



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
OCTOBER 17-18, 2023, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Update on the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program.** The committee received an overview of the AASP program and an update on recent activities. Established in 2012, the AASP assists Division I schools as they work to meet the NCAA's academic eligibility standards. Over \$1 million in AASP grants are awarded annually to colleges and universities with limited resources to support the academic success of student-athletes and to increase graduation rates. This past fall, 11 Division I schools were awarded grants for the 2023-24 academic year, totaling almost \$1.1 million with an average grant amount of \$99,361. The committee expressed its support for re-establishing the three-year grant option and 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.
2. **Update on transfer activity in Division I.** The committee received an update on the four-year college undergraduate transfer rates based on data from the NCAA Transfer Portal and waiver requests received to date. An overview of the waiver directive was provided with in-depth discussion on exigent circumstances and student-athlete mental health issues. The committee will continue to receive regular updates on four-year college transfer trends and waiver requests for the year in residence for four-year college transfer student-athletes, for the committee was charged with monitoring this activity and the academic impact.
3. **Update on the degree completion program for men's and women's basketball.** The committee received an update on the men's and women's basketball student-athlete degree completion assistance legislation. Currently, there are three men's basketball student-athletes receiving continued funding and two applicants have requested funding for spring 2024 for the first time. A rolling application period has been implemented to accommodate admissions deadlines across semester and quarter schools and provides increased flexibility related to the timing of when the former student-athlete decides to return to school to resume their studies. Lastly, an overview was provided on how degree completion assistance will be implemented when it expands to all sports beginning August 1, 2024, as part of the student-athlete holistic model.
4. **Update on the NCAA Division I Academic Unit.** The committee received a preliminary update on the Division I Academic Unit. The next distribution will be allocated in spring 2024 after all institutions have completed the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate data collection process. The first distribution occurred in spring 2020. Last year, over 80% of eligible Division I institutions met at least one of the three criteria to qualify for the distribution. A similar percentage of schools are expected to qualify for the distribution next spring. The number of schools qualifying continues to be higher than the original projections made when

the distribution was first approved by the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and NCAA Board of Governors in 2016. The committee will receive an additional update at its spring meeting.

5. **Educational outreach and initiatives.** The committee received an update regarding recent and ongoing educational outreach and initiatives conducted by the staff. Over ten in-person presentations were provided at conference and institutional meetings. Six sessions related to Division I academics were offered to attendees at this summer's NCAA Regional Rules Seminar, including the opportunity for institutions to schedule appointments with the NCAA staff to review their APR data and to address institution-specific questions. It was also shared that Division I academics will be included as a module in Division I University, which is an online coaches' education resource. For the 2023-24 academic year, it is expected that another Division I academics module will be included in Division I University and planning is underway for a half-day session at the Regional Rules Seminar dedicated to entry-level academic professionals on campus.
6. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.** The committee received in-depth training on penalty waivers and appeals. Specifically, the training focused on the waiver directive and instances when relief was provided or not provided in past data collection cycles. Waivers are expected to be submitted by teams facing loss of access to postseason competition and/or NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program penalties in late November or early December.
7. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.** At its October 17 in-person meeting, the subcommittee engaged in continuing education on the APP and adjustment appeals. Several topics were identified for future discussion, including clarifying language in the adjustment directive; reviewing the standards for an eligibility point adjustment when a progress-toward-degree waiver was not possible; and reviewing documentation standards for medical mitigation. The subcommittee also received an update on the roll-out of NCAA Compliance Assistant 2.0 and plans to integrate the Academic Portal in the future.
8. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** At its October 17 meeting, the subcommittee discussed a scenario where a Division I institution has made the decision to divide into two separate institutions and potential academic eligibility implications for their student-athletes. The subcommittee will request more information to determine the appropriate course of action (e.g., waivers) to address academic eligibility issues that may arise during the transition. The subcommittee also engaged in continuing education on NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 Academic Eligibility, postgraduate student-athlete participation and an overview of the NCAA Eligibility Center functions.
9. **Faculty Athletics Representative Association update.** The committee received an update on key highlights from FARA. It was noted that eight DI FARs currently serve as members of FARA's core leadership group. The association is in the process of finalizing a resolution to support maintaining the status of student-athletes as opposed to employees. The FARA annual convention will take place November 16-18, 2023, in Indianapolis and will focus on student-athlete mental health, sports wagering and life after sport. Finally, a session will be held at the 2024 NCAA Convention that will educate on the roles and responsibilities for the FAR.

10. **Sports wagering update.** The committee received an overview of sports wagering activity in college athletics and efforts by the national office staff to monitor this activity. An educational module was recently released to the membership to assist with spreading awareness and resources. The committee expressed its interest in staying up to date on developments in this area, especially as it relates to the impact on student-athlete academic performance.
11. **NCAA research update.** The committee received an update from the research staff on current projects and membership surveys of interest to the committee. The committee also received an early preview of the graduation rates data from the 2016-17 cohort. The public release of the data is expected to occur in early December.
12. **Academic technology update.** The committee received an update on the staggered launch of NCAA Compliance Assistant 2.0. This is the first major update to the software in over 20 years. The updated technology has been piloted over the last year by several Division I institutions to address issues with the program before a full launch. The academic module, which includes the APR and Graduate Success Rate data collection is expected to launch in spring 2025.
13. **NCAA Division I Board of Directors report.** The committee received a report from the Board of Directors and a preview of its upcoming meeting.
14. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received an update from the Council's most recent meeting.
15. **NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee report.** The committee received an update from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and highlights from its most recent meeting.
16. **Report of the Committee on Academics September 14 videoconference meeting.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its September 14 meeting.
17. **Committee strategic priorities.** The committee reviewed and provided updates to its strategic priorities. This listing will be reviewed at each meeting. [Attachment]
18. **Other business.** The committee reviewed and provided feedback on a blanket waiver request from four autonomy conferences to allow a return travel day to be used as a student-athlete's day off.
19. **Future meeting dates.**
 - a. Videoconference: 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time, Thursday, February 1, 2024.
 - b. In-person meeting: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time, Tuesday, May 7; 8 a.m. to noon ET, Wednesday, May 8; Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Robert Davies, Central Michigan 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 October 17-18, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University. (via videoconference)	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University. (via videoconference)	
David Benedict, University of Connecticut.	
Kevin Bostian, Northwestern State University.	
Lissa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Rob Carson, Furman University.	
Robert Davies, Central Michigan University.	
Aldrich Elvambuena, American University. (via videoconference)	
Jon Fagg, University of Texas at Arlington.	
Scott Fuess, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.	
Jessica Goerke, University of California, Santa Barbara.	
Colleen Heimstead, North Dakota State University.	
Joseph Jupille, University of Colorado, Boulder. (via videoconference)	
Jessica Kumke, Horizon League.	
Genese Lavalais, Alabama State University.	
Marion McClary, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Metropolitan Campus.	
John Volin, University of Maine.	
Susan Williams, University of Kansas. (via videoconference)	
Absentees:	
Jill Bodensteiner, Saint Joseph's University.	
Timothy Snyder, Loyola Marymount University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jennifer Henderson, Binh Nguyen and Quintin Wright.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Drew Aldridge, Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Amanda Conklin, Judy Delp, Katie Ethridge, Michele Forte-Osborne, Jenn Fraser, Doug Healey, Saquandra Heath, Mark Hicks, Leilani Hubbard, Chris Johnson, Charnele Kemper, Felicia Martin, Tom Paskus, Dave Schnase, Kathy Sulentic and Katy Yurk.	



NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Strategic Priorities

This list of strategic priorities of the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics is not exhaustive of committee priorities and responsibilities but rather provides a brief overview of the items the committee is focused on.

Strategic Priority	Overview Key Points
Impact of transfer activity on academic rates (e.g., NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate, Graduate Success Rate).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor trends and movement in APRs and GSRs based on transfer activity. • Explore ways this information may be used to inform academic legislation and policy.
Impact of name, image and likeness (NIL) activity on the academic performance of student-athletes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine methodologies that will allow for permissible data collection from member institutions. • Explore ways the proposed data collection may be used to inform academic legislation and policy.
Postgraduate student-athletes within the Division I legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Division I legislation and any related policies and determine how postgraduate student-athletes should be regulated within the context of Division I legislation.
Evaluation of the academic-based revenue distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an evaluation of the eligibility criteria to be conducted after five years of revenue distribution. • Consider revenue eligibility concept submitted by the Knight Commission, which requires institutions to first demonstrate that the gap between black and white student-athlete GSRs is not more than 25 percentage points. • The NCAA Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee has the authority to modify the revenue distribution policy.

NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct the annual assessment of academic outcomes of institutions awarded grant dollars from the AASP. • Develop and present a formal recommendation that the committee would assume formal oversight over the program.
Minimum APR for teams at reclassifying institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee. • Present a recommendation to the NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee on the minimum APR teams at reclassifying must achieve during the Division I membership process.
Modernization of academic legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh language and modify academic legislation to better reflect modern needs and realities of current student-athletes, administrators and higher education generally.
Migration of the NCAA Division I Academic Portal to Compliance Assistant 2.0.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure successful transfer of data and information from the Academic Portal to CA 2.0. • Scheduled for spring 2024.
Study the impact of conference alignment on student-athlete academic success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine methodologies that will allow for data collection. • Explore ways the proposed data collection may be used to inform academic legislation and policy, if any.