

Message

**From:** Newman, Rachel [/O=NCAA/OU=NCAA/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=RNEWMAN]  
**Sent:** 10/30/2012 1:45:08 AM  
**To:** Lennon, Kevin [klennon@ncaa.org]  
**Subject:** RE: Feedback from Conference USA presidents

Thanks for continuing to include me in these updates. It is always interesting to see how these things work and where there are disconnects.

Know that you are a busy man-but if you ever have some "down time ☺," would love to grab lunch and pick your brain.

Hope all is well in your world.

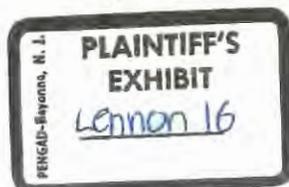
**From:** Lennon, Kevin  
**Sent:** Monday, October 29, 2012 8:57 AM  
**To:** Senior Management Group SMG; Berst, David; Roe, Julie; Hosty, Tom; Newman, Rachel  
**Subject:** Feedback from Conference USA presidents

Colleagues:

Spent some time yesterday with Conference USA presidents. A few takeaways:

1. Rules Working Group. General support for the proposals as step in the right direction. Some concern that move to fair competition will create further divide among Division I, although when we talked it through- that there is already significant divide when you consider current major costs centers, and that these changes really are at the "margin" in terms of creating greater separation- they seemed to acknowledge this as true. (Stead did a nice job helping with this point.) One concerned president referred to the new approach as "limited regulated Darwinism." They were keen to note that from a competitive perspective, their schools will need to make sure that the rules placed under the "Fair competition" category enhance their ability to compete. At this point, they seem comfortable that the suggested rules changes are fine in this regard. While most recognized the benefits of the new approach and the changes being suggested in the proposals, some also agreed that providing the additional autonomy to schools was the right thing to do to help the major programs. Scott Cowen opined that what is needed is probably a different regulatory structure surrounding FBS football as regulation needs to align with the money, and in football this is limited for the NCAA. Bottom line- with Britton's encouragement, I think they will support the final proposals emerging from the working group.
2. Enforcement Working Group- seemed to be general support, although they did not spend a great deal of time in this area, as Brit noted the Board's pending action tomorrow.
3. MEA/ \$2,000- Generally understand the models being considered, and seemed to understand the "optics" around the new BCS deal, O'Bannon case and potential perception problems if nothing is done for student-athletes. They also seem to note it will be important for the conference to not only support an MEA plan, but to implement among their members. Most seemed to like the addition of a need element, and several suggested the NCAA simply put more money in the SAOF as a means of providing the additional funding. They thought this had many advantages, including the "optics" for the NCAA and for schools who have a hard time articulating to their constituents that they need to find additional money for student-athletes while seeking additional funding for other campus programs. We likely will get a letter from Conf USA encouraging NCAA funding.
4. Review of Division I Governance. Many in this room felt like this is a critical component to the future of Division I and were supportive of the review. (Some also said they need to prepared for the outcome of the review...)

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5. APR- Supportive of move to 930, and encourage them to go back to campus and find out where their teams are in regard to post season access. (I sensed this resonated with some...)
6. Penn State- At the end of the session, Brit asked that I speak about PSU. I shared with them Executive Committee authorization, Mark's communication and engagement with Executive Committee and Board, sanctions themselves, etc... Some wondered if not death penalty, then when would we use it? More raised issues regarding jurisdiction on NCAA in these type of issues, but most seemed to understand the uniqueness of this situation and need for response. Most concerning comment came from Rice University president David Leebron ( he was on the phone) who responded to my statement that there was strong support from Executive Committee and Board on penalties that he was on the calls with Mark, and that they really did not have time to fully vet the penalties and that the timeline did not allow for as thoughtful consideration as he would have liked. (This is the first I have heard from another president who recapped his involvement in this way.)

Anyway, hope this is helpful.

Kevin