

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2021 MEETING**

KEY ITEM.

- **Level II reviews.** The committee reviewed 18 cases and voted to refer two to NCAA Enforcement. The committee requested one institution to self-report an apparent consideration of athletics participation and leadership in the awarding of a scholarship and the other to self-report the involvement of a coach in the awarding of a scholarship that is inconsistent with Division III bylaws.

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and Introduction.** The committee chair welcomed new members, Catherine Corcoran (Cabrini University), Dana L. Harmon (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), and Erin Pomykala (Baruch College). The committee welcomed Zach Romash as a new NCAA staff liaison to the committee and recognized staff liaison Tiffany Alford for her service as she transitions to other responsibilities.
2. **Review November 2020 report.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its November 9, 2020 meeting.
3. **Level II reviews.** The committee reviewed 18 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 15 cases:

- (1) 2007-3-01;
- (2) 2009-2-03;
- (3) 2010-1-01;
- (4) 2010-2-05;
- (5) 2011-1-01;
- (6) 2011-2-02;
- (7) 2014-1-01;
- (8) 2015-4-04;
- (9) 2017-1-07;
- (10) 2018-1-07;
- (11) 2020-1-01;
- (12) 2020-1-04;

- (13) 2020-4-01;
- (14) 2020-4-02; and
- (15) 2020-4-03.

- b. Voted to request additional information for case 2006-1-06. The committee will convene via teleconference to review the information and make a final decision.**
 - c. Voted to refer cases 2010-2-04 and 2020-1-06 to NCAA Enforcement with recommended next steps.**
- 4. Division III Requests/Self-Reports Online Bylaw 15 interpretations.** Staff reported on the Bylaw 15 interpretive requests submitted since October 27, 2020. NCAA Bylaw 15.4.5 (Athletics Staff Involvement) was the most commonly cited within the requests.
- 5. Governance Update.** Ali Spungen, Associate Director of Division III, provided an update to the committee on a wide range of Division III and NCAA topics.
- 6. The 2021-22 Division III Financial Aid Reporting Program.** The committee discussed the 2021-22 reporting cycle in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Division III campuses. The committee affirmed the reporting cycle will begin June 1, 2021 and close September 13, 2021 followed by the Level I and II review process. Discussion of the upcoming reporting cycle will continue at the next scheduled meeting.
- 7. Roundtable Discussion.** Committee members responded to two prompts: 1) Current and future state of enrollment and financial aid on your campus and 2) Future challenges with the intersection of enrollment, financial aid and athletics in Division III. The committee noted the responsibility of institutions to ensure compliance with Bylaw 15 in the circumstances noted below:
 - Institutions are adjusting job responsibilities for coaches whose sports have been impacted by COVID-19. Coaches may be assigned duties in the Admissions and Financial Aid departments.
 - Initial enrollment pressures are and will continue to be pervasive. These pressures may be felt by coaches who communicate directly with prospective students. Institutions may also have enrollment quotas for their coaches.
 - The COVID-19 pandemic may impact campus policies and procedures related to financial aid appeals (i.e. requested changes to financial aid awards). Institutions may decide to adjust existing policies for first-time and continuing students given

enrollment pressures. Policy changes can include adjustments to dollar amounts offered and access to the process.

- Institutions have transitioned to test-optional admissions policies. This may impact merit aid awarding policies that were dependent on a standardized test score.

8. Other business. The committee will meet again in early March to complete the one outstanding Level II Review case.

9. Adjournment. The committee adjourned at 3:45 p.m. Eastern time, February 15, 2021.

Committee Chair: Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference

Staff Liaisons: Eric Hartung, Division III Governance
Tiffany Alford, Academic and Membership Affairs
Zach Romash, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division III Financial Aid Committee February 15, 2021 Meeting	
Attendees:	
Ashley Bianchi, Williams College, New England Small Colleges Athletic Conference.	
Michael Brophy, Hilbert College, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Kathleen Brown, St. Mary's College (Indiana), Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Catherine Corcoran, Cabrini University, Atlantic East Conference.	
Dana L. Harmon, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.	
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Paula Lehrberger, Widener University, Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Erin Pomykala, Baruch College, City University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Larry Scheiderer, Denison University; North Coast Conference.	
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:	
None	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Eric Hartung, Tiffany Alford and Zach Romash.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Ali Spungen and Louise McCleary.	