



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
JUNE 20, 2019, TELECONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Holistic review of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics reviewed the materials and the plan developed to solicit feedback from the membership later this fall. This holistic review was endorsed by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors in August 2018, with the acknowledgement that the APP involves a multitude of elements that speak to 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.

In October 2018, the committee received an overview of data and policy that inform the current APP and identified the following areas of focus:

- a. APR and Graduation Success Rate 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.
- j. Other topics identified by the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.

The committee determined the Subcommittee on Data would vet and prepare each policy area for full committee discussion. In preparation for the committee's February and May meetings, the subcommittee initially reviewed policies and data from each area noted above. The committee emphasized that it will not recommend any APR policy modifications until all substantive areas are reviewed, which will occur later this summer.

In order to solicit feedback from the membership, the committee will provide a comprehensive presentation with relevant data to ensure full understanding of the issues and will provide a mechanism (e.g., feedback form, survey link) in order for feedback to

be provided to the committee. The committee will finalize the feedback materials at its October meeting.

- 2. College Basketball Reform -- student-athlete support and degree completion assistance.** The committee reviewed and approved several operational items designed to assist the Division I membership with the implementation of men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree assistance legislation.

In April 2018, the Commission on College Basketball recommended the NCAA establish a fund to pay for the degree completion of student-athletes with athletics scholarships who leave member institutions after at least two years of enrollment. The commission stated that colleges and universities must fulfill their commitment to student-athletes to provide not only the opportunity for athletics competition, but also an education. Institutions must promise student-athletes that the option to receive an education will exist, even after their athletics careers are finished. In August 2018, the Board of Directors approved a student support and degree completion fund as a condition of Division I membership. Following its adoption, the committee was charged with operationalization of the new legislation, which becomes effective August 1, 2019.

Following its October 2018 meeting, the committee began collecting operational questions pertaining to the degree completion assistance. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals served in an advisory role in evaluating the identified operational issues and advancing key issues for deliberation by the full committee. These issues focused on clarifying minimum enrollment requirements in online coursework, determining instances when funding may be discontinued, and solidifying the timeline for degree completion.

Additionally, the committee reviewed and approved the directive that will be used for the review of applications for the NCAA Former Student-Athlete Degree Achievement Program, which was developed for limited-resource institutions to request financial assistance in meeting the new obligation of Division I membership. The committee noted the online application should ensure ease of application for former student-athletes seeking to utilize available resources to complete their undergraduate degree. Lastly, the committee received an update on the educational and communication strategy designed to ensure former men's and women's basketball student-athletes are aware of the new degree completion assistance.

- 3. Academic integrity.** The committee finalized the academic integrity concepts forwarded for feedback by the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum. The committee supports the Presidential Forum's goal of fortifying the division's approach to academic integrity issues that undermine the overall integrity of intercollegiate athletics.

The committee remained largely supportive of a legislative concept that would ensure the NCAA had the legislative tools to address systemic, egregious instances of academic

malfeasance. The committee noted the presidential “guardrail” concept would likely confine the use of such authority to the proper set of circumstances. The committee noted any nomenclature adjustment should not undermine how existing academic integrity violations are treated.

The committee continued to support the clarifying legislative revisions devised to ensure the current legislative framework is applied consistent with its original intent. The committee noted the recommended clarifications preserve the 2016 legislation’s intent to incentivize institutions to operate in good faith when academic integrity issues arise involving student-athletes.

The committee similarly supported the recommendation to equip institutions with the tools to devise an institutional approach to adequately minimize the risk of academic misconduct impacting their student-athletes.

4. NCAA Division I APP data submission policy and sports sponsorship. The committee approved the following policy change effective with the submission of data fall 2019:

- a. Any NCAA member institution that sponsors a Division I sport must report APP data for that team(s) (i.e., team(s) identified by the institution in its sport sponsorship and demographic form). This includes teams that do not meet the minimum contests and participation requirements for sports sponsorship per NCAA Division I Bylaw 20.9.6.3.
- b. The data submitted for a team(s) that does not meet the sport sponsorship minimums will not be included in the multiyear APR used for public recognition and penalties or included in the single-year data used to determine NCAA Division I Academic Unit eligibility.

Current committee policy states that APP data is not required to be submitted if a team(s) does not meet minimum sport sponsorship per Bylaw 20.9.6.3. However, such a policy has resulted in the unintended loss of APR and GSR data for active teams competing throughout the academic year. This policy change to require institutions to submit data for all active teams listed on the institution’s sport sponsorship form will capture accurate and complete APR and GSR data. [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 8-c.]

5. Review of APR adjustment directive. The committee reviewed and approved the APR adjustment directive, with the suggested organizational changes to assist the membership in its understanding of the directive. No substantive changes were made to the directive. [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 8-b.]

6. Review of APP access to postseason and penalty waiver directive. The committee reviewed and approved the APP access to postseason and penalty waiver directive. As a part of this review, the committee reviewed the factors considered and relief threshold associated with the first occasion loss of access to postseason waiver requests. The

committee affirmed its support for the high threshold for relief as it applies to first occasion loss of access to postseason waiver requests. [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 10-a.]

7. **Committee on Academics Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the summary of annual updates to the committee's operating manual for the 2019-20 academic year, as a part of the committee's annual review of its policies and procedures.
8. **Report from the Subcommittee on Data.** The committee reviewed the reports of the June 3 and June 17 teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Data.
 - a. APP Data Review. On its June 3 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed two data reviews.
 - b. Review of APR adjustment directive. On its June 3 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed and approved the APR adjustment directive. The changes were organizational in nature in order to assist the membership in its understanding of the directive.
 - c. APP data submission policy, sports sponsorship and Academic Unit. On its June 17 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed the current data submission requirements and recommended a policy change in instances when a team does not meet sports sponsorship. In addition, the subcommittee confirmed that a teams(s) that does not meet sport sponsorship minimums (Bylaw 20.9.6.3) will not be included in the Academic Unit calculation.
9. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** The committee reviewed the reports of the May 22 and June 19 teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.
 - a. NCAA International Student Records Committee update. On its May 22 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed the April 2019 International Student Records Committee meeting report and reviewed and approved the committee's policies and procedures.
 - b. NCAA High School Review Committee update. On its May 22 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed the 2019 High School Review Committee meeting reports and reviewed and approved the committee's policies and procedures.
 - c. NCAA Student Records Review Committee update. On its May 22 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed the April 2019 Student Records Review Committee meeting report and prospective student-athlete review statistics for the 2018-19

academic year. Additionally, the subcommittee reviewed and approved the Student Records Review Committee's policies and procedures.

- d. NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee update. On its May 22 teleconference, the subcommittee received a report on the initial-eligibility waivers processed in 2018-19. Staff reviewed 208 Division I initial-eligibility waivers from July 1, 2018, to April 30, 2019. The subcommittee also received a report on the cases reviewed under the NCAA Division I Council-approved review process. Additionally, the subcommittee reviewed and approved the initial-eligibility waiver directive and the Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee's policies and procedures. No substantive changes were made to the policies and procedures or the directive.
- e. NCAA Division I Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee update. On its May 22 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed and approved the progress-toward-degree waiver directive, the two-year college transfer waiver directive and the Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee's policies and procedures.

The subcommittee approved additions to the progress-toward-degree waiver directive that created a stricter review of misadvisement cases where student-athletes are not enrolled in enough hours to meet the next percent-of-degree or six-hour requirements. This was added due to the new flexibility provided with the adoption of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2018-68. The subcommittee also created a directive that relates to transfer student-athletes with minimal enrollment at the previous institution.

The subcommittee also approved two additions to the two-year college transfer waiver directive. Specifically, the subcommittee added a directive that relates to two-year college transfers who are not meeting the math requirement but have taken a quantitative reasoning course that fulfills a degree requirement and also added additional flexibility to allow the staff to consider limited situations when a student-athlete was misadvised by high school personnel.

- f. Establishment of a "previously approved waivers" list for progress-toward-degree deficiencies. On its June 19 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed and approved a list of previously approved progress-toward-degree waivers that apply to specific scenarios. If the criteria are met, the institution may self-apply the waiver for the student-athlete on campus without filing a waiver with the NCAA national office staff. The establishment of this list will reduce bureaucracy in circumstances where waiver relief is traditionally provided if the student-athlete was otherwise on pace to meet academic eligibility requirements when the unforeseen mitigation occurred. The subcommittee reviewed the proposed list of circumstances and criteria and approved the concept for use in forthcoming academic certifications for the 2019-20 academic year. The subcommittee will

review this list on a regular basis to ensure the correct types of cases are included on this list and available to the Division I membership.

10. **Report from the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.** The committee reviewed the report of the June 4 teleconference of the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.
 - a. Review of the APP access to postseason and penalty waiver directive. The subcommittee reviewed and approved the directive used to consider APP waiver requests for loss of access to postseason and penalties. As part of this review, the subcommittee affirmed its support for the existing high threshold for relief with the first occasion loss of access to postseason waiver requests.
 - b. Review of the 2018-19 APP access to postseason and penalty waivers. The subcommittee reviewed the four waivers submitted to staff during the 2018-19 academic year. No waivers were appealed to the subcommittee.
11. **Review of Elite 90 awards for 2018-19.** The committee reviewed the Elite 90 award recipients for the 2018-19 academic year. This award is given to the participant at each NCAA championship with the highest GPA.
12. **Board of Directors and Presidential Forum reports.** The committee received a report from the Board of Directors' May meeting and Presidential Forum's April meeting and noted current and future agenda relevant to the committee's work.
13. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received a report from the Council's April 17-19 meeting and a preview of the Council's summer meeting. At the Council's June meeting, the committee anticipates the Council's consideration of two committee-recommended legislative concepts. One legislative request expands flexibility to two-year college transfers who are nonqualifiers or academic redshirts and is specific to the transferable math core-course requirement. The second is a request for noncontroversial legislation to align the condition affecting transfer status based on full-time enrollment with the five-year rule.
14. **Reports of the Committee on Academics' May meeting.** The committee reviewed the reports from its May 13-14 meeting.
15. **Future meeting dates.**
 - a. October 8-9 – Indianapolis;
 - b. February 11-12, 2020 – Indianapolis; and

c. May 11-12 – Indianapolis.

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 June 20, 2019, Teleconference	
Attendees:	
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College.	
Jerry Bovee, Utah State University.	
Greg Burke, Northwestern State University.	
Manoj Chopra, University of Central Florida.	
John DeGioia, Georgetown University.	
K. Renia Edwards, Mississippi Valley State University.	
Ursula Gurney, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Eric Hall, Elon University.	
Rhonda Hatcher, Texas Christian University.	
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.	
Karen Paisley, University of Utah.	
Joe Scogin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Kurt Zorn, Indiana University, Bloomington.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
Absentees:	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
Beth DeBauche, Ohio Valley Conference.	
Dianne Harrison, California State University, Northridge.	
Lynn W. Thompson, Bethune-Cookman University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Shauna Cobb, Jennifer Henderson and Binh Nguyen.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lydia Bell, Marcus Brown, Emily Capehart, Andy Cardamone, Greg Dana, Carrie Leger White, Andy Louthain, Tom Paskus, Todd Petr, Danielle Ghiloni Walter and Katy Yurk.	