



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
OCTOBER 9-10, 2018, MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

1. **College basketball reform -- Student-Athlete Support and Degree Completion Topical Working Group.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics continued its work on the recommendation from the Commission on College Basketball to establish a degree completion fund for former basketball scholarship student-athletes who left their Division I institution having completed at least two years towards their baccalaureate degree. The committee began to develop best practices and identified additional educational opportunities for the membership. [Informational Item No. 1]
2. **Academic integrity.** The committee received an update on the concepts under development by the NCAA Division I Academic Misconduct Working Group. The working group is represented by two members of the Committee on Academics, in addition to representatives from the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions and the NCAA Division I Infractions Appeals Committee. The committee discussed and provided feedback on the working group's initial report on the division's approach to academic-integrity issues, prepared for the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum in advance of its October meeting. [Informational Item No. 2]
3. **Postgraduate academic enrollment requirements.** The committee continued its review of the academic enrollment requirements for postgraduate student-athletes. The committee noted the approach should be rooted in the academic best interest of student-athletes who are nearing the conclusion of their athletics eligibility. The committee discussed guiding principles and identified data needs that would help inform further review of the existing requirements. [Information Item No. 3]
4. **Comprehensive review of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate.** The committee began to develop its approach to a comprehensive review of the APR. The committee received a historical overview of the policies that inform the existing APR calculation and reviewed potential areas of focus. The committee will conduct its review with the goal to propose policy changes, if warranted, by May 2019. [Information Item No. 4]
5. **Academic summit.** The committee received an update on planning efforts for an academic summit focused on current and future issues facing higher education. The committee discussed its target date and audience for such an event. [Information Item No. 5]

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - None.
2. **Nonlegislative items.**

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Commission on College Basketball -- Student-Athlete Support and Degree Completion Topical Working Group.** The committee began to develop the recommendation from the Commission on College Basketball to establish a degree completion fund for former basketball scholarship student-athletes who left their Division I institution having completed at least two years towards their baccalaureate degree. The committee discussed how the program would be funded, minimum requirements for access to funding and how to best mandate degree completion programming across Division I. The staff will provide an initial draft of best practices for the committee to approve prior to membership distribution next spring.
- 2. Academic integrity.** The Committee on Academics received an update and provided feedback on the concepts under development by the Academic Misconduct Working Group. In April, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors included the broader issue of academic integrity as an area of focus within its Strategic Areas of Emphasis for 2018-2023 and assigned oversight to the Presidential Forum. The purpose of the review is to clarify the NCAA's collective role in addressing issues of academic integrity within the context of institutional deference and autonomy over academic matters. Over the summer, the working group began a phased review of the division's recently amended approach to academic-integrity issues.

The working group's Phase One efforts focused on identifying clarifying opportunities to ensure the existing legislation and any associated policies are applied consistent with legislative intent. The working group's broader Phase Two efforts are intended to assess whether the existing legislative framework is well-positioned to deter and address academic misconduct issues that jeopardize the integrity of intercollegiate athletics.

The committee discussed two Phase Two concepts that will be reviewed by the Presidential Forum at its forthcoming October meeting. The committee expressed initial support for the concept of codifying annual oversight and monitoring by an institutional committee with the proper academic authority, noting that many institutions already do, or should, conduct similar processes. The committee noted existing resources that are designed to help institutions establish an approach to areas on campus that might pose a risk of academic misconduct involving student-athletes (i.e., The National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals Academic Integrity Assessment).

The committee also discussed the concept of requiring all institutions to maintain policies and procedures that address a range of academic areas. The concept would further require that in the absence of a general policy that applies to all students in a specified area (e.g., grade changes), an institution would be required to establish a policy that specifically applies to student-athletes. The committee expressed concern with a student-athlete specific approach to core academic areas, noting that when it comes to academic matters, NCAA legislation has historically reinforced that student-athletes should be subject to the same policies and processes as the general student body. The committee noted that creating additional academic policies

and procedures for student-athletes would not only deviate from NCAA core principles, but likely encounter implementation challenges as well.

The committee will continue to support and provide feedback to the working group and the Presidential Forum, as needed, as it continues its refinement of Phase Two concepts designed to fortify the NCAA's approach to academic-integrity issues.

3. **Postgraduate academic enrollment requirements.** The committee continued its review of the postgraduate academic enrollment requirements for student-athletes who progress through their undergraduate degrees with athletics eligibility remaining. Currently, a student-athlete's academic options are dictated by whether they remain at their undergraduate institution or seek to use any remaining athletics eligibility at a new institution. Specifically, student-athletes who enroll at a new institution after completing a baccalaureate degree are required to pursue a graduate or professional degree program (e.g., master's degree, law school, etc.) whereas student-athletes who remain at their undergraduate institution may pursue any postbaccalaureate or graduate enrollment option available to continuing students (e.g., second baccalaureate degree, optional minor, graduate certificate program, etc.). While this academic distinction derives from when postgraduate participation at a new institution was originally established in 1996, the committee noted the legislative application is inconsistent with the postgraduate academic offerings that now exist on many Division I campuses, like graduate certificate programs. As a result, a student-athlete's postgraduate academic pursuit is largely dictated by whether or not the student-athlete earned their baccalaureate degree from the institution, versus what aligns with their academic interests or qualifications.

The committee confirmed that while there should continue to be academic expectations for all postgraduate student-athletes, access to additional educational opportunities should be explored. While certain student-athletes are prepared for and interested in immediately pursuing graduate school, all student-athletes should have access to educational options that best align with their interests, qualifications and future career. The committee discussed how internships and other high-impact experiential opportunities may also better prepare certain student-athletes for transitioning into life after college. The committee noted that further legislative latitude would need to be explored to accommodate access to some types of experiential opportunities that are not built into existing postgraduate curriculums.

The committee reviewed academic data associated with this growing population of Division I student-athletes and confirmed that updated data that reflects the academic trends of this group of students would be informative.

4. **Comprehensive review of the APR.** The committee began its comprehensive review of the APR, informed by the guiding principles of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program. In August, the Board of Directors endorsed the committee's recommendation for a comprehensive review of the APR. Specifically, the board agreed that a comprehensive approach to the multitude of circumstances that inform the APR would best ensure that any recommended modifications maintain the validity of the APR as a predictor of graduation.

The committee received an overview of data and policy that inform the current APR, including: the APR calculation, APR cohort composition, transfer adjustment policy, postgraduate APR policy, professional sports adjustment policy, delayed graduation points, APR penalty structure and filters, public recognition program and head coach APR policy. The committee identified particular areas of focus within the identified areas and will receive a progress report on the review at its February 2019 meeting.

5. **Academic summit.** The committee received an update from the academic summit working group on its progress in planning an academic summit focused on current and future issues facing higher education. An objective of the summit is to establish and foster a collaborative partnership with external organizations dedicated to higher education that may help the Committee on Academics and the NCAA identify and discuss trends and issues in higher education impacting the general student body and student-athletes, which may impact future strategic initiatives for the committee and the Association. The committee noted such programming would be valuable for campus provosts, noting college presidents and chancellors most commonly transition directly from the provost position. The summit is slated to be scheduled in late 2019 or early 2020 in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area.
6. **Summer athletics financial aid eligibility provision for incoming student-athletes.** The committee received an update on its recommendation to explore modifying the existing financial aid provision that prohibits the use of credit hours taken by an incoming student-athlete for certification purposes if the coursework was paid for with athletically related financial aid by the certifying institution. Specifically, the committee noted the financial aid provision should not inhibit an institution from providing an incoming student-athlete financial aid for continuing eligibility purposes (i.e., percentage-of-degree requirements) if it is in the academic best interest of the student-athlete and institution. The committee noted its continued support for the application of the provision in the initial-eligibility and two-year college transfer contexts.

Following the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee's initial discussion of the committee's concept, the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee reviewed the concept at its September meeting. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee supported the committee's concept and noted student-athletes should not be prohibited from receiving the athletics aid if the certifying institution is willing to pay for the courses. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee noted that this arrangement would be in the best interest of the student-athlete and would aid the student-athlete in satisfying percentage-of-degree requirements at the institution from which he or she intends to earn a baccalaureate degree. [See subcommittee discussion at Information Item No. 9-d]

7. **Update on initial-eligibility standards.** The committee received an overview of the data associated with academic certifications associated with the initial-eligibility standards that went into effect for the first time on August 1, 2016. Specifically, the committee received an updated and comparative overview of the academic certifications associated with the first two classes of student-athletes certified under the new initial-eligibility standards. The committee will assess the academic impact of the new initial-eligibility standards once the academic data

associated with student-athletes certified under the standards becomes available (e.g., credits earned by academic redshirts during academic year in residence).

8. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Data.** The committee reviewed the reports of the July 25, August 15, September 10 and September 24 teleconferences of the Subcommittee on Data.

- Review of APP data review policy. The subcommittee directed the NCAA data review staff to review data based on legislation that was in place at the time of certification rather than based on interpretations or new legislation issued after the certification years.

9. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.** The committee reviewed the report of the September 12 teleconference of the Subcommittee on Student-Athlete Academics.

- a. Review of a 4-2-4 interpretative issue. On its September 12 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed an interpretive issue involving 4-2-4 transfer student-athletes earning associate degrees. The specific scenario relates to a student-athlete who initially attended a two-year college and earned an AA degree, transferred to a four-year institution and then transferred to a second two-year institution. Current interpretive guidance states that a transfer student-athlete in this situation must earn an additional AA degree from the second two-year institution in order to meet 4-2-4 transfer legislation.

The subcommittee recommended the NCAA Division I Interpretations Committee follow the direction of the NCAA staff in overturning the current interpretation and publishing a new interpretation stating that a student-athlete only needs one AA degree to satisfy the graduation requirement in the 4-2-4 legislation, regardless of when the AA degree is received.

- b. Review of nontraditional enrollment interpretive issue. On its September 12 teleconference, the subcommittee reviewed an interpretive issue involving institutions that do not have regular terms of enrollment or defined academic years. Specifically, these institutions have rolling enrollment in courses where students can enroll in a course on any day and then have a designated number of weeks to complete the course. The interpretative issue revolves around whether a student-athlete that enrolls at one of these types of institutions should be considered enrolled in a full-time program of studies during a regular term of an academic year.

The subcommittee determined that there is no legislative basis to determine that a student-athlete enrolled in an institution with a rolling enrollment is enrolled in a full-time term during an academic year. The subcommittee stated that, legislatively, it was not appropriate to say enrollment of this type should begin a student-athlete's five-year clock, trigger transfer status or be used to determine progress-toward-degree requirements. The subcommittee also discussed the possibility of undermining the

delayed enrollment legislation if this type of enrollment was considered full-time enrollment in a regular term during an academic year.

The subcommittee recommended the Interpretations Committee approve the staff determination clarifying that enrollment in this type of institution would not be considered enrollment in a full-time program of studies during a regular term of an academic year.

- c. Review of postgraduate academic enrollment requirements. On its September 12 teleconference, the subcommittee began a preliminary review of the enrollment options of all student-athletes who earn a baccalaureate degree and wish to continue participating in intercollegiate athletics. Over the course of the next year the subcommittee, as well as the Committee on Academics, will continue to review the participation options that student-athletes currently have after completing a degree and will determine if there is a need to revise the legislation to provide more flexibility in the area of post-baccalaureate participation.
 - d. Update on the summer financial aid recommendation. On its September 12 teleconference, the subcommittee received an update on the recommendation it made to the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee regarding the use of credits earned by incoming student-athletes during the summer when the institution provides athletically related financial aid to the incoming student-athletes during that summer term. The Student-Athlete Experience Committee reviewed the recommendation from the subcommittee and determined to not move legislation forward to allow for the use of these credits at this time. The issue will be discussed at an upcoming Student-Athlete Advisory Committee meeting with a report going back to the Student-Athlete Experience Committee.
- 10. **Report from the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.** The committee received a report from the Subcommittee on Penalties and Appeals.
 - 11. **NCAA Division I Bylaw 14 modernization.** The committee received an update on the efforts to modernize Bylaw 14, including efforts to editorially refresh the legislative language for improved clarity and accessibility, in conjunction with the focus on identifying how to substantively modernize the rules to better support the needs and realities of current Division I student-athletes. Future substantive areas of review include but are not limited to: conditions that affect transfer status and application of progress-toward-degree requirements, online coursework and curriculums, adjacent terms impact on full-time enrollment and credit-hour requirements, international competition implications and exchange or temporary student participation.
 - 12. **Update from the NCAA Sports Science Institute.** The committee received an update on the educational programming and resources available to member institutions for student-athletes experiencing mental health issues.

13. **Academic technology update.** The committee received an update on development of the NCAA Academic Portal, which will bring all APP processes under one umbrella and impact all three divisions. The first phase (APP and NCAA Division II Academic Tracking System data collection) was released to the membership in August 2016. The second phase (membership-wide graduation rates data collection) was released to the membership in March 2017. It is anticipated that all functions will be fully programmed by the end of the year.
14. **Update on educational programming and initiatives for member institutions.** The committee received an update on the educational programming and technology designed to assist institutions in academic certification efforts on campus. Specifically, online modules outlining Division I academic-eligibility rules and highlighting best practices for the certification of student-athletes will be made available to the membership in late 2018 and early 2019.
15. **Update on NCAA Division I Committee for Legislative Relief waiver requests.** The committee received an annual update on the number of legislative relief requests to waive the transfer year-in-residence requirement for student-athletes who transferred due to loss of access to postseason competition pursuant to the APP.
16. **Research update.** The committee received a preview from the NCAA research staff of the NCAA Division I Graduation Success Rate data for student-athletes who entered college in 2011. The public release of this data will occur on November 14, 2018.
17. **Update on Council-governance proposals in the 2018-19 legislative cycle.** The committee received an update on conference-sponsored Council-governance proposals in the 2018-19 legislative cycle.
18. **Board of Directors and Presidential Forum report.** The committee received a report from the Board of Directors' August 8 meeting and a preview of strategic agenda items for the Board of Directors and Presidential Forum's October 22-23 meeting.
19. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received a report from the Council's June 11-13 and October 2-3 in-person meeting and August 1 teleconference.
20. **Reports of the Committee on Academics' June 18-19 in-person meeting report and September 18 teleconference report.** The committee reviewed the reports from its June 18-19 meeting and September 18 teleconference.
21. **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee report.** The committee received reports from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's July 13-15 and September 29-30 in-person meetings.
22. **Future Meeting Dates.**
 - a. February 5-6, 2019 – Indianapolis;
 - b. May 13-14 – Indianapolis; and

c. October 8-9 – Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: John DeGioia, Georgetown University

Staff Liaisons: Shauna Cobb, Academic and Membership Affairs

Jennifer Henderson, Academic and Membership Affairs

Charnele Kemper, Academic and Membership Affairs

Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division I Committee on Academics October 9-10, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.	
Jacqueline Blackett, Columbia University – Barnard College.	
Frank Bonner, Gardner-Webb University.	
Jerry Bovee, Weber State University.	
Greg Burke, Northwestern State University.	
Morgan Chall, Cornell University.	
Manoj Chopra, University of Central Florida.	
Beth DeBauche, Ohio Valley Conference.	
John DeGioia, Georgetown University. (via teleconference)	
Ursula Gurney, University of Missouri-Kansas City.	
Eric Hall, Elon University.	
Rhonda Hatcher, Texas Christian University.	
Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.	
Genese Lavalais, Jackson State University.	
Karen Paisley, University of Utah.	
Joe Scogin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.	
Lynn W. Thompson, Bethune-Cookman University.	
Randy Woodson, North Carolina State University.	
Kurt Zorn, Indiana University, Bloomington.	
Absentees:	
Dianne Harrison, California State University, Northridge.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Shauna Cobb, Jennifer Henderson, Charnele Kemper and Binh Nguyen.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Lydia Bell, Kelsey Boyd, Eric Brey, Dawn Buth, Marcus Brown, Emily Capehart, Andy Cardamone (via teleconference), Greg Dana, Judy Delp, Diane Dickman (via teleconference), Doug Healey, Michelle Hosick, Andy Louthain, Felicia Martin, Kathleen McNeely, Karen Metzger, Nick Mutebi, Tom Paskus, Dave Schnase, Naima Stevenson, Kathy Sulentic, Carrie Leger White, Stan Wilcox and Katy Yurk.	