



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
MAY 8, 2023, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **Presentations from the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A) and NCAA President Charlie Baker.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics received an update from the leadership of N4A on key topics of focus for that group. The committee also had the opportunity to address President Charlie Baker and to hear about his priorities and strategic areas of focus as he moves into the leadership position of the Association.
2. **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. These efforts include the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program (AASP), NCAA degree completion program for basketball and various academic educational outreach initiatives.

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - a. **Amendments to NCAA Division I Bylaw 14.3.1.3 Core-Curriculum Requirements and Division I Bylaw 14.3.1.3.2 Nontraditional Courses.**
 - (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics recommends the NCAA Division I Council introduce a proposal into the 2023-24 legislative to incorporate the criteria of nontraditional courses into the current definition of a core course for initial-eligibility purposes, as follows:
 - (a) High school meets criteria for validity (e.g., quality control and integrity of information, school policies and operations) as established by the NCAA High School Review Committee;
 - (b) Instructional model meets criteria for review (e.g., instructor interaction, pacing, instructional time, monitoring, feedback, intervention) as outlined by the High School Review Committee;
 - (c) Curriculum meets high school graduation requirements in one or a combination of the following areas: English, mathematics, science, social science, world language, philosophy or nondoctrinal religion (e.g., comparative religion); and
 - (d) Curriculum meets college preparatory criteria for content (e.g., standards, learning objectives, competencies) and rigor of

performance tasks and assessments (e.g., application of skills and concepts, strategic or extended thinking) as outlined by the High School Review Committee.

- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2024; for high school account, program or course reviews that occur on or after August 1, 2024.
- (3) Rationale. There have been significant shifts in secondary education in recent years. When the nontraditional course legislation was adopted in 2010, online learning was not as prevalent and there were fewer standards for developing and implementing such courses. These types of courses have become more mainstream, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many high schools continue to use them. This change will align legislation with this shift while maintaining key elements of current core-course and nontraditional course requirements and ensuring guardrails remain in place for learning environments that are more conducive to academic integrity issues. In addition, the majority of the details and processes for the review of courses will be housed in the policies and procedures of the NCAA High School Review Committee, which will be annually reviewed and approved by the Committee on Academics. In addition, maintaining this information in the HSRC's policies procedures will allow for updates to be made quicker as the landscape evolves in secondary education. These provisions are common and alignment with Division II is necessary in order for these provisions to go into effect, if adopted.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

b. Amendment to NCAA Division I Bylaw 21.10.5.2.1 Composition of the NCAA Division I Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee.

- (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics recommends the NCAA Division I Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to reduce the composition of the Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee from 14 members to nine members.
- (2) Effective date. Immediate; reduction to be achieved through normal attrition.
- (3) Rationale. The NCAA Division I Progress-Toward-Waivers Committee has 14 members and was made up of two subcommittees, dividing the reviews between progress-toward-degree waivers and two-year college transfer waivers. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics recently restructured the Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Committee to eliminate the two separate subcommittees

that report to it. The Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers Subcommittee reviewed appeals for progress-toward-degree waivers and the Two-Year College Transfer Waivers Subcommittee reviewed appeals for two-year college transfer waivers. The volume of two-year college transfer waivers and subsequent appeals has decreased over the last several years, creating a discrepancy between the work of the two subcommittees. The restructured committee will review both progress-toward-degree and two-year college waivers on a weekly basis. This change will provide the opportunity for all to be active members of the new restructured committee. The Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics will continue to review the appellate process to ensure that the most efficient, consistent, and fair process is provided to member institutions. Now that there are no longer two subcommittees, the size of the overall committee can be appropriately reduced while continuing to provide consistency and efficiency for all appeal requests.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

c. Amendment to NCAA Division I Bylaw 21.10.5.1.1 Composition of the NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee.

(1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics recommends the NCAA Division I Council adopt noncontroversial legislation to reduce the composition of the Division I Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee from 20 members to seven members.

(2) Effective date. Immediate; reduction to be achieved through normal attrition.

(3) Rationale. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics recently restructured the Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee to remove the four separate subcommittees that report to it, which focused on specific subtypes of initial-eligibility waivers. These subtypes included core course, grade-point average, international and education-impacting disabilities. The restructured Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee no longer consists of any subcommittees and will, through normal attrition, be reduced to seven members. The restructured Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee will review all appeals of all initial-eligibility waiver subtypes. This change will enhance engagement, efficiency and consistency while maintaining the requisite subject-matter expertise and committee composition. The Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics will continue to review the appellate process to ensure that the most efficient, consistent and fair process is provided to member institutions.

With four separate subcommittees, it was important to have enough committee members to sufficiently staff the subcommittees. Now that there are no longer four subcommittees, the size of the overall Initial-Eligibility Waivers Committee can be appropriately reduced while continuing to provide consistency and efficiency for all appeal requests.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update on the impact of name, image and likeness (NIL) activity on student-athlete academic performance.** The committee 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 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. **Year-end review of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate data from 2021-22 academic year.** The committee received an update on the 2021-22 APR data that was publicly released on May 2 including national and sport group averages and trends. It was noted that extensions of athletics eligibility due to COVID-19 have continued to adversely impact the most recent year's APR data. The committee asked the staff to continue to monitor this issue. Finally, an update on APR adjustments and verifications processed by the staff for the 2021-22 academic year was provided.
4. **Update on the NCAA Division I Academic Unit.** The committee received an update on the Division I Academic Unit. The Academic Unit distribution will be allocated in spring 2023. Approximately 82% of eligible Division I institutions met at least one of the three criteria to qualify for the distribution. This continues to be higher than the original projections made when the distribution was first approved by the Division I Board of Directors and NCAA Board of Governors in 2016.
5. **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.

6. **Update on the college basketball summer initiative for Division I men's and women's basketball.** The committee received an update on the development of the college basketball summer initiative for men's and women's basketball. The proposal, if adopted, would permit up to two contests during the summer as part of a school's declared eight weeks of already permissible summer athletic activities, with the intention of focusing on continued student-athlete development on and off the court. The Division I Women's Basketball Summer Initiative Working Group concepts include 3-on-3 competition, which could assist with growing the presence of women's basketball during the summer, help with skill development and assist with the pipeline to participate in future Olympic competition. The committee was not supportive of the initiative as presented and noted that student-athletes generally have used the summer period to engage in internships and study abroad programs and that a break from competition would be positive for student-athlete well-being and mental health.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **Academic technology update.** The committee received an update on the launch of NCAA Compliance Assistant 2.0. This is the first major update to the software in over 20 years. Updates include an improved user interface and better communication with other NCAA applications. The updated technology has been piloted over the last year by several Division I institutions and all other users will be migrated to the new system over the summer and should be fully operational by August 1.
10. **Educational outreach and initiatives.** The committee received an update regarding recent and on-going educational outreach and initiatives conducted by the staff. The first NCAA Regional Rules Seminar to be conducted in person since 2019 is scheduled for May

16-18, 2023. Over ten sessions related to Division I academics will be offered to attendees, including the opportunity for institutions to schedule appointments with the NCAA staff to review their APR data and to address institution-specific questions.

11. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.** The committee received an update on the restart of APR penalties from the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals. The committee continued to discuss the restart of APR penalties and approved the directive to be used by the staff for penalty waivers submitted by member institutions in fall 2023.
12. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.** The committee reviewed the reports of the Subcommittee on Data videoconferences that occurred March 24 and April 21. The committee approved the APR Adjustment Directive for fall 2023 submissions. The committee also received an update on the progress of this season's NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program Data Reviews. Twenty-three institutions are currently undergoing a data review, and all are expected to be completed by the end of August.
13. **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 videoconferences that occurred between February 2 and April 20.
 - a. Less-than-full-time enrollment waivers. The subcommittee reviewed the guidance that had previously been provided during the COVID-19 pandemic for waiver requests to allow student-athletes to be enrolled less than full time while practicing and competing and agreed that this guidance should continue to be used moving forward. The direction was provided in the following areas:
 - (1) General Guidance. Student-athletes should be enrolled in a full-time program of studies to practice and compete. Relief can be provided if unique, compelling mitigation is presented on behalf of individual student-athletes through the waiver process. It should be noted that a student-athlete returning to use an additional season of competition due to a waiver or extension will not be considered unique, compelling mitigation. A student-athlete should not be provided a waiver to be enrolled less than full time for multiple terms. Also, a student-athlete should be enrolled in at least enough credits to meet applicable progress-toward-degree requirements for the following term unless significant mitigation is presented.
 - (2) Postbaccalaureate Student-Athletes. Generally, a student-athlete who has completed their baccalaureate degree and is returning to participate in the additional season of competition must present mitigation per the current directive (e.g., education impacting disability, personal hardship, financial hardship caused by a specific event like a loss of job) to receive a waiver of the full-time enrollment legislation. However, relief may be provided to

student-athletes who have completed their degree and returned to use an additional season even though there was no specific mitigation under the following criteria:

- (a) The student-athlete was enrolled in at least six credits; and
 - (b) The student-athlete/institution could show how being enrolled less than full time will provide opportunities for meaningful academic or career development pursuits during that term.
- (3) Student-Athletes Completing their Last Year of Enrollment. Generally, these student-athletes should be enrolled full time unless they are meeting a currently legislated exception (e.g., final term exception). However, a waiver could be approved if the following criteria are met:
- (a) The student-athlete was enrolled in all courses available during that penultimate term;
 - (b) The student-athlete was enrolled in at least six credits;
 - (c) The student-athlete was able to graduate after the final term; and
 - (d) The student-athlete/institution could show how being enrolled less than full time will provide opportunities for meaningful academic or career development pursuits during that term.
- b. Review of standardized test scores in the initial-eligibility waiver process. The subcommittee discussed the adoption of NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2022-34, which removed standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements (effective August 1, 2023) and determined that standardized test scores should not be considered in the initial-eligibility waiver process in 2023-24 and beyond. The subcommittee noted this approach aligns with the intent of removing standardized test scores from initial-eligibility requirements and will be reflected in the 2023-24 initial-eligibility waiver directive.
- c. Restrictive transfer progress-toward-degree waiver directive. The subcommittee completed its review of the restrictive transfer section within the Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Directive and decided to amend the directive to provide more clarity. Specifically, subcommittee agreed to include language that directs the staff to approve waivers when an incoming transfer student-athlete is not eligible in the desired degree but would be eligible in a different degree at the certifying institution. The subcommittee also determined that to meet the criteria of being able to rectify the deficiency in a timely manner a student-athlete must have a reasonable recovery plan that shows the student-athlete is able to rectify any deficiency within one academic year or by the next percentage-of-degree

benchmark, whichever, comes first. These changes to the directive will take effect starting with waivers submitted for the 2023-24 academic year.

- d. Initial-eligibility matriculation letter. The subcommittee reviewed the matriculation letter, which identifies a prospective student-athlete's initial date of full-time enrollment for initial-eligibility certifications. The subcommittee supported using a web-based form that may be submitted by any institutional staff member (e.g., compliance, registrar, admissions) who has been designated as an NCAA Eligibility Center contact and noted this operational adjustment provides greater efficiency and flexibility on campus.
 - e. Suspension/dismissal progress-toward-degree waiver directive. The subcommittee agreed to add a directive providing guidance on processing waivers that assert a suspension or dismissal effecting a student-athlete's eligibility upon return to the institution. The subcommittee agreed the directive should include the importance of the student-athlete's overall academic record and likelihood of graduating on time. It should also include the student-athlete's proximity to graduation. Mitigation should be presented that explains the underlying cause of the suspension and how the suspension impacted the student-athlete's eligibility, especially in cases where the academic performance of the student-athlete was one of the causes of the suspension.
14. **Update from the NCAA Two-Year College Relations Panel.** The committee received an update on the ongoing work of the Two-Year College Relations Panel.
 15. **NCAA Division I Board of Directors report.** The committee received a report from the Board of Directors' April 26 meeting.
 16. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received an update on legislative items of interest from the Council's meetings that occurred between February 15 and May 5.
 17. **NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee report.** The committee received an update from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee reiterated its support for mental health assistance and resources and the holistic model of benefits for student-athletes that was recently adopted by the Division I membership.
 18. **Report of the Committee on Academics February 6-7 meeting.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its February 6-7 meeting.
 19. **Future meeting dates.**
 - 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 25; videoconference.
 - October 17-18, Indianapolis.

Acting Committee Chair: Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University
Staff Liaisons: Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Quintin Wright, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Committee on Academics May 8, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University.	
David Benedict, University of Connecticut.	
Jill Bodensteiner, Saint Joseph’s University.	
Lissa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. (via videoconference)	
Rob Carson, Furman University.	
Robert Davies, Central Michigan University. (via videoconference)	
Magdi El Shahawy, University of Georgia.	
Jessica Goerke, University of California, Santa Barbara.	
Jaime Gordon, Morehead State University.	
Eric Hall, Elon University. (via videoconference)	
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.	
Joseph Jupille, University of Colorado, Boulder.	
Jessica Kumke, Horizon League.	
Genese Lavalais, Alabama State University.	
Marion McClary, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
Timothy Snyder, Loyola Marymount University. (via videoconference)	
Lance Tatum, Troy University.	
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.	
Absentees:	
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University.	
Madison Hommey, Longwood University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
President Charlie Baker, National Collegiate Athletics Association. (via videoconference)	
Aldrich Elvambuena, American University. (via videoconference)	
Ursula Gurney, National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals.	
Jackie Nicholson, National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jennifer Henderson, Binh Nguyen and Quintin Wright.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Olivia Beach, Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Amanda Conklin, Greg Dana, Judy Delp, Katie Ethridge, Michele Forte-Osborne, Doug Healey, Leilani Hubbard, Charnele Kemper, Andy Louthain, Tom Paskus, Dave Schnase, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Sulentic, DeAnna Wiley and Katy Yurk.	