the NACAC Code of Ethics issue. The memorandum sent by the committee to key personnel at all Division III members institutions on January 29, 2020 was reviewed. Committee members noted increased attention across higher education related to the changes to the NACAC Code of Ethics and an anticipation of potential enrollment policy changes in the coming months as institutions seek to enroll the 2020 entering class. The committee requested this topic be revisited at the November meeting.
- 5. Review of the Consistent Financial Aid Package Resource. The committee reviewed the Consistent Financial Aid Package Resource and revisions to content and design were considered. The committee charged staff to draft an updated version and present it to the committee for comment and final approval. Content related to Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate transfer student-athletes and continuing student-athletes was requested.
- 6. Interpretative appeal to the Division III Management Council regarding financial aid endowments. The committee reviewed the case materials considered by the Division III Management Council at their January 2020 meeting related to an appeal regarding financial aid endowments. At the November 2019 meeting, the committee had reviewed and concurred with the decision of the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee to uphold the original staff decision concerning the interpretation of Division III Bylaw 15.4.1(a). The committee also concurred with the Management Council decision to uphold the Interpretations and Legislation Committee decision and noted the importance of adherence to the foundational principle of Division III where athletics participation, leadership, ability or performance cannot be considered in the determination of financial aid regardless of the financial aid packaging policy employed.
- 7. **Division III Requests/Self-Reports Online Bylaw 15 interpretations.** Staff reported on the Bylaw 15 interpretive requests submitted since the November 2019 meeting. NCAA

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Bylaw 15.4.5 (Athletics Staff Involvement) was the most commonly cited within the requests.

- **8. Launch of the 2020-21 Division III Financial Aid Reporting Program.** Staff informed the committee the reporting cycle will begin June 1, 2020 and close September 14, 2020.
- **9. Adjournment.** The committee adjourned 11:30 a.m. Eastern time, February 11, 2020.

Committee Chair: Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University; Massachusetts State

Collegiate Athletic Conference

Staff Liaisons: Eric Hartung, Research

Tiffany Alford, Academic and Membership Affairs

# NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee February 10-11, 2020 Meeting

### **Attendees:**

Ashley Bianchi, Williams College, New England Small Colleges Athletic Conference.

Joyce Farmer, DeSales University, Middle Atlantic Conferences.

Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Paula Lehrberger, Widener University, Middle Atlantic Conferences

Ron Noborikawa, Pacific Lutheran University; Northwest Conference.

Larry Scheiderer, Denison University; North Coast Conference.

Kandis Schram, Maryville College; USA South.

Eric Stacey, St. Catherine University, Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Melissa Stephens, Western Connecticut State University, Little East Conference.

Jeffrey Stoudt, Franklin & Marshall College; Centennial Conference.

### **Absentees:**

Steve Taylor, Concordia University (WI); Northern Athletics Conference.

### NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:

Eric Hartung and Tiffany Alford.

### Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Louise McCleary and Jeff Myers.