

CCA Compliance Administrators
Teleconference
May 9, 2001

Those participating: Tracy Shoemake, America East; Dave Thompson, Atlantic Coast; Jackie Campbell, Atlantic 10; Stan Wilcox, Big East; Ellen Ferris, Big Sky; Carol Iwaoka, Big Ten; Lori Ebihara, Big Twelve; Erica Satterfield, Big West; Ed Grom, Mid-Continent; Stephanie Jarvis, Midwestern Collegiate; Patty Viverito, Missouri Valley; Carolayne Henry, Mountain West; Diane Vaughan, Ohio Valley; Mike Matthews, Pacific-10; Gil Grimes, Southern; Patrick Carter, Southwestern Athletic; Donita Brooks, Sun Belt; Don Ott, West Coast; Pat Hairston, Western Athletic.

1. Approval of Minutes. Approved the minutes of the April 4, 2001 meeting.
2. NCAA Student Opportunity Fund. The CCACA group discussed possible uses for the NCAA Student Opportunity Fund. The October 24, 2000 memorandum from David Berst, NCAA Division I Chief of Staff, was discussed in particular. The memorandum specified that maximum flexibility would be provided to conference offices to use the fund for educational and developmental opportunities for and direct benefits to student-athletes (examples given: summer matching grants, institutional incentive funds, degree completion programs, premiums for disability insurance). Prohibited uses listed in the memorandum included: building or refurbishing facilities, staff salaries and benefits, and countable grants-in-aid other than for summer school.

In response to requests about what conferences were doing, Carol Iwaoka reported that the Big Ten established an ad hoc committee to develop recommendations and also requested input from their conference student-athlete advisory committee. One of the possible approaches discussed was to use the fund to close the gap related to financing the student-athlete's cost of attendance that is otherwise permitted in any other student's aid package (e.g., supplies, transportation, personal/miscellaneous expenses). Other issues conferences might wish to discuss are criteria used for access (need vs. non-need), or whether the fund should or should not be restricted to athletes who receive athletic grants. Carol also noted the preference for flexibility and facility in administering the fund, and to avoid the issues that have complicated access and use of Special Assistance Fund.

The CCACA agreed to discover the direction in which the commissioners want to proceed in the use of the opportunity fund. If the commissioners would like the CCACA to help in establishing the details or guidelines for the uses of the fund, then the CCACA group will put together a committee for this purpose.

3. Special Assistance Fund – NCAA Committee on Financial Aid Recommendations. Stan Wilcox reported that the financial aid committee

endorsed the CCACA's recommendations regarding the special assistance fund (see CCACA february minutes) with the exception of two items:

First, the committee recommended that foreign student-athletes who do not receive countable athletically related aid should be prohibited from receiving the special assistance fund. The CCACA in February submitted a recommendation to allow foreign student-athletes access to the fund if they did not receive countable aid, but would otherwise qualify for the Pell grant - except for the fact that they were foreign students. The Committee believed that this would result in an inconsistent application of the fund, since under current federal financial aid guidelines there is not a standard methodology for calculating the need of foreign students.

Second, the Committee believed that the guidelines should use the language "demonstrated financial need" as opposed to the CCACA's revised guidelines, which specified the use of the language "initial financial need". The Committee believed that this was a variance from the original special assistance guidelines, which could allow funds to be awarded to student-athletes who demonstrate need initially, but whose aid packages are ultimately met through other funding sources. The committee believed that this fact could potentially deny access to student-athletes who are still in need after financial aid packages have been awarded. The Committee believed that the "demonstrated need" language was also more consistent with national financial aid regulations.

The CCACA agreed with the second change recommended by the financial aid committee, especially since the original special assistance guidelines used the "demonstrated need" terminology. In regards to the first item, Jackie Campbell, Carol Iwaoka, Carolyn Campbell-McGovern, and Stan Wilcox will meet with the financial aid committee by conference call and report back to the CCACA.

4. Next Meeting. The next conference call was scheduled for June 6 at 11:00 a.m. central.