



**STRATEGIC REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
MAY 8, 2023, MEETING
FOR THE NCAA DIVISION I BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Update on the impact of name, image and likeness (NIL) activity on student-athlete academic performance.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics continued its discussion on examining the academic impact of NIL on the academic performance of student-athletes and is supportive of any efforts in this area. Effective July 1, 2021, the NCAA adopted the Interim NIL Policy allowing NCAA student-athletes the opportunity to benefit from their NIL without jeopardizing their NCAA eligibility. The Division I Board of Directors charged the Division I Council with reviewing how name, image and likeness policies have impacted student-athletes, including school choice, transfer opportunities, academics and mental health. The NCAA research staff updated the committee on the barriers of collecting data in this area; however, there are possible options to incorporate NIL-related questions into current NCAA surveys (e.g., GOALS Survey data collection, NCAA social environments survey). Additional possibilities include conducting surveys of athletics administrators, academic advisors or others in an effort to understand the impact, if any. The committee agreed to continue this discussion at a future meeting.

2. **Update on NCAA support for limited-resource institutions and historically black colleges and universities.** The committee received an update on programs and initiatives designed to support limited-resource institutions and historically black colleges and universities.

NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program.

The committee received an update on the activities of the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program (AASP) over the past year. The program provided single-year grants to 13 institutions during the 2022-23 academic year totaling over \$1.1 million. The 2023-24 application period will close May 15. The grant review committee will make decisions on the applications in the coming months and relay decisions to institutions in August. The committee expressed its support for re-establishing the three-year grant option in 2023-24 and moving forward. Additionally, the committee would like to restart an in-person AASP conference or meeting in 2024 or 2025. Finally, if there is an opportunity, the committee supported formally moving the program administration and oversight under the committee itself. The committee believes it can be helpful to assist with the program's goals and to provide campus insights and perspectives that can be useful with student-athlete academic success and ultimate graduation.

NCAA Degree Completion Program for Basketball.

The committee received an update on the continued implementation of the men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance legislation. An advisory group of campus and professional sports administrators was created to help inform future policy decisions and to share best practices related to former student-athlete degree achievement assistance. The advisory group conducted its first meeting in March 2023 and

will continue to meet during the upcoming year. Also, the committee was informed the application for the fall 2023 term is open through June 15 and the spring 2024 enrollment application will be open August 1 through October 15. Finally, the 2021-22 data was shared with the committee. During the 2021-22 academic year, 31 former men's basketball student-athletes enrolled, and 11 former men's basketball student athletes graduated during the academic year in accordance with the legislation.

Academic Educational Outreach Initiatives.

The staff provided an update on the ongoing academic educational outreach to member institutions and conferences, which included presentations at conference meetings, in-person visits to individual institutions, and the launch of Division I University and multiple online resources for institutions.

3. **Update on the Division I Wrestling Academic Enhancement Working Group.** The committee received an update regarding the wrestling academic enhancement package of proposals that was adopted by the Division I membership in June 2022 and effective August 1, 2022. The package of proposals was developed by a working group consisting of members of the wrestling community, administrators at institutions that sponsor wrestling, wrestling coaches and student-athletes, and the leadership of the National Wrestling Coaches Association that had requested the assistance. This past year was the first year of the implementation of the initiatives designed to improve the academic performance of wrestling student-athletes. The committee will receive regular feedback on the implementation of the initiatives and evaluate their effectiveness in the future.
4. **Update from National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A).** The committee received an update from the leadership of N4A regarding some key topics of focus within N4A. These topics included: the recently adopted holistic student-athlete model, APR/Graduate Success Rate, student-athlete development best practices, college basketball summer initiative, NIL, transfers and mental health of student-athletes and coaches. In addition, N4A would like to continue its partnership with the AASP program. N4A plays an integral part in the development of student-athletes both academically and personally and continues to stand ready to assist the NCAA in any way possible.
5. **Update from NCAA President Charlie Baker.** The committee received an update from NCAA President Charlie Baker. President Baker discussed the ongoing NIL concerns across Division I. Additionally, President Baker addressed ongoing concerns regarding transfers and the NCAA Transfer Portal. Finally, President Baker informed the committee of a current business review of NCAA national office operations.

For additional detail, the committee's full report may be accessed on [ncaa.org](https://www.ncaa.org) by clicking [here](#).