



## Division II Caucus Minutes

Thursday, December 7, 2017 --- 8:30 a.m. (Jubilee 1)

- I. Gary Bryce (Wayne State – NFCA Board, DII Representative)
  - a. Welcome and encouraged everyone to do what is best for our division
  - b. Introduced HCC – encouraged to contact them of concerns or ideas
  
- II. Brian Stanley (NFCA)
  - a. HCC – thanked outgoing representatives and introduced new
  - b. Reviewed NFCA Bylaw changes – overviewing the re-structuring of committees
    - i. Introduced Todd Buckingham – VP on Executive Board
    - ii. Showed Carol Bruggeman video about bylaws
    - iii. Brian gave synopsis of changes highlighting the streamlining of committees
    - iv. Todd Buckingham (Saginaw Valley)
      1. Discussed process of online forms for applying for committees
      2. Explained that the new format encouraged diversity among divisions in make-up of committees
    - v. Conducted and collected Bylaws votes
  
- III. NFCA DII Membership Overview – stats from slide
  
- IV. NCAA Coaches Connection – Debbie DeJong (LIU Post)
  - a. Monthly phone call for Coaches Connection with one person from every conference on call
  - b. Purpose
    - i. Educate with what is going on in DII
    - ii. Resource to help to better division and sport of softball
  - c. Informed that we should be getting email from conference once a month with update
  
- V. Chelsea Crawford (Assistant Director NCAA)
  - a. Overview of NCAA Coaches Education Program
    - i. Highlights
      1. Program to educate coaches
      2. Replaces recruiting exam
      3. Soft launch March 2018
    - ii. Discussed process and timeline
      1. Recruiting and Eligibility Spring 2018
      2. Playing/Practice Seasons and Awards Benefits
      3. Mental Health and Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault Prevention

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- iii. Discussion:
  - 1. Would courses be annually or quarterly
  - 2. Suggested repercussions for not following program may include:
    - a. No CARA
    - b. No off campus recruiting
  - 3. Question: 25 topics in all, will we be tested on all → in review
  - 4. Question: Amount of time → comparable to recruiting exam

VI. Molly Simons (NCAA Championships)

- a. Recap 2017 Championship
- b. Selection criteria change for 2019
- c. Championship sites
  - i. 2018 – Salem, VA
  - ii. 2019, 2021, 2022 – Denver, CO Metro State
  - iii. 2020 – Festival Year at Lindenwood St. Charles, MO
- d. Reviewed supplement handout concerning regionalization
- e. Reminded that the selection criteria is located on [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org)
- f. Feedback on from committee on championships:
  - i. Avoid 1<sup>st</sup> round conference match-ups – no solution was suggested
  - ii. Softball suggested to re-seed after regionals instead of super regionals – meeting in June

VII. Chelsea Crawford

- a. Festival Year
  - i. Introduced volleyball Proposal 2018-5: volleyball start date
    - 1. Gain a week on the front end of season by starting before August 30<sup>th</sup>
    - 2. Brought up possibility for softball to mirror or join
- b. Softball Scholarship Equivalencies
  - i. Increase from 7.2 to 9.0
  - ii. Educated us that in 2015 the proposal to increase from 7.2 to 10 was not properly sponsored and encouraged us to rethink rationale based off data and 2015 feedback
  - iii. In order for equivalency increase to reach floor must have 2 conferences of 15 schools that support by July 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM
  - iv. Roadblocks:
    - 1. Proposal 2017-12: only athletic aid counts towards equivalency
    - 2. 2014-2015 16% fully funded / 2015-2016 14% fully funded
  - v. Encouraged rationale discussion in moving forward in proposal
  - vi. Question: what are the steps for an institution or conference to sponsor?
    - 1. Protocol located on resource page of [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org)

VIII. Carol Bruggeman (NFCA)

- a. Thanked us for passion and attending
- b. Thanked Brian Stanley for leadership of DII
- c. Thanked Gary Brice for his communication

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- d. Thanked Debbie for being a mover and shaker
  - e. Thanked Bellarmine Staff for taking time to bring NFCA trailer to convention
- IX. Chelsea Crawford (cont.)
- a. Important census from NCAA emailed from SWA in January
    - i. Important for everyone to provide feedback
    - ii. Most direct way every 5 years to provide feedback to NCAA
  - b. Encouraged coaches to educate administrators on why issues are important
- X. Gary Bryce – Scholarship Increase
- a. Need 2 conferences or 15 active schools (currently have 11 schools and 1 conference)
  - b. Challenged coaches to discover by the end of March if your school supports or not increase from 7.2 to 9.0
  - c. Comments:
    - i. D1 going to 14.0
    - ii. Why is baseball at 9.0
    - iii. Have to push legislation now or it dies
    - iv. DII softball has had same scholarships since 1992
- XI. Brittany Bennett (UNC Pembroke) – NCAA Festival Year
- a. Presented data points comparing Festival Years vs. Non-Festival Years
  - b. Festival years lose 7-14 days of competition because play 1 week before normal championship
  - c. Facts – refer to slide show presentation
  - d. Concerns:
    - i. Missed class time
    - ii. Recovery time
    - iii. Redshirt rules
    - iv. Life in the balance
  - e. 2016 (Festival) vs. 2017 (Non-Festival)
    - i. Played more games in Festival year than Non-Festival Year
    - ii. This shows our commitment to play 56 games
  - f. What do we do?
    - i. No power to get out of festival year
    - ii. Fastest way to play 8 team regional in festival year only, which eliminates super regional
    - iii. Must take stand on survey in January
    - iv. Goal is to get week back of our season
    - v. HCC voted to move to 8 team regional to start
  - g. Discussion:
    - i. Process:



1. Present memo to NCAA with data and concern for athletes
    2. Present memo with solution
    3. These are physical documents with data and rationale
  - ii. Question – can we get out of festival year?
    1. Festival years as whole under review
  - iii. Encourage to have discussions with student athletes (SAAC), athletic administration
- XII. Brian Stanley – NFCA Awards
  - a. Presented DII award schedule
  - b. Proposed player of the year being announced after season to align with all other members?
    - i. Passed – all in favor no opposed
- XIII. Recruiting Calendar (Gretta Melsted – Augustana)
  - a. Was approached to see if HCC has discuss recruiting calendar based off of the following concerns:
    - i. Number of games the players are playing
    - ii. Promoting Life in the Balance
  - b. HCC discussed at convention, but made no movement
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Do we have responsibility to student athletes
    - ii. Suggested to meet with NAIA and DIII to see if they are also moving on this topic
    - iii. Propose dead periods in winter
    - iv. Keep the same as flexibility is important
    - v. Called upon coaches to go to conferences and brainstorm solutions
    - vi. Straw vote on recruiting calendar:
      1. 2/3 keep as is
      2. 1/3 opposed
- XIV. Festival Vote
  - a. To send memo to NCAA: including data with request to be out of festival year and if not possible then to discuss solutions to get week back in season
    - i. Passed – all in favor no opposed



XV. Final Remarks

- a. Permanent home for softball would be similar to baseball having permanent site help in getting out of festival year
- b. National SAAC – student athletes feel too much time is being spent in sport (discussion after 15 hours in the non-championship season was brought up)

XVI. Announcements

- a. Yoga 6:15 – 7:15 AM in addition to other workouts
- b. Victory club lunch following caucus
- c. Top 25 meeting at 1:30 PM

Meeting adjourned 11:21 AM