REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
FEBRUARY 11-12, 2020, MEETING

***KEY ITEMS*.**

1. **Holistic review of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics continued its holistic review of the Academic Performance Program and Graduation Success Rate structure and related policies. [Informational Item No. 1]

2. **Academic-based models for four-year college transfer student-athletes.** The committee continued its work on the development of academic-based models related to the referral from the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. The committee discussed four potential options and will examine two of the models more closely throughout the next several months. [Informational Item No. 2]

3. **College Basketball Reform – implementation of the Division I men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance.** The committee received an update on the implementation of the Division I men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance for former basketball scholarship student-athletes who left their Division I institution having completed at least two years of enrollment. [Informational Item No. 3]

4. **NCAA Academic-Athletics Summit.** The committee received a report on the Academic-Athletics Summit held in conjunction with the 2020 NCAA Convention. [Informational Item No. 4]

5. **NCAA Division I Academic-Based Revenue Distribution.** The committee received an update on the outreach and educational efforts regarding the NCAA Division I Academic Unit and reviewed preliminary data on the number of institutions that will meet one of the three eligibility criteria in spring 2020. [Information Item No. 5]

***ACTION ITEMS*.**

- **None.**

***INFORMATIONAL ITEMS*.**

1. **Holistic review of the APP.** [Academics] [Fairness] The committee continued its holistic review of the APP, informed by the guiding principles of the program. This review was endorsed by the Board of Directors in August 2018, with the acknowledgement that the APP involves a multitude of elements that illustrate student-athlete academic success, especially the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate. The board expressed interest in ensuring that any recommended modifications maintain the validity of the APR as a valid predictor of graduation.

   The committee received a report on the membership feedback process underway since the last committee meeting in October. The NCAA staff conducted three webinars between

November 14, 2019, and January 9, 2020. Invitations were sent to the senior compliance officers and all NCAA Academic Portal users at each Division I member school. Approximately 275 individuals participated in the three webinars. Additionally, the staff reviewed the topics with several conferences and the executive board of the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals. The staff solicited feedback on specific topics from the American Football Coaches Association and the executive board of the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

The following 10 topics were reviewed through these outreach efforts:

a. APR and GSR cohort composition.

b. Inclusion of postgraduate student-athletes in the APR cohort.

c. Adjustment for APR retention points lost to professional sports departures.

d. Delayed graduation points.

e. Components and calculation of the APR.

f. Accounting for transfers (and the 2.600 adjustment).

g. APP penalty structure and filters.

h. APP public recognition.

i. Head coaches' APR.

The membership participating in these feedback opportunities were largely supportive of the status quo in its response to the options that were presented. Based on a review of the feedback and subsequent discussion, the committee asked the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data to continue to analyze the following topics to determine if policy revisions should be made:

a. APR and GSR cohort composition.

b. Inclusion of postgraduate student-athletes in the APR cohort and the awarding of the retention point.

c. Components and calculation of the APR, specifically, possible credit for graduation at another institution and the GSR as a metric.

d. APP penalty structure and filters related to limited-resource institutions.

e. Maintaining the head coaches' APR.

The subcommittee will continue to review these specific areas; however, the subcommittee's focus does not preclude changes in the other areas of the review. The committee will make final decisions on any policy changes during its May meeting and will determine effective dates of any policy changes as well.

2. Academic-based models for four-year college transfer student-athletes. [Academics] [Fairness] During its October 2019 meeting, the Board of Directors approved a legislative moratorium on transfer legislation and charged the committee with developing recommendations for academic criteria associated with a four-year college transfer exception. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics initially developed potential options for the full committee to consider. The subcommittee based its work on previous committee discussions and several research-based academic risk factors for transfer student-athletes.

The committee reviewed the work of the subcommittee and discussed four potential academic models to include in a four-year college transfer exception. The committee agreed that all student-athletes should have the same ability to access a transfer exception, regardless of sport.

The follow models would be applied uniformly regardless of sport:

Model No. 1: A student-athlete presents a 3.0 GPA at the previous institution and is academically eligible at both institutions at the time of transfer.

Model No. 2: A student-athlete presents a 2.6 GPA at the previous institution and is academically eligible at both institutions at the time of transfer.

Model No. 3: A student-athlete either presents a 3.0 GPA at the previous institution or presents a 2.6 GPA and can graduate at the new institution during the same term that athletics eligibility is exhausted. The student-athlete must also be eligible at both institutions.

Model No. 4: A student-athlete who transfers in the first two years of enrollment must present a 2.6 GPA at the previous institution and be academically eligible at both institutions. A student-athlete who transfers after the start of the third year of enrollment must present a 3.0 GPA at the previous institution and be eligible at both institutions.

The committee discussed the importance of providing student-athletes the opportunity to transfer and continue to compete while mitigating any academic risk factors to graduation. The committee reviewed data that demonstrated the likelihood of graduation when considering these models in comparison to student-athletes who do not transfer. The committee noted that some of these models can provide the appropriate flexibility for student-athletes while mitigating many of the risk factors to graduation. The committee requested the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics continue to examine Model Nos. 2 and 4 and collect additional data on the number of student-athletes who would meet these academic criteria and the projected graduation rates for transfer student-athletes in these two models. The committee will continue its review at its May meeting in anticipation of a membership feedback period during the spring and summer prior to the Board of Directors' fall meeting.

3. **College Basketball Reform – implementation of the Division I men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion program.** [Academics] [Well-Being] [Fairness] The committee received an update on implementation of the men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance legislation. The committee noted the number of applications received for the 2020 spring term increased significantly compared to the applications received for the 2019 fall term. The current recipients need an average of nine credits to graduate at the conclusion of the 2020 spring term. The number of funding recipients is still relatively low, and the committee discussed efforts to educate the membership on the availability of the degree completion program for limited-resource institutions. Additionally, the committee received an update on the outreach efforts in the last year. These efforts include presentations at conference meetings, a session at the 2020 NCAA Convention, a presentation at the NBA G-League player orientation and presentations to several membership groups. This fall, the committee will begin collecting data through the Academic Portal to determine how many former student-athletes are being positively affected by this membership requirement for all of Division I.

4. **NCAA Academic-Athletics Summit.** [Academics] [Well-Being] The committee received a report on the inaugural Academic-Athletics Summit that was held in conjunction with the 2020 NCAA Convention in Anaheim, California. The summit was attended by 52 college presidents, provosts and athletics directors from 22 Division I conferences. The participants learned about and discussed the following topics:

   a. Measuring Academic Success and the Predictive Impact on Retention – Lessons Learned from Student-Athlete Performance; and

   b. Intercollegiate Athletics as a High-Impact Learning Practice.

   The immediate feedback received by participants was positive, and additional feedback will be solicited from attendees within the next several months. This additional request will ask what has been done on each individual campus to continue the work that was completed at the summit.

   The committee also discussed avenues that may be used to share the information discussed at the summit with the larger NCAA membership. The information shared among participants at the summit may be useful to other presidents, provosts and athletics directors that were not able to attend.

5. **Update on the Academic Unit (academic-based revenue distribution).** [Academics] [Fairness] The committee received an update on the state of the Academic Unit and the ongoing educational and outreach efforts surrounding the distribution. The first distribution will be allocated in spring 2020. It is estimated that approximately 85 percent of Division I institutions will meet at least one of the three criteria to qualify for the distribution. This estimate is higher than the original projections made when the distribution was first approved by the Board of Directors and NCAA Board of Governors in 2016.

Numerous educational and outreach efforts have occurred over the last three years to ensure institutions are aware of the requirements and have plans to meet the requirements. These efforts include presentations at multiple conference meetings, NCAA Regional Rules Seminars, the NCAA Convention, as well as several campus visits to assist institutions in reviewing APR data. A website, www.ncaa.org/academicunit, has also been created to provide educational materials regarding the academic-based revenue distribution.

6. **Academic enrollment requirements for postgraduate student-athletes.** [Academics] [Well-Being] [Fairness] The committee reviewed NCAA Division I Proposal Nos. 2019-116 and 2019-117, which it requested the NCAA Division I Council introduce into the current legislative cycle in October to address the academic enrollment requirements for postgraduate student-athletes. The committee made this request to allow for broader membership feedback on the legislative concepts. After reviewing membership feedback, the committee prefers Proposal No. 2019-116 over Proposal No. 2019-117. This proposal creates a uniform academic option for all post-baccalaureate student-athletes, regardless of where those student-athletes decide to enroll after completing an undergraduate degree. This proposal provides the most flexibility for student-athletes who have graduated and have athletics eligibility remaining.

7. **Update on the Division I Wrestling Academic Enhancement Working Group.** [Academics] [Well-Being] [Fairness] The committee received an update on the working group established at the request of the National Wrestling Coaches Association to discuss recommendations to improve the academic performance of wrestling student-athletes. The working group will meet in-person on February 25 and 26 and will update the committee at its May meeting.

8. **Update on initial-eligibility standards.** [Academics] [Well-Being] [Fairness] The committee received an update on the test score validity study that will be conducted as a result of the restructured SAT. It is anticipated that the review will take place in spring 2020.

9. **Research update.** [Academics] [Organizational] The committee received an update from the NCAA research staff on the GOALS survey data that will be released later this month to the membership.

10. **Report from the Subcommittee on Data.** The committee reviewed the reports of the November 11, 2019, and February 3, 2020, teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Data.

    a. Holistic review of the APP. [Academics] [Fairness] On its February 3 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed the membership feedback for the holistic review of the APP.

    b. APP adjustment appeals. [Academics] [Organizational] On its November 11, 2019, teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed and discussed two appeals of adjustment requests.

    c. Data reviews. [Organizational] On its February 3 teleconference, the subcommittee received an update on the 2020 data review season.

11. Report from the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics. The committee reviewed the reports of the December 18, 2019, and February 5, 2020, teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.

a. Four-year college transfer requirements. [Academics] [Fairness] [Organizational] On its December 18, 2019, and February 5, 2020, teleconferences, the subcommittee discussed several options related to an academic component to a one-time transfer exception. Specifically, the subcommittee reiterated the importance of any exception being uniform across all sports and including a strong, predictive academic component. The options all included a GPA and credit attainment requirement.

b. Institutions that offer associate and bachelor's degrees. [Academics] [Organizational] On its December 18, 2019, teleconference, the subcommittee discussed how to categorize student-athletes who attend institutions that offer both associate and bachelor's degrees. The committee agreed that an educational column should be developed to explain how to analyze these situations.

12. Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals. The committee received a report from the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals. The subcommittee heard one waiver appeal of an APP penalty.

13. Update on educational programming and initiatives for member institutions. [Academics] [Fairness] The committee received an update on the educational programming and technology designed to assist institutions in academic certification efforts on campus. Specifically, several certification and APP workshops have been held at conference meetings and on individual campuses. Also, the online modules outlining Division I academic-eligibility rules and highlighting best practices for the certification of student-athletes that were made available to the membership in late fall 2019 have been viewed over 750 times in the last few months.

14. Review of Council-governance proposals in the 2019-20 legislative cycle. [Organizational] The committee reviewed academic-related proposals in the 2019-20 legislative cycle and provided its position and feedback to the NCAA Division I Legislation Committee to consider during its February 2020 in-person meeting.

15. Update on the NCAA Division I Interpretive Process Review Working Group. [Fairness] [Organizational] The committee received an update on the working group assigned with review of the processes used to resolve interpretive issues that arise during enforcement investigations and the infractions process.

16. Board of Directors report. The committee received a report from the Board of Directors' October 2019 and January 2020 meetings.

17. NCAA Division I Presidential Forum report. The committee received a report from the Presidential Forum's October 219 and January 2020 meetings.

18. Council report. The committee received a report from the Council's October 2019 and January 2020 meetings.

19. NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee report. The committee received a report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's January 2020 meeting.

20. Review of the Committee on Academics' October 2019 meeting report. The committee reviewed the report from its October 2019 meeting.

21. Update from the NCAA Enforcement Academic Integrity Unit. The committee received an update from the NCAA Enforcement Academic Integrity Unit. The number of cases involving academic misconduct has decreased significantly.

22. Update on the NCAA Two-Year College Relations Panel. The committee received an update on the ongoing work of the NCAA Two-Year College Relations Panel.

23. Update on the NCAA Division I Name, Image and Likeness Legislative Solutions Group. The committee received an update on the work of the Name, Image and Likeness Legislative Solutions Group.

24. Future meeting dates.

a. May 11-12 – Indianapolis; and

b. October 21-22 – Indianapolis.

*Note: The associated NCAA core values are noted with each agenda item (academics, fairness, well-being, organizational).

Committee Chair: *John DeGioia, Georgetown University*
Staff Liaisons: *Shauna Cobb, Academic and Membership Affairs*
Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs
Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Committee on Academics February 11-12, 2020, Meeting
Attendees:
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College.
Jerry Bovee, Weber State University.
Manoj Chopra, University of Central Florida.
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University.
Beth DeBauche, Ohio Valley Conference. (via phone)
John DeGioia, Georgetown University.
K. Renia Edwards, Mississippi Valley State University.
Ursula Gurney, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Eric Hall, Elon University. (Tuesday only.)
Dianne Harrison, California State University, Northridge.
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.
Jessica Kumke, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.
Karen Paisley, University of Utah.
Kim Record, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
Joe Scogin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Lynn W. Thompson, Bethune-Cookman University.
Ted White, University of Virginia.
Pamela Whitten, Kennesaw State University.
Absentees:
Hannah Buck, Santa Clara University.
Guests in Attendance:
Brynn Carlson, Kansas State University.
Jon Steinbrecher, Mid-American Conference.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Shauna Cobb, Jennifer Henderson and Binh Nguyen.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Emily Capehart, Greg Dana, Judy Delp, Jenn Fraser, Kelsey Gurganus, Brandy Hataway, Doug Healey, Karl Hicks, Patrick Higgins, Michelle Hosick, Leilani Hubbard, Charnele Kemper, Jessica Kerr, Kevin Lennon, Andy Louthain, Tom Paskus, Susan Peal, Todd Petr, Fran Rodriguez, Anne Rohlman, Dave Schnase, Jennifer Smith, Nick Sproull, Kathy Sulentic, Carrie Leger White, DeAnna Wiley, Quintin Wright and Katy Yurk.