



NCAA DIVISION II CONNECTION PROGRAM FOR FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES

- Vision:** Enhance engagement with FARs and fortify their role as advocates for the value of Division II athletics.
- Mission:** Help FARs take ownership and responsibility for the growth and future of their role to assist Division II student-athletes in achieving a balanced educational experience.

Division II Connection Program History and Guiding Principles

- The Division II Connection program was initiated as the Coaches Connection program in 2012-13. Feedback at the time indicated that coaches felt disenfranchised in the division's decision-making processes and often were unaware of policy and legislative changes being considered that affected their role. Accordingly, the division established the Coaches Connection, first as a pilot program for football and volleyball.
- The success of the program over time allowed the program to include all Division II sports by 2021.
- By 2025 the program had achieved such success that it was expanded to include more than just coaches, as athletic trainers and faculty athletics representatives were added as separate connection groups. Accordingly, the name of the program was changed to Division II Connection to accommodate the expansion and allow for future growth

Current Program Goals

- Enhance engagement with FARs and fortify their role as advocates for the value of Division II athletics.
- Educate all participants, ensuring a full understanding of the Division II governance and legislative processes, philosophy, platform, strategic plan, and priorities.
- Position all participants to serve as advocates who inform and articulate their points of view.
- Encourage FARs to be informed and active in policy and/or legislative changes that impact student-athlete eligibility and academic progress.
- Commissioners will serve as a conduit between athletics administrators and FARs, to enhance the dialogue among stakeholders, allowing the flow of information regarding current concerns and issues for FARs as they serve Division II student-athletes.
- To allow for effective and valued communication among stakeholders, resulting in decisions that best serve Division II and its student-athletes.

Communication and Engagement efforts will include:

- The FAR's circle, will include representatives from each of the Division II conferences. Conference representatives will be appointed by conference commissioners. Conference representatives are expected to be on all monthly calls.
- The program will have a "Connector" who oversees the group.
- The Connector will organize monthly calls (ideally 10 calls) for conference representatives. Attendance and participation will be tracked. Commissioners will be notified of the participation (or lack thereof) of the conference's representative on calls.
- Minutes will be kept by the Connector. The Connector will distribute minutes to participants on the call, commissioners, selected NCAA staff, and Connection program administrators.
- The conference representative will be responsible for distributing the minutes to the FARs in their conference.
- Commissioners will be responsible for distributing minutes to conference directors of athletics and senior woman administrators.

Enhanced Communication efforts will include:

- The Academic and Membership Affairs liaison will participate in monthly conference calls as needed to serve as a resource regarding legislation, future academic requirements, transfer policies, etc.
- Connectors will share the minutes and newsletters from other NCAA Division II governance committees, including Championships Committee, Legislation Committee, Playing Rules Committee, Academic Requirements Committee, Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, Management Council, Presidents Council, and others.
- FARA representatives will participate in monthly conference calls to serve as a resource regarding association-wide activities and events.

Connector responsibilities in addition to monthly calls will include:

- Provide guidance and suggestions to the FAR circle on governance and legislative processes when looking to make changes or when issues are identified.
- Encourage FARs to participate in NCAA committee service such as governance committees and any other committees that impact service to DII student-athletes.
- Participate in an orientation session held at the national office, when necessary.
- Create a relationship with FARA.

- Attend FARA Convention to engage with Division II FAR's.
- Participate on the steering committee for the annual FAR Institute.