

# Association of Division III Independents

Minutes of the January 12, 2003, Business Meeting

Hilton Hotel

Anaheim, California

Participating member institutions:

Agnes Scott College  
Baptist Bible College  
Bard College  
Chapman University  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
California State University, Hayward  
Colorado College  
University of Dallas  
Eastern Oregon University  
LaGrange College  
Mills College  
Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Philadelphia Biblical University  
Piedmont College  
Rust College  
Thomas More College

Other independent institutions represented:

D'Youville College  
Keystone College  
Medaille College  
Polytechnic University  
Saint Joseph's College (Maine)  
Spelman College  
Stephens College

Also in attendance:

Ted Breidenthal, Sports Association Management, Inc.  
John Leavens, director and recording secretary

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Dick Strockbine, University of Dallas, president of the association.

2. **Previous Minutes.** Those in attendance reviewed minutes of the November 5, 2002, telephone conference. The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. **Report of the Executive Committee.**

a. **Initiative Grant.** Mr. Leavens outlined provisions of the NCAA Division III initiative grant awarded to the association for the 2002-03 academic year. He reported that the Division III Initiatives task force had awarded \$18,377 for the association to develop a website, implement educational programs and complete a strategic plan by the end of the 2002-03 academic year.

b. **Educational Initiatives.** Mr. Breidenthal noted three educational initiatives for the current academic year: committee representation and other governance issues, including student-athlete involvement; future of Division III, including championships access; and assistance to provisional members. It was the sense of the meeting that deadlines for the educational programs should be February 15, April 1 and June 1, respectively.

c. **Website.** The group discussed the association website. Several members suggested initiating various awards of recognition for student-athletes, including athletes of the week, outstanding athletes for fall, winter and spring sports, players of the year, community service and scholastic awards, or listings for independent all-America selections.

(1) A straw poll indicated that virtually all association members would be interested in contributing nominations and information for awards of this type.

(2) It was suggested that the website include links to any campus' website that posts information for a nominated student-athlete.

(3) It was VOTED "That a student-athlete recognition committee be established to refine the concept, establish criteria and recommend processes for selection." Terry Connor, Thomas More College; Kristen Hall and Scott Swere, Bard College; and Julie Soriero, Colorado College, agreed to serve as committee members.

d. **Association Bylaws.** Mr. Leavens presented the association bylaws approved tentatively by the Executive Committee in November 2002.

(1) The group discussed the elimination of the current secretary and vice president positions, and establishing positions for past president and president-elect in their place. It was the sense of the meeting to

retain the current officer positions and consider revision in the future.

(2) It was VOTED “That the bylaws be approved as submitted.”

4. **Membership.** Mr. Breidenthal reported on the association’s current active membership of 20 institutions, and noted that members of the Executive Committee and staff are continuing to update prospective member institutions with information on the association and its initiatives. The group received the report without taking action.

5. **Treasurer’s Report.** David Curry, Chapman University and association treasurer, reviewed a statement of profit and loss for the association during the current fiscal year. The statement reflected total revenues of \$27,377 to date (including NCAA grant funds) and total expenditures of \$9,186.89. It was VOTED “That the treasurer’s report be approved as submitted.”

6. **Legislative Issues.**

a. **NCAA Convention.**

(1) The association considered Proposal No. 41. Members argued that the proposal would negatively affect independent institutions and their student-athletes by limiting scheduling opportunities, increasing travel and expenses, and placing independents at further disadvantage with NCAA conference members and NAIA institutions. It was also noted that the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee opposed the proposal. It was VOTED “That the association speak in opposition to Proposal No. 41.” Ira Zeff, Nebraska Wesleyan University, agreed to present the association’s position on the Convention floor.

(2) Members of the group expressed similar views related to Proposal No. 41-1. It was VOTED “That the association oppose Proposal No. 41-1.”

(3) The group considered Proposal Nos. 42 and 43. A straw vote reflected 14 members in favor of Proposal No. 42 and two in favor of Proposal No. 43.

b. **Championships and Scheduling.** Mr. Strockbine presented a proposed revision in championships policy to permit independent institutions to count

all competition against other independents as in-region for purposes of championships selection. It was noted that such a change in policy would be consistent with the current interest in strength-of-schedule considerations. It was VOTED "That the proposal be forwarded to the Division III Championships Committee with the unanimous support of the association."

- c. **Season-ending Competition.** The group considered the concept of an exemption to contest limitations for independents' participation in one season-ending competition (similar to the exemption currently permitted for conference members). Members recommended that the exemption be only for postseason competition conducted prior to regional championships. It was the sense of the meeting that a committee be formed to prepare a specific proposal for review by the Executive Committee. Rob Cashell, Eastern Oregon University; Page Remillard, Agnes Scott College; and Mr. Strockbine agreed to serve as members.
7. **Future of Division III.** Mr. Strockbine noted the discussion of the future of Division III scheduled for that afternoon. He reported that the roundtable discussion would be followed by a survey of Division III this spring, with survey results forming the basis for legislation at the 2004 NCAA Convention.
  8. **Student-athlete Involvement.** Jami Goldman, California State University, Hayward, and Martin Quinn, Colorado College, members of the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, indicated their intention to communicate with association members via the Division III independents' list serve and encouraged members to suggest topics for their committee's discussion. Several association members suggested that the Executive Committee consider the concept of an advisory committee, or a formal communications network, for student-athletes of independent institutions.
  9. **Affiliated Membership.** The group considered application for NCAA affiliated membership. It was the sense of the meeting not to apply at this time.
  10. **Nominating Committee.** Mr. Zeff presented the proposed slate of officer and Executive Committee members on behalf of Debby DeAngelis, association secretary, who was among the nominees.
    - a. It was VOTED "That the following officers be elected: Mr. Strockbine, president; Ms. DeAngelis, vice president; Ms. Soriero, secretary; and Mr. Curry, treasurer."

- b. Mr. Zeff reported nominations for Executive Committee: Marv Christopher, Cazenovia College; Jim Huckaby, Baptist Bible College; Joel Nielsen, Colorado College; Mr. Remillard; and Mr. Zeff.
- (1) In response to a call for nominations from the floor, Mr. Cashell was nominated.
  - (2) Mr. Zeff declined nomination in favor of Mr. Cashell.
  - (3) It was VOTED “That the nominations be accepted as submitted, with the exception that Mr. Cashell would serve instead of Mr. Zeff.”
11. **Dues.** It was noted that association operating expenses are not expected to increase next fiscal year, but neither is it anticipated that Division III initiative grant funds (if received) would be expected to be used for operating expenses. It was VOTED “That dues for 2003-04 be \$1000, with the understanding that dues would not increase for at least the next two years.” (11 in favor, none opposed)
12. **Future Meetings.** The group considered sites and dates for possible future meetings. A straw poll showed a preference for a meeting in conjunction with an NCAA regional seminar, as opposed to NACDA (7 for NCAA seminar, 4 for NACDA). Another straw poll reflected the following results for specific locations: Charlotte (5), Seattle (2), Chicago (1), NACDA (1).
13. **Committee Nominations.** Mr. Leavens encouraged members to consider nominating representatives of independent institutions (including self-nominations) for September 2003 sports committee openings. He noted that of 128 sports committee seats, three were filled currently by independents. Mr. Leavens also reported that 22 sports committee positions are available for independents in September 2003.
14. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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