

**BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER**

1. **Agenda Item Title:** Policy Proposal revising the approval process for changes in athletic conference membership.
 Meeting Date: November 28, 2016 meeting of the Committee on Athletics

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At the request of Chairman Trachok, System staff prepared the attached Policy Proposal clarifying the approval process for changes in athletic conference membership. Under this Policy Proposal, approval of a change in athletic conference membership would involve a two-step process. First - prior to submitting an application, having discussions, or commencing negotiations related to a change in athletic conference membership an institution must first provide written notice to Chancellor and the Chairman of the Board. Second - approval of any change in conference membership would be subject to approval by the Board with full consideration factors such as student competition in intercollegiate sports appropriate to the institution, fiscal resources available, and sound standards of student academic performance.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

That the Committee on Athletics approve the attached Policy Proposal revising Title 4, Chapter 24, Section 1, Subsection 1 of the Handbook related to the approval process for changes in athletic conference membership. Approval by the Committee will serve as a recommendation for approval by the full Board though the committee report at the December 1-2, 2016 meeting of the Board.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The shifting landscape of inter-collegiate athletics and resulting instability in athletic conference membership require that the Board clarify the process for approval of athletic conference membership for NSHE institutions.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This Policy Proposal provides clear direction to NSHE institutions on the process for approval of athletic conference membership.
- Because changes in athletic conference membership can have a significant impact on fiscal resources and the strategic objectives of the institution – prior written notice to the Chancellor and Chair of the Board is appropriate.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- No changes to the current process for approval of changes in athletic conference membership necessary. The institutions should be free to submit application and commence negotiations related to athletic conference membership without advance notice to the Chancellor or the Chair of the Board.

7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

N/A

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
X	Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 24, Section 1, Subsection 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No <u>X</u> _____
	Explain:_____