



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
MAY 11, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Holistic review of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics concluded its holistic review of the Academic Performance Program structure and made two policy enhancements. [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 transfer models related to the referral from the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. The committee discussed two potential options and will further examine two models 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 program for former basketball scholarship student-athletes who left their Division I institutions having completed at least two years of enrollment. [Informational Item No. 3]
4. **Update on COVID-19 pandemic-related issues.** The committee received an update on actions that have been taken to address academic issues that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Information Item No. 4]

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Holistic review of the APP.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Organizational] The committee concluded its holistic review of the APP. 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 maintained the current application in the following areas:

- a. APR and Graduation Success Rate cohort composition.
- b. APP public recognition.
- c. Head coaches’ APR.
- d. Components and calculation of the APR.

- e. Delayed graduation points.
- f. APR and GSR cohort composition.
- g. Adjustment for APR retention points lost to professional sports departures.
- h. Accounting for transfers (and the 2.600 adjustment).

The committee agreed to extend the APP filters for limited-resourced institutions. Limited-resourced teams have been able to avoid penalties and/or loss of access to postseason by meeting a standard that shows academic improvement of teams at the school. Teams will now be able to use those filters twice in a rolling, five-year period. The committee decided to limit the use of the filters in this way to better ensure teams are working toward increased academic achievement. The committee will continue to require an enhanced APR improvement plan for any team taking advantage of the filter.

The committee also amended the calculation of the APR for postbaccalaureate student-athletes. The committee determined these student-athletes will continue to be included in the APR cohort, however, the retention point will be removed as an element of the APR calculation for these student-athletes.

Both policy changes are effective with the 2020-21 APR data submitted fall 2021.

2. **Academic-based models for four-year college transfer student-athletes.** [Academics] [Fairness] During its April meeting, the Board of Directors removed the legislative moratorium on transfer legislation and reaffirmed its charge to the committee regarding the development of recommendations for academic criteria associated with a four-year college transfer exception.

The committee continued to discuss 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 use a transfer exception, regardless of sport, but also agreed it is important to mitigate any academic risk factors to graduation through an academic-based component. 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 also recognized the impact such models could have on certain sports or groups of student-athletes. 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 expressed its willingness to collaborate with other governance groups to develop the appropriate academic-based and non-academic-based requirements to include in a transfer exception proposal.

3. **College Basketball Reform – implementation of the Division I men’s and women’s basketball student-athlete degree completion program.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Well-Being] The staff updated the committee on the implementation of the men’s and women’s basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance legislation. Ninety percent of the current recipients have either graduated or will graduate by the end of this summer. 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-resourced institutions. The committee also received further updates on the outreach efforts over the course of this past year. Finally, the committee previewed the changes to the NCAA Academic Portal to allow for the collection of data to determine how many former basketball student-athletes are positively affected by this membership requirement for all of Division I.

4. **Update on COVID-19-related issues impacting academics.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Well-Being] The committee received an update on the waiver request from the commissioners of the Nonautonomy Football Bowl Subdivision Conferences and the CCA22. The committee also reviewed the Q&A document published to help the membership navigate academic issues and other areas impacted by COVID-19. Finally, the committee received a report on the flexibility that has been provided with regard to initial-eligibility standards for prospects enrolling at member institutions fall 2020.
5. **Update on the NCAA Division I Academic Unit (academic-based revenue distribution).** [Academics] [Fairness] The committee received an update on the status of the Academic Unit and the ongoing educational and outreach efforts surrounding the distribution. The first distribution will be allocated in early June. Approximately 85 percent of Division I institutions will meet at least one of the three criteria to qualify for the distribution.

The committee noted that educational and outreach efforts continue to ensure institutions are aware of the requirements and staff continues to assist those institutions that are not currently meeting any of the three criteria.

6. **Update on the NCAA Division I Wrestling Academic Enhancement Working Group.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Well-Being] 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 met in person on February 25-26 and used that meeting to review academic extensive data on wrestling. The working group formed eligibility and retention subcommittees and will spend the next several months reviewing additional data and developing recommendations to positively impact the academic performance of wrestling student-athletes. The working group plans to provide recommendations to the Committee on Academics at its October meeting.
7. **Year-end review of APR.** [Academics] [Fairness] [Organizational] The committee reviewed the most recent public releases on institutional APRs, teams that received public recognition for the 2019-20 academic year and teams that were penalized and/or lost access to postseason competition for the 2020-21 academic year. The committee also reviewed national and sport-group APR averages and trends through 2018-19 APR data.
8. **Research update.** [Academics] [Organizational] The committee received an update from the NCAA research staff on a COVID-19 survey sent to all NCAA student-athletes. The survey covered a number of issues related to student-athletes' experiences dealing with this pandemic.

9. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.** The committee reviewed the reports of the Subcommittee on Data teleconferences that occurred between March 16 and May 6. The subcommittee continued to work on recommendations concerning the holistic review of the APP. The subcommittee also continued its work in the area of APP data reviews.

10. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** The committee reviewed the reports of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics teleconference that occurred between March 4 and May 6.
 - a. Bylaw 14 Modernization. [Academics] [Organizational] On its May 6 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed a draft of potential changes to Bylaw 14 of the NCAA Division I Operating Manual. Specifically, the subcommittee reviewed changes intended to make the manual clearer and more concise for institutional staff members with responsibility for the academic certification of student-athletes. The subcommittee was generally supportive of the concepts within the draft and encouraged staff to continue its work in this area.

 - b. Less-Than-Full-Time Blanket Waiver Request. [Academics] [Organizational] [Well-Being] On its May 6 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed a blanket waiver request from a conference office to allow all spring sport student-athletes who graduated prior the start of the 2020-21 academic year and decided to return to use their final season of competition during the 2021 spring term to practice and compete while enrolled in only three credits. The committee reviewed this request and denied the request for a blanket waiver. The committee noted a mechanism is already in place to provide relief of the full-time enrollment legislation through individual waivers and believes this is the best approach in this circumstance.

11. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.** The committee reviewed a report from the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals. The committee also reviewed the following waiver requests.
 - a. Delay of APR penalty - loss of access to postseason competition. The subcommittee received a request from an institution to delay the application of the loss of access to postseason competition during the 2020-21 academic year because of the absence of postseason opportunity in 2019-20 due to COVID-19. The subcommittee recommended an approval of the request and the committee agreed to delay the application of the loss of access to postseason competition for all spring sports that lost postseason access in 2020-21. Those teams may choose to delay the loss of postseason competition until the 2021-22 season. If a team that delays the application until the 2021-22 season faces another loss of access to postseason in 2021-22 due to an APR below the benchmark, the team will be required to take that loss in 2022-23. It should be noted that the teams will still be expected to serve any applicable APP penalties (e.g., practice time restrictions) in 2020-21.

- b. Delay of the use of the APR penalty filter. The subcommittee reviewed a request from an institution to permit it to use a penalty filter to avoid APR penalties next year instead of this year due to the cancellation of the 2020 spring championships. The subcommittee recommended this request be denied because the institution's team had already taken advantage of the filter in the area of playing and practice season restrictions. The committee agreed with the subcommittee's decision.
- 12. Board of Directors report.** The committee received a report from the Board of Directors' April meeting.
- 13. NCAA Division I Presidential Forum report.** The committee received a report from the Presidential Forum's April meeting.
- 14. NCAA Division I Council reports.** The committee received a report from the Council's April meetings. Specifically, the committee reviewed the legislation approved at the April Council meeting.
- 15. NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee reports.** The committee received a report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's March and April meetings.
- 16. Review of the Committee on Academics' February meeting and March teleconference reports.** The committee reviewed the reports from its February 11 meeting and March 6 teleconference.
- 17. Update from the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A).** The committee received an update from the president and first vice-president of N4A on current initiatives and priorities. The N4A expressed support for continued engagement with the committee on initiatives and issues that impact its members, including student-athlete academic support, advising and development.

Additionally, the N4A provided feedback on the holistic review of the APP and the academic-based models for a uniform one-time transfer exception. The N4A also made a formal request to add an ex-officio non-voting position to the committee to be filled by a member of the N4A organization.

- 18. Future meeting dates.**
- a. June 11, 2020 – videoconference; 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 May 11, 2020, Videoconference
Attendees:
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College.
Jerry Bovee, Utah State University.
Hannah Buck, Santa Clara University.
Manoj Chopra, University of Central Florida.
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University.
Beth DeBauche, Ohio Valley Conference.
John DeGioia, Georgetown University.
K. Renia Edwards, Mississippi Valley State University.
Ursula Gurney, University of Missouri-Kansas City.
Eric Hall, Elon University.
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:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
Brynn Carlson, Kansas State University.
Denise Poole, Pennsylvania State University, National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals.
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, Michelle Hosick, Leilani Hubbard, Charnele Kemper, Jessica Kerr, Andy Louthain, Felicia Martin, Mike Massa, Tom Paskus, Todd Petr, Fran Rodriguez, Dave Schnase, Jennifer Smith, Nick Sproull, Katherine Sulentic, Carrie Leger White, DeAnna Wiley, Quintin Wright and Katy Yurk.