The meeting was called to order by Jeff Kavalunas at 3:25 p.m. who introduced the Track & Field Executive Committee and explained that voting will take place by scan of the Y or N bar codes on our convention ID badges.

Mike Mead introduced the members of the Cross Country Executive Committee.

**NCAA Track & Field Panel Discussion**

Dave Harris acted as moderator of this panel discussion. He reminded us that the NCAA is all of us and stated that the purpose of this discussion was to increase understanding as we are better educated about the functions of the NCAA.

Members of the panel included:
- Lou Andreadis, Grand Valley State
- Adam Siepiola, Adelphi University
- Sylvia Barnier, Minnesota State University Moorehead
- Shonna Brown, NCAA
- Dianne Watkins, Morehouse College

Members were asked to introduce themselves and give some information about their background and why they chose to be a member of the committee:

- **Siepiola** – 2nd year as a member; application on NCAA website; anyone from an administrator to a coach can apply; appointments go in front of the committee; he applied because he wanted to be more involved in the governance of our sport.
- **Andreadis** – as a coach who was hosting a championship he had worked with a previous committee and wanted to get involved by getting on a committee himself. Works for the teams in his region; brings their voice to the committee.
- **Watkins** – has experience she can pass on from the administrative side; loves the sport of track and field; wanted to educate administrators and presidents about our sport.
- **Barnier** – 1st year as head of the committee; she works for the NCAA membership, i.e. student-athletes, coaches and administrators. Was herself previously an athlete. Served previously on committee as a coach; now serves as an administrator. Her philosophy is to bring the best to student-athletes; help to produce the best championship; enhance the sport; increase exposure for the sport.
- **Brown** – she is the NCAA assistant director of championships and a liaison to this committee.

**Question:** What was the procedure to change the indoor championship from Boston to Mankato? **Reply:** The Sports Committee helps to select sites; national conference calls are conducted to discuss site applications; any school who wants to submit a bid may do so. All applications are forwarded to the Committee. Major considerations for selection include: where can there potentially be the most attendance; what is the budget needed; what is the amount of money needed from the NCAA, etc. Boston was selected last year but then had to pull out; then the Committee considered who else had already submitted a bid.

**Question:** How many schools applied for this year? **Reply:** 1 for indoors. **Question:** How will the Committee select the site for outdoors? Will they go with a feeling? Past attendance?
Past performance of a site in conducting a national championship? **Reply:** Main considerations include where will there be the best experience for the student-athletes; ease of transportation in and out of the site; accommodations; some consideration of the money involved; if a past host, did they do a good job; try to keep sites moving throughout the country; quality of facilities i.e. fast track?; surrounding recreational experiences for student-athletes; overall experience.

**Question:** When the Committee has an opening and a region’s opening is for an administrator, how does one get on the Committee? **Reply:** Anyone can apply, administrators and coaches; an administrator who is eligible will get first consideration however if a coach is better qualified or no administrator applies a coach could be selected.

**Question:** How can a coach or the membership as a body communicate that we want a particular person on the Committee? **Reply:** Let the Championship Committee know that preference; send an email or contact Sylvia.

**Question:** Our qualifying standards are based on 200 meter banked track but Mankato is flat. Have new standards been set? **Reply:** Don Chadez has been asked to calculate flat track conversions. Bob Podkaminer also replied that altitude conversions have been redone to reflect a flat track.

**General comments/discussion:** The Committee is currently soliciting applications for 2010+ championship sites for indoors. 2009 indoors will be a Winter Sports Festival where the NCAA selects the site. This will be finalized in February 2008. Confirmed that banked tracks are being sought for championships. Format for selecting sites will not change but the Committee welcomes the Association’s help in assisting/educating institutions on how to bid/host a championship.

**Question:** If you have already bid and been turned down, do you have to bid again or will the previous bid be acceptable for reconsideration? **Reply:** An institution must submit a new bid as there might be budgetary changes, an upgrade in facilities, etc. The Committee needs to improve communication about the bidding process however, coaches were urged to make sure to read all memos and emails that are sent out.

**Question:** Review again the process used to eliminate the 3000 meters from this year’s championship. **Reply:** The Committee felt it had received a vote from the membership that it wished for the 3k to be eliminated. A group had met with the Committee to discuss the future of championships and from those discussions it was felt that coaches wanted the 3k dropped. Due to the reaction at the XC national championship coaches’ meeting a decision was made to accept a motion to delay a final decision on the elimination of the 3k until 2009. Requested a “straw vote” of coaches; the Committee wants to know the thoughts of the membership and will consider them but will not guarantee that the Committee will vote in favor of what coaches want. **Comment:** Formerly the Association was given the opportunity to meet with the Committee. Why/how was this changed? We have already voted as a body on the issue of the 3k. We need to renew the interaction/cooperation that formerly existed between the Association and the Committee. The Association would like a commitment from the Committee that the Committee will respect what the Association membership wants.
Response: During summer discussions it was felt that when women’s steeple was added it just slipped by that the 3k was not dropped at that time; the Committee also looked at the number of participants in this year’s championship and the fact that the Committee had to go to the last woman on the provisional list because of women being doubled in events. At the championship a round was run to eliminate one or two women. However, coaches spoke up at the national meet about the 3k and the Committee is considering our voice and are delaying a decision about the event until 2009.

Question: Are the Committee minutes accessible anywhere? Reply: Minutes were emailed to Committee chair but she can’t find them; she will keep looking. They are public and when found will be made available. Also, in making decisions the 18 sports committees do take information from each sport’s association into consideration.

Further comments/discussion: Committee does not make its decisions lightly. The goal of the Committee is to administer a quality championship for student-athletes to participate at the highest level possible. Is it quality when the 39th athlete on the list goes to the championships? The Committee’s goal was to enhance performance.

Responses:
- The Association presidents did not make a recommendation to drop the 3k but did talk about the possible elimination of preliminary rounds in the 3k and 5k. It appears that the Association was not given an opportunity to be involved in this decision which looks to have been made at a late date and was a surprise to coaches.
- An email has been sent to Sharon Cessna about the 3k matter. The NLI dead period was another surprise to coaches that came about very quickly. (Comments: The Committee did not have knowledge of this either. Additionally, the NCAA does not have anything to do with NLI. The Conference Commissioners Council makes this decision. This body did make some contact with the NCAA but the NCAA does not control the NLI.)
- Division 1 developed a calendar which we may end up using.

Question: Explain the budgeting cycle. The multi events were approved for 2009 indoors but what is the cycle for adding events or increasing field size? Reply: It is a bi-annual budget. The Committee will either look at a request or it must be delayed until the next budget increase. An event without additional numbers can usually be done right away. Adding numbers means increasing the budget so that must be considered later. The overal high quality of the championship is also taken into consideration. Comment: Indoor multi events were overwhelmingly voted on by coaches. Last year’s liaison, Angie, said last year that a new budgetary cycle was approaching so now was the time to request an increase in numbers and events. Response: The request for an extra person in the travel party for cross country was put forward; still going forward with adding multi in 2009. Willing to reconsider the 3k with information/input from this body.

Question: Is there anything being done to clarify the declaration process for cross country regionals? Reply: Handbook will state that declarations will be done at the direction of the host institution.
Question: If a coach wants to bring a proposal forward, how should it be done and to whom should it be addressed? Reply: Would prefer that the coach’s administration know about the proposal first; get the institution behind the request then go to regional rep. The process will be put on a calendar to be developed. Coaches should get their AD’s on board that we want to keep the 3k. The Committee would like administrative support for proposals. When AD’s don’t know about an issue they don’t fight for it. Every region is represented on the Championship Committee; make sure your rep. knows your position. All votes will be counted; communication should be increased.

Comment: Make sure to obtain POP information from Don Chadez. When submitting a POP, double check that all information is correct. If your institution is hosting a meet, make sure it is on the Association calendar. This will assist in getting POP verified.

2007-2008 Rules Changes – Bob Podkaminer

- The rules that govern cross country championships are the ones in the book when the championship takes place.
- The current rules book covers all 2008 championships.
- Much information can also be obtained on-line from the NCAA website. For example, combined events information/conversions are on-line as well as altitude adjustments.
- Qualification section is in the back of the rules book, however, this is not the final say on qualification. The championship handbooks that appear on-line are the final determiner of qualification.
- Rules cycle moves to a 2-year cycle. 2010 next time for rule change consideration.
- The steeple approach and exit must be the same as the track surface.
- The width of the water barrier has been made a little smaller.
- A Jury of Appeals is no longer mandated.
- Medical personnel may make a determination if an athlete is fit to compete; the referee decides if the athlete does compete.
- The jury can look at most any visual evidence. Umpires can report on anything they see during an event.
- All field event measurements are to be done in metric but for the fans, both metric and imperial measurements are to be displayed.
- Maximum 15 minute warm up time for each specific flight.
- Consecutive attempts restricted to same bar height.
- Warning at last 15 seconds.
- The number taken to the finals is not tied to the number of lanes at the facility.
- Personal markers between the LJ board and pit are no longer permitted.
- Somersaulting no longer permitted in the LJ.
- Use of electronic devices at the foul line is permitted if there is an electronic device to measure/establish the jump.
- Coaches should go to NCAA.org for all rules and regulations for the sport. The website contains the official rules; everything might not be in the book.

Women’s Outdoor 3000 meter Issues and concerns raised:
As an association we need to be clear that we want to keep this event. We do not want to lose events at nationals.

Coaches need to preserve the strength of national fields by putting good athletes in events. Sometimes athletes from far down the provisional list get in the 3k; is this fair when other events take only down to perhaps 18th on the list?

Eliminating the 3k would put us in line with the other two divisions.

If qualifying rounds are eliminated it would free up the schedule.

Even if the athlete is from toward the bottom of the list, isn’t it still a “good experience for the athlete” to go to nationals?

We need to get as many athletes to nationals as possible.

Either we should eliminate the 3k for the women or add it for the men. Currently we have an unfair situation.

AD’s apparently had the information about the 3k on their agenda. Why didn’t coaches know about this? Communication needs to increase.

For many years women competed in an unfair championship because only a limited number of events existed for them so being “unfair” to the men now isn’t a totally valid argument.

Removing the 3k potentially decreases the number of distance women going to the championship.

Most schools build their programs around certain events, i.e. a “distance school” or a “sprints/jumps school” or a “field school”. If there is a drastic change to the schedule of events for the championship, coaches need time to prepare for this.

What weight will the “straw vote” have?

Will the Committee really take our voice forward?

The Executive Committee must vote to recommend a motion to the general membership for voting on Wednesday. Coaches must be present to vote; no voting by proxy.

Since this is a women’s issue, should only women’s coaches vote?

Straw vote was taken about retaining the 3k in the championship: 31 yes, 13 no, 3 abstained. Shonna will still accept a formal vote from Wednesday’s session.

3k/5k Preliminary Rounds
Issues and concerns raised:

- Should rounds be eliminated taking in to consideration field size, quality of competition, etc.?
- What is the point of making athletes run a preliminary if is to eliminate only one or two competitors? It might bring more people to the championship as there would be more doubling. Why not consider eliminating rounds in the steeplechase as well?
- Let’s increase the quality of the 5k field/times by eliminating preliminary rounds. There is really no problem with running 16 to 18 athletes in a 5k. Perhaps there would be more fan support for the 5k if the preliminary round is gone and it goes straight to a competitive final.
- Doubling debilitates performance in the finals and increases the chance of injury. If we eliminate trials in 3k and 5k steeplers might double in the 1500. If the number of entries is above 16, run a preliminary round; if below 16 no prelims. This might leave a gap in the schedule however which would not be appealing to spectators.
The Committee would like to know schedules in advance so that they can determine if a last chance meet is a certified meet.

**Cross Country Issues**

- Federation of the sport: We have individual sport championship committees that also act as rules committees. Federation would separate out a different rules committee of a 2-2-4 mix of representatives from Division II, III and I respectively. This would put us in line with other sports. **Recommendation:** Undertake a year-long study of federation; the membership should continue its personal education on the developing issue of federation; make information available to membership at next year’s convention to make an informed vote.
- Floating per diem – more funds are needed when championships are at more expensive locations.
- Our Association needs to develop a position statement concerning the NCAA festivals.
- Recruiting calendar – a draft calendar will be developed by a committee; we need to have a recruiting calendar that works for Division II rather than just adopt what Division I wants.
- Proposal 8 – Has there been any discussion of this? What does it mean for a men’s team and a women’s team in track?
- The Association is concerned about the high rate of turnover of NCAA liaisons.
- Should be consider a proposal to increase the number of individual participants for cross country nationals? Historically we have asked for additional teams. Have more schools been added to Division II? Do we therefore already have more potential teams for nationals?
- Some regions leave very strong individuals at home under the current system. East Region given as example. East Region AD watched this meet and told his coach he felt making cross nationals as an individual was the most difficult thing he’d seen an athlete have to do.
- We need to check our AD’s forms to see how many participants are listed. We should have one athlete in the championship for every sixteen athletes who compete. Executive Committee needs to consider this issue further.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.
NCAA Division II Cross Country & Track and Field Coaches Association
General Membership Meeting – Track & Field
12/18/07 USTFCCCA National Convention @ Phoenix, Arizona

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Kavalunas at 10:15 a.m.

2008 Indoor National Championships @ Mankato
Coach Mark Schuck presented information about the indoor championships. Participants should fly into Minnesota/St. Paul; approximately 80 miles to Mankato. Average temperatures should be about 25 to 30 degrees. Basically the whole campus is indoors. There will be a warm-up track and athletes’ lounge.

2008 Outdoor National Championships @ Pomona
Coach Troy Johnson presented information about the outdoor championships. A hotel list will be on the website. Shilo Inn is this year’s host hotel; the banquet however will be held at the Sheraton Fairplex in Building 8. Approximately 400 rooms in the area have been blocked. Get block number from website for hotel discounts. Participants should fly in to Ontario or LAX.

Nominations for Regional Reps.
Members were urged to sign up for two-year terms as track and field regional reps for the following regions: South Central, South East and East. Among other responsibilities, regional reps help to communicate what is coming down from the Executive Committee.

Presidents’ Terms of Office
CEO Sam Seems proposed at the summer meeting that the presidents’ length of term be extended until after the end of the summer meeting so that information does not get lost in the change of leadership. This way both the “old” and “new” presidents would be in attendance to make for a smoother transition of leadership and transfer of relevant information.

Olympic Trials Presentation
Coach Vin Lananna presented information about the upcoming Olympic Trials at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The attempt is to make this the most athlete and coach friendly Trials in history. The field at Hayward Field has been flattened; field events have been reconfigured; the track has been resurfaced. 16,400 seats have been made available; tickets have been sold out for eight months. A fan festival will be set up outside of the stadium; 2 screens will be set up in this area so that those who don’t have tickets can see the meet. There will be restaurants, live music, etc. over a 9 city block area that will be shut down. The 1980 Olympic Team has been invited to open the meet. There will be all-comers meets on the athletes’ rest days. There will be twelve hours of live TV coverage. For complete details visit the Eugene08.com website. Date of the Trials is June 27th through July 6th.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
The meeting was called to order by Mike Mead at 3:05 p.m.

Hosting a Championship – Moderated by Mike Mead
A panel discussion of how to host a championship meet was presented by:
- Patty Vavra – Missouri Southern
- Troy Johnson – Cal Poly Pomona
- John Papa – Slippery Rock
- David Harris – Emporia State
- David Cain – Alabama Huntsville

There needs to be more coaches/institutions willing to host a championship. In cross country the host should have staged a regional meet first, except in the case of a festival championship where the NCAA will select the site regardless of prior hosting.

The panel was asked to address what it takes to produce a successful championship meet and in general give their thoughts about the entire process of staging such a meet.

- Harris: It takes a lot of willingness and desire and a great deal of hard work. A lot of prior experience is not really needed, you just have to be willing to step out and try something new.
- Johnson: Hired in August and told during the interview that hosting track nationals was part of the job should he be the candidate selected. Didn’t shy away from this idea during the interview. Sees this as a valuable experience for his growth as a coach. Cooperation received from Coach Sackett has been invaluable. Wants to keep the quality and tradition at Pomona that Coach Sackett has established. Having your institution behind improving your facilities is key.
- Cain: Bid to host a regional meet; regionals wasn’t as overwhelming as he thought it would be; gives good exposure to your team. Once regionals is awarded the NCAA sends a packet which breaks down monthly/weekly what needs to be done.
- Papa: If you host a major invitational you can host a regional or national cross meet. If you have good staff and support from your administration, you can do it. Stay organized and timely.
- Vavra: “It takes a village”. Get your administration and support staff personnel behind you. A national meet brings good exposure to your school and program. It is a great experience for your own athletes.

What did you not think of that you ended up needing?

- Harris: You must reach out. You might be listed as the meet director but it takes a lot of people to make the meet happen. Met weekly with AD; formed committees; met weekly with an executive committee; met monthly with sub-committees. Be open to ideas from others; make the experience great for both the athletes and the coaches. Be prepared to lose hours out of your day and working with your own athletes. Recruiting will suffer but someone must host the championship and we each need to take on the responsibility. You have to want to do something for Division II and the athletes.
• Vavra: Prepare for the unexpected. Site visit took place and two months later those Committee members changed. Prior preparation really helps.
• Johnson: Actual coaching duties cut in half because you are so consumed with meet preparation. There will be surprises every day. Wants the meet to run in the manner in which it is advertised to run.
• Cain: Regional meet is not as intense as a national meet. Communicate with AD; get SID on board; get administration involved and keep them informed.
• Papa: You don’t need a lot of money for a cross facility. What you need is a lot of support and assistance, particularly if weather plays a factor in the meet and you need to make last-minute course changes.

Who was the key person that helped you the most?
• Vavra: NCAA liaison is key; you need to communicate well with this person.
• Harris: Agrees that good communication with liaison is vital. You receive a manual but then also call upon others who have hosted before and get their ideas/assistance. You must rely more on your assistant coaches for the normal operation of your team but they must also be very patient with you. Sometimes assistants just have to do the coaching. Some coaches think they automatically get to keep the equipment after hosting a national meet but that’s not true. However, USC usually gives great deals on the equipment at the end of the meet.
• Johnson: Remember that you don’t get rich doing this and that’s not why you are doing it.
• Papa: There will be a grad assistant working with him whose focus will be on invitationals, regional and national meets being held this fall.

Questions from the floor.
What is the budget process?
• Contact the coach who hosted the year before; get their budget as a blueprint for yours and ask for their assistance/input. The NCAA liaison also helps in that they might point out what other regions have in their budgets that you left out.
• Harris: Fill out the budget you think is fair but don’t be afraid to go back to the liaison if you need more money.

2008 XC Championships @ Slippery Rock University – John Papa
Teams will fly in to Pittsburgh. Sheraton-Four Points is the host hotel. Numerous other accommodations within a few miles of the Sheraton. The course is off campus at Cooper’s Lake Campground where SRU has held multiple events over the past several years. Ample parking on-site. All grass; significant hill at the start; rolling thereafter. 10k course run only once; something to consider when looking at course record. The weather at this time of year is usually cold, with rain and sometimes snow. There will be a pre-national invitational on Saturday, October 4th with an 8k for the men and a 6k for the women.

Feedback on All-American Medallions
The athletes really liked them. They need to be awarded in a more formal presentation.
NCAA Awards at XC Championship.
The question was raised as to why Division II gets fewer NCAA individual awards at our championship than do Divisions I and III. Numbers mentioned were 15 for Division II but 35 for Division I and 40 for Division III.

Regional/National XC Championship Entry Procedure
- Vavra: Based on Missouri Southern’s most recent experience, suggest entry of athletes 10 days out from regional meet. Enter the 10 most probable athletes to reduce workload/scramble as well as expense to host institution. We can by our rules add an athlete who might not have been in this original 10 submitted. The reduction in the number of entries definitely helps with meet management. Some chip companies charge per chip issued so entering a smaller number certainly saves money.
- Papa: Would like the flexibility to devise his own declaration; it was indicated to the group that rosters would still be entered through Direct Athletics.

Regional and National AOY & COY Voting Process
- There will be a proposal brought forward from the Executive Council for general membership vote about how this process should be carried out. There is a desire for the Association’s national office to send out a press release with the National AOY & COY. Coaches can then make this a more visible award on their individual campuses.

Further Discussion on Rules/3k & 5k Preliminary Rounds
- A concern was raised that perhaps the national track and field championships have been run in violation of the rule book and that the Association should make a motion to recommend to the Championship Committee to follow the spirit of the rule book.
- Additional concern expressed that without prelims we won’t have as many distance runners advancing to nationals.
- Possibility of two schedules set up, one with and one without prelims. Use the one that works best after declarations are made and the Committee sees how many athletes are in these distance events.
- Bob Podkaminer noted that the rule book is flexible, i.e. the wording “unless otherwise directed by the Games Committee.” What we need is something in place as to how the Games Committee makes its field size decisions.
- We need to balance what is best for athletes as well as what is best for the meet.
- Coaches want to know number of rounds before they declare; the number of rounds drives our declaration decisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
The session was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Mike Mead.

Voting procedures:
ID card with bar code will be used. The front of the card is Y for yes; the back of the card is N for no; to abstain place hand over barcode.

Approval of minutes:
Motion: By Russell to approve the minutes of the 2006 convention sessions.
2nd: By Asher.
Passed: Unanimously.

Committee Reports:
- Awards Committee (report by Vavra)
  o Compile a list of USTFCCCA DII awards presented annually to athletes and coaches.
  o Define and clarify specifics of each award, i.e. what is it; how is it voted for.
  o Determine current awards and potential updates and changes.
  o Determine timeline for specific award committee members to work with national office on awards, i.e. the addition last year of the Assistant COY award.
  o Individual coaches may determine what constitutes an AOY or COY.
  o Distinguished Service Award must be better defined; need to ensure that it has been awarded to recent recipients.
- Hall of Fame Committee (report by Asher)
  o Nominees must be 5 years out of school
  o Must attend or be represented
  o Nominations must be Division II or former college Division student-athlete
  o Must be nominated by a member of USTFCCCA
  o Award is regionalized unless individual or school is willing to pay for expenses
  o Nominations are submitted to Asher
  o In cross country, individuals as well as a team can be selected
  o Awardees are provided 1 night housing and 4 banquet tickets
- Meet Enhancement Committee (report by Pedersen)
  o 3 schools were awarded meet enhancement funds in 2007:
    ▪ Emporia State – All Division 2 meet
    ▪ Ft. Valley State – indoor meet
    ▪ Seattle Pacific – last chance indoor meet
  o T&F money is available for 2008; new deadline is 1/15/08; only 1 school has so far applied.
  o Funding available for 2008 cross county; deadline is 1/16/07.
- Post-Graduate Scholarship Committee (report by Harris)
  o Scholarship has been renamed the Division II Scholar Athlete of the Year Program.
- Budget received from USTFCCCA; $8,000.00 per year.
- One male and one female athlete are selected from cross country, indoor track and outdoor track.
- Additional $1000 to one male and one female selected for National Scholar Athlete of the Year.
- Criteria is based on 40% athletic performance; 40% academic performance; 20% leadership; judging by D-II Coaches Association Scholar Athlete Committee:
  - Must have completed all eligibility in all sports
  - Must have an overall cumulative gpa of 3.25 or higher
  - Must participate in NCAA D-II championship level competition
  - Must have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and community service activities while a member of their team
- Letters of recommendation are required from: head coach; AD, FAR or administrator; someone of candidate’s choice
- All materials must be typed; registrar must verify gpa; application deadline June 30th each year; faxed applications will not be accepted. Completed applications are sent to Dave Harris at Emporia State.
- New application form will be on website in January 2008.
- Nominating coach must inform the committee of the school at which the recipient will attend; check will be sent directly to that institution.
- Committee has chosen in the past not to give recipients of NCAA post-graduate scholarship this scholarship; wishes for the money to go to another deserving student-athlete
- Division II is the only division which has this award

- Polls Committee (report by Garlatz)
  - Summary of how polling works
    - Regional polls: 8 reps rank teams weekly; the more information regional reps have about who we raced, etc., the more accurate the national polls will be
    - National polls: Coordinators take these rankings and compile list.
    - Ways to help: Contact your regional rater and inform them on the goings on of your team; submit list of your home meets to the USTFCCCA

- Site Selection Committee (report by Bluman for Jewett)
  - First year committee
  - Objective: To seek out and establish new sites for nationals meets; bids needed; necessary forms are on-line
  - If your bid is not selected, the Committee will tell you why, make suggestions for corrections and you may try again
  - Recommendations
    - Host must have been a previous regional host site
    - Combined cross country national meet site for Division II and Division III (would consider Division I Saturday championship format as a possibility)
    - Important for a potential host in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track will work with timeline to submit “Site Evaluation” and “Proposed Budget and Financial Report”
    - Ensure that airport used can/will accommodate pole vault poles arriving
• By-Laws Committee (report by Watts)
  ○ Function: to establish clear and accurate by-laws by which the membership conducts itself
  ○ Objective: to have the current by-laws on line by mid-January 2008. Divisions I and III are behind us in creating their by-laws; out of respect to them we have delayed posting ours.

Commendation:
The membership would like to commend the work Polling Committee.

Voting:
Institutional: each institutional program receives one vote: Men’s program = 1 vote; Women’s program = 1 vote; Combined program = 2 votes
Membership votes = 1 per member
YES vote – scan the FRONT of credential
NO vote – scan the BACK of credential
ABSTAIN – COVER the bar code on credential

General:
Motion: Recruiting calendar by Russell that the Presidents utilize the appropriate avenue to pursue a Division II Track & Field and Cross Country recruiting calendar that only has a dead period on the 2 days preceding the National Letter of Intent signing date.
2nd: by Ward
Rationale: The new Division I calendar was simply imposed upon us this fall. We need a calendar that suits Division II needs, i.e. the simplest calendar possible. Division I wanted time off when out of season, at convention, at championships. For Division II, winter is often our best time to get off campus to recruit.
Passed: Unanimously

Motion: National Letter of Intent by Russell that the Presidents pursue the possibility of adding back an early National Letter of Intent signing date in November and leaving the February date so that an informed discussion can take place at the 2008 convention.
2nd: Garlatz
Rationale: Our sport previously had early November/late April signing dates. We are now considered a fall/winter sport with one date in February. This appears to be a Division I driven decision. We consider ourselves a unique sport, not fall or spring, and therefore should have a unique NLI signing schedule. We must ask why did the conference commissioners change the NLI date without coaches’ input. Did the commissioners see the Division I did this so simply said it was a good idea for Division II? We need to investigate how this breakdown occurred and how to keep it from happening again.
Passed: 54 Yes; 6 No; no abstentions

Motion: Presidents’ Terms by Mead to extend the Presidents’ terms through the Board of Directors summer meeting following convention, with outgoing president serving as representative and new president also attending.
2nd: Samprone
**Rationale:** There would be greater continuity of leadership and an increase in the knowledge needed to carry out the duties of the position.

**Passed:** 58 Yes; 2 No; no abstentions

**Motion:** **Proportionality** by Russell that both the cross country and track and field Presidents are charged to follow up with Sylvia Barnier about the review of proportionality for both sports.

**2nd:** Bradshaw

**Rationale:** The Presidents are urged to ask Sylvia to look at proportionality of how numbers are arrived at for participation in championships in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track before we look at how to request additional numbers.

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Motion:** **Federation** by Russell to recommend that the membership continue their personal education on the developing issue of federation and charge the Division II representatives on the USTFCCCBA Board of Directors to pursue with due diligence Division II interests.

**2nd:** Asher

**Rationale:** The membership needs further study and knowledge about the pros and cons of federation. A collective Rules Committee would consist of the following representation:
Division I = 4 members; Division II = 2 members; Division III = 2 members. We need a separate Divisional Championship Committee.

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Cross Country:**

**Motion:** **Slate of Candidates** by Leverington that the membership votes for following slate of regional representatives:

- East Region – Ricky Moore
- Great Lakes – Rick Cummins
- Northeast – Gary Gardner
- South – David Cain
- South Central – Scott Lorek
- Southeast – Mike Owen
- North Central – Marlon Brink
- West – Thaddeus (T.J.) Garlatz

**2nd:** Gardner

**Passed:** Unanimously

**Motion:** **Regional and National Entry Guidelines** by Vavra that the date for entry deadline for the regional and national cross country championship meets be set at 10 days prior to the regional meet; that the number of competitors entered shall not be more than 10; and that those 10 should be the competitors most probable to compete in the national championship but may be changed in accordance with NCAA and NCAA Division II championship guidelines.

**2nd:** Cain

**Passed:** Unanimously
Motion: Regional Coach, Athlete of the Year by Cain that voting for Regional Coach of the Year and Athlete of the Year be both on site as well as electronically to the regional rep by 12:00 noon CST Monday following the regional meet.
2nd: Vavra
Passed: Unanimously

Motion: National Coach, Athlete of the Year by Asher that voting for National Coach of the Year and Athlete of the Year be both on site as well as electronically by 12:00 noon CST Monday following the national meet.
2nd: Russell
Comment: These awards would therefore not be presented at the NCAA awards banquets. This process would also allow the USTFCCCA national office to prepare a press release. Institutions could then have a presentation ceremony as an event on their own campus.
Passed: Unanimously

Motion: National Meet Individual Qualifiers by Watts that the Cross Country President is charged to find out the definition of the 40 individual spots and to determine if there is budgeting each year for this possibility.
2nd: Russell
Rationale: We want to expand participation in the national cross country championships.
Passed: Unanimously

Track & Field:
Motion: Slate of Candidates by Russell that the membership votes on the following slate of candidates for regional representatives:
   South Central – Pat Ponder
   Southeast – Kevin Vees
   East – Heather Leverington
2nd: Vavra
Passed: Unanimously

Motion: Preliminary Rounds in Distance Events by Cain to keep preliminary rounds in distance events at the Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships as they currently exist.
2nd: Leverington
Comment: Use the 2007 championships as a reference for preliminary rounds.
Counter Motion: To table the issue of preliminary rounds by Rohl until after discussion of the 3000.
2nd: Russell
Passed: Unanimously

Motion: Retention of the Outdoor 3000 by Gardner to retain the 3000 meter women’s event at the Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships.
2nd: Harris
Passed: 67 Yes; 19 No; no abstentions
Friendly Amendment re. Preliminary Rounds in Distance Events by Cain that distance events be defined as men’s and women’s steeplechase, women’s 3000, and men’s and women’s 5000 as they existed in the 2007 championships.

2nd: Ward

Failed: 47 No; 38 Yes

Recess called to allow discussion of the issue of preliminary rounds in distance events.

New Business:

Motion: Preliminary Rounds in the 5000 by Baltes to eliminate the preliminary rounds in the outdoor 5000 meters at the nationals championships.

2nd: Hood

Discussion: by Siepiola that more than 18 participants could be selected based upon power rankings and other criteria. Gardner countered that Barnier had clearly stated in Executive Committee that no more than 18 would be selected, even if the 19th on the list was already in the meet. Asher asked if anyone has looked at this issue from a meet management perspective, i.e. if the preliminary rounds are gone is there a break in the schedule.

Passed: 49 Yes; 34 No; 2 abstentions

Informational Presentation:

Harris, Pedersen, Asher and Cain discussed a plan to promote fairness for the championship meet. Fair would mean the same number of participants in each event. This might increase the number of relays, multis and field event participants. Set a maximum number of 18 participants per event. Those on the list at 19 or above who are already in the meet would not participate.

Suggestions:

- Add the 3k as a men’s event
- No preliminary rounds in the 5k
- Extra participants in the relays
- In odd years the 4 x 100 would get first consideration
- In event years the 4 x 400 would get first consideration
- This would potentially increase the number of participants in the multis and field events
- Ties would advance to the meet

Coaches would have to have the mindset that we already have a big enough meet and that what we want is the best competition at the meet. This proposal would also take away some of the leeway the Committee now has in the selection process. Every event would have to have the same number of athletes. Preliminary rounds in distance events could then be run to get to a final field of 10 which would mean athletes would have to really race in the preliminary rounds. At some championships there are upwards of 34 participants in some of the sprint events. It would be more fair to take additional field event or rely and would create a better, more competitive championship. A coach asked why not let the athletes compete who are 19th or above on the list and already at the championships. The response was that this proposal gets additional, new athletes to the championship meet. Additionally, if one event has the 19th athlete already at the meet and this athlete competes but the 19th athlete in another event does not advance to the championship, how is this fair.
Motion: by Rohl to appoint a sub-committee to review guidelines for the Games Committee and to investigate possible fairness through redistribution of event allocations.

2nd: Garlatz

Comment: As a coach, you must put your own team aside if you are on the Committee. Guidelines to the Committee are a positive. Perhaps the biggest thing we’ve learned over the past 3 days of general membership discussion is that we don’t really know what we want.

Passed: 81 Yes; 4 No; no abstentions

Pederson and Harris will co-chair this sub-committee

Discussion: The pending USATF Zero Tolerance Policy is designed to get cheaters out of the port. However, if a coach has an athlete with a positive test, you as the coach would be banned forever from coaching at any USATF event. The coach would be linked to the positive test; his/her AD notified; this could affect job security. For the upcoming Olympic Track & Field trials there is a $200 credentialing fee and a required background check.

Surveys: Coaches were urged to complete the survey to provide feedback about this year’s convention to the USTFCCA.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.