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CRAIG THOMPSON, COMMISSIONER

The Mountain West Conference submits the following proposal (the “MWC Proposal”) to reform the Bowl Championship Series (“BCS”) to its fellow Football Bowl Subdivision (“FBS”) conferences and the University of Notre Dame. The MWC Proposal covers the 2010 through 2013 seasons.<sup>1</sup> The MWC Proposal addresses the inequities under the current BCS system and enables the national championship to be decided (1) in the proper location – on the field of play, and (2) by the appropriate parties – the players.

### **1. Determining Which Conferences are Automatic-Qualifying Conferences**

- a. Criteria for a conference to automatically qualify** – An FBS conference will be an “AQ Conference” (its champion will automatically qualify each year for a BCS bowl berth) if over a two-season period the conference (1) has played a minimum of twenty inter-conference regular-season games against the six current AQ Conferences, and (2) has a minimum winning percentage of .400 in these games.<sup>2</sup>
- b. Conferences that have earned automatic qualification** – As indicated in Table 1 of the Appendix, the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12, MWC, Pac-10, and SEC conferences will be AQ Conferences for the 2010 through 2013 seasons based on their performance during the previous two seasons.<sup>3</sup>

Note 1: As indicated in Table 2 of the Appendix, even if the criteria used in paragraph 1(a) were employed over a four-season period (instead of a two-season period), and even if the criteria included bowl games against the current AQ Conferences as well, the same seven conferences listed in paragraph 1(b) above would qualify as AQ Conferences.

Note 2: Over the past five postseasons, only the Pac-10 (.750), MWC (.700), SEC (.636) and Big 12 (.545) have winning records against AQ Conference teams.

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<sup>1</sup> This period coincides with the four-year term of the proposed ESPN agreement.

<sup>2</sup> A conference that has played fewer than 20 such games can be an AQ Conference if its winning percentage would still be at least .400 if it had lost the remaining games needed to reach the 20-game benchmark. For example, a conference with a 10-9 record would be an AQ Conference because even if it had lost a 20<sup>th</sup> inter-conference game, its 10-10 record and .500 winning percentage would be sufficient.

<sup>3</sup> One or more of the four remaining FBS conferences can become AQ Conferences before 2013 if they satisfy the criteria under paragraph 1(a).

## **2. Determining Other Universities that will Earn BCS Bowl Berths**

- a. A new committee is created** – The BCS Standings will no longer be based upon computer formulas and pollsters. Instead, a 12-member selection committee (“Committee”) comprised of one representative from each of the 11 FBS conferences and one representative from Notre Dame will determine these standings. This Committee will carefully study and evaluate the teams over the course of a season before determining the rankings. The Committee will rank the Top 25 teams at the end of each regular season, and these rankings will constitute the final BCS Standings.
- b. The Committee will determine the remaining BCS bowl teams** – Notre Dame and a champion of a non-automatic-qualifying conference (“Non-AQ Conference”) may automatically qualify for a BCS bowl berth in a given year, depending upon their rankings in the final BCS Standings in that year. The minimum rankings in the final BCS Standings that Notre Dame or a Non-AQ Conference champion must have to automatically qualify for a BCS bowl in a given year will not change from that required under the current system. The Committee will also select the remaining BCS bowl teams based on the final BCS Standings.

## **3. Determining the National Champion**

- a. Five BCS bowls** – The Rose Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl, and a new fifth BCS bowl game (the “Fifth BCS Bowl”) will be played the first week of January. The Fifth BCS Bowl will be awarded to a bowl that currently hosts a non-BCS game. Requests for proposals will be solicited from other bowls.
- b. Ranking the BCS bowl teams** – Using the Committee’s Top 25 standings, the Committee will rank the BCS bowl teams from 1 to 10.
- c. Two lowest-ranked BCS bowl teams will play in Fifth BCS Bowl** – The two lowest-ranked BCS bowl teams will play in the Fifth BCS Bowl, and their seasons will end at the conclusion of that game.
- d. Top eight BCS bowl teams will play in the Rose, Fiesta, Orange or Sugar Bowls** – The other eight BCS bowl teams (the “Top Eight BCS Bowl Teams”) will play in either the Rose Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Orange Bowl, or Sugar Bowl (the “Top Four BCS Bowl Games”).
- e. Preserving bowl tie-ins** – To the extent that the champions of the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10, and SEC are Top Eight BCS Bowl Teams, they will play in their respective bowl tie-ins.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> If the champion of the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-10, or SEC is one of the two lowest-ranked BCS bowl teams, that team will play in the Fifth BCS Bowl.

- f. **Choosing the remaining match-ups for the Top Four BCS Bowls** – The Committee will choose the games in which the remaining Top Eight BCS Bowl Teams will play.<sup>5</sup>
- g. **Semi-Finals and National Championship Game** – The winners of the Top Four BCS Bowl Games will each play in a semi-final game (the “Semi-Finals”) approximately one week after their bowl games conclude.<sup>6</sup> The winners of the Semi-Finals will play in the National Championship Game approximately one week after the Semi-Finals.
- h. **Hosts for the Semi-Finals and the National Championship Game** – The Rose, Fiesta, Orange, Sugar and Fifth BCS Bowls will be given the first opportunity to host the Semi-Finals on a rotating basis. If these bowls are not interested in hosting the Semi-Finals, requests for proposals will be solicited from other bowls. The Rose, Fiesta, Orange, and Sugar Bowls will host the National Championship Game once every four years in addition to the game they host the first week of January.

#### 4. Other Matters

- a. **Presidential Oversight Committee** – The composition of the BCS Presidential Oversight Committee will be modified to include one voting member from each FBS conference and Notre Dame.
- b. **Revenue calculations** – An equitable revenue calculation will be determined once all revenue, including from television and the bowls, is known.

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<sup>5</sup> In making these determinations, the Committee will seek to avoid regular-season rematches, and, to the extent reasonably practicable, pairing any of the top three-ranked teams against each other.

<sup>6</sup> The Committee will determine the pairings for the Semi-Finals. The Committee will designate that the highest-ranked team remaining play the lowest-ranked team remaining in one of the Semi-Finals, with the other two teams playing in the other Semi-Final, unless the Committee determines that a very strong justification exists for a different pairing.

## APPENDIX

**TABLE 1**

<b>Inter-Conference Regular-Season Records Against AQ Conferences (2007 - 2008)</b>	
<b>Conference</b>	<b>Record</b>
MWC	16-13 (.552)
ACC	22-18 (.550)
Big Ten	10-9 (.526)
Pac-10	10-9 (.526)
Big East	14-15 (.483)
Big 12	12-14 (.462)
SEC	13-16 (.448)
WAC	6-28 (.176)
MAC	11-57 (.162)
Sun Belt	5-43 (.104)
C-USA	4-44 (.083)

**TABLE 2**

<b>Inter-Conference Regular-Season and Postseason Records Against AQ Conferences (2005 - 2008)</b>	
<b>Conference</b>	<b>Record</b>
Pac-10	32-20 (.615)
SEC	43-36 (.544)
Big East	36-38 (.486)
Big 12	35-37 (.486)
MWC	29-32 (.475)
ACC	45-52 (.464)
Big Ten	29-37 (.439)
WAC	13-62 (.173)
MAC	17-109 (.135)
C-USA	11-92 (.107)
Sun Belt	6-78 (.071)