



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS  
OCTOBER 12, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. **Update on the work of the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee.** The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics received an update on the work of the Transformation Committee, including concepts currently being considered. [Informational Item No. 1]
2. **Update on the continued comprehensive review of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program.** The committee continued its in-depth review of the Academic Performance Program in its entirety to determine if the program continues to facilitate academic success and address academic underperformance, given the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics. The subgroup heard feedback from outside groups to provide their insights and perspectives on the APP. [Informational Item No. 2]
3. **Update on the review of the two-year college transfer legislation.** The committee completed its review and evaluation of the current two-year college transfer student-athlete legislation and recommended no changes at this time. [Informational Item No. 3]

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Update on the work of the Transformation Committee.** The Committee on Academics received an update on the current work of the Transformation Committee and the timeline for the completion of its work. Most recently, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors acted on several proposals originating from the Transformation Committee, including the adoption of legislation requiring the guarantee of financial aid at the next school for transfers through graduation and legislation creating notification-of-transfer windows. The committee was informed that the Transformation Committee plans to further evaluate membership standards, with a particular focus on enhancing the student-athlete experience. These standards include potential minimums for financial aid, attendance, and competition schedule. The committee has begun work on the referral from the Board requesting the review of legislation that does not require a transfer student-athlete to be meeting percentage-of-degree at the departing institution and has identified data points to monitor the impact of transferring on student-athlete academics. The committee continued to offer its support and expertise as the Transformation Committee goes about its work.
2. **Continued comprehensive review of the Academic Performance Program.** The committee received an update on the comprehensive review of the APP. At this point, it was noted that six videoconferences have been conducted with the subgroup tasked with this review. The subgroup has reviewed data and heard from important stakeholder groups to help answer the essential question, which is: Is the APP, in its entirety, facilitating

academic success and addressing academic underperformance while considering the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics? Initially, the subgroup has confirmed that the APP, in its entirety, has enhanced the academic success of student-athletes dramatically and has been successful in addressing academic underperformance. On future videoconferences, the subgroup plans to engage in an in-depth review of the penalty structure and filters. The subgroup will present its final recommendations in spring 2023.

- 3. Review of the two-year college transfer legislation.** The committee concluded its review of the current two-year college transfer requirements and did not recommend any changes to the legislation at this time but encouraged continued monitoring and additional evaluation of the requirements in the event that new data or information becomes available. The committee reviewed demographic data provided by the National Junior College Athletic Association, as well as data provided by the NCAA research staff related to first- and second-year academic outcomes for two-year college transfer student-athletes at Division I institutions. The data reflected increasingly positive academic outcomes for the impacted student-athlete (e.g., fewer lost NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate points, shorter time to graduation at the Division I institution). In addition, the committee did not identify any evidence that would indicate the two-year college transfer legislation that was initially adopted in 2012 has unreasonably impacted access for 2-4 transfer student-athletes. Similarly, while recognizing the role of numerous other potential variables on the academic outcomes of student-athletes, the committee concluded that available data indicated that a positive correlation has existed between the two-year college transfer requirements and the academic outcomes of 2-4 transfer students-athletes. The committee will review the legislation in five years and evaluate its effectiveness.
- 4. Update on the NCAA Accelerating Academic Success Program.** The committee received an update on the AASP. Thirteen institutions were awarded single-year grants averaging approximately \$86,743. Over \$1.1 million was awarded to colleges and universities with limited resources to help boost academic programs and initiatives, which tie to graduation and the overall success of its student-athletes. The AASP was established in 2012 by the former NCAA Executive Committee. AASP schools may request up to \$100,000 in single-year grants. Schools are required to match at least 20% of the funds and provide a detailed explanation of how the funds will be used. The grants can be used for progress toward the benchmarks in the Division I Academic Performance Program, which ensures a campus environment that supports education and raises the academic success level for student-athletes. The AASP awarded multiple-year grants in the past but has put that portion of the program on hold until further review. Schools have used the grants in a variety of ways, including the renovation of academic support areas, tutoring, training, technology support, summer school aid, professional development of the academic staff, student-athlete support and life skills development. Schools have also requested funds to aid with student-athlete mental health, which could correlate to their academic success. The NCAA also sponsors an AASP Student-Athlete Career Development Award honoring two student-athletes from AASP schools each year.
- 5. Update on the NCAA degree completion program for basketball.** The committee received an update on the status of applications received for fall 2022 degree completion

funding. Close to \$21,000 was distributed to three former men's basketball student-athletes to complete courses that will move them closer to graduation. Applications for spring 2023 funding closes October 15. The committee also granted the staff flexibility to award any unused funding to former student-athletes from limited-resource institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities who do not meet the funding criteria (e.g., outside of 10-year window, competed in a sport other than basketball). Funding would be prioritized for former men's and women's basketball student-athletes who meet all the funding criteria. The overall goal is to utilize the unused allocated funding to assist former student-athletes with completing their undergraduate degree. A yearly report will be generated for the committee of the flexibility that has been used. In addition, the committee charged the staff with evaluating the current legislation and determining if any changes are warranted in order to allow more former student-athletes to utilize this funding.

6. **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 between July 8 through September 30, 2022.
7. **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 August 4 through October 6, 2022.
  - a. COVID-19 Diagnosis as Mitigation in Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers. On its August 4 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed the temporary relief being provided for student-athletes who produced a positive COVID-19 test as part of the progress-toward-degree waiver mitigation. The subcommittee decided that this temporary analysis should end, effective immediately. The subcommittee directed the staff to analyze COVID-19 mitigation in the same way as any other medical issue or personal hardship. The institution must be able to show how having COVID-19 impacted the academic performance of the student-athlete during the term(s) where the deficiency was created.
  - b. Temporary Two-Year College Progress-Toward-Degree Waiver Directive Review. On its August 4 videoconference, the subcommittee made permanent a section of the PTD waiver directive that applied specifically to two-year college transfer student-athletes who spent three years at the two-year college and had a 60-percent PTD deficiency at the four-year institution. The directive stipulated that if certain criteria were met, the waiver would be approved. The subcommittee agreed that this should be permanently added to the previously approved waiver checklist so that institutions are able to process these at the campus level.
  - c. Potential Unintended Consequences of Student-Athletes Entering the NCAA Transfer Portal. On its September 15 videoconference, the subcommittee began a discussion on the potential effects on support services (e.g., academic support, mental health support, physical training and medical support) when student-

athletes enter the Transfer Portal. Over the last few years, there have been several progress-toward-degree waivers submitted that assert a transfer student-athlete was not able to meet academic requirements at the previous institution because they lost access to academic support services (e.g., tutoring, advising, use of laptops, etc.) after they notified the institution of a desire to transfer and were added to the Transfer Portal. The subcommittee agreed to continue to review this issue and monitor the waivers that are submitted with this type of mitigation. The subcommittee will collaborate with the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A) to collect information on policies and procedures related to support services for student-athletes who enter the transfer portal. This will help inform future discussions on this topic and help in decision-making on potential next steps.

- d. Review of Request for a Waiver for a Unique Graduate Program. On its October 6 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed and approved an institution's full-time enrollment request for a specific graduate degree program. The institution has one graduate program that does not permit any students in the first term of the program to enroll full time. This restriction is only for one term and would create a situation where student-athletes could not pursue this program. This relief will allow these student-athletes to pursue this program while continuing to participate in athletics.
  - e. Review of Request for a Waiver for a Nontraditional Academic Calendar. On its October 6 videoconference, the subcommittee reviewed and approved an institution's nontraditional academic calendar request. The institution has an extensive cooperative education program that the majority of students engage in during their academic careers at this institution. While engaged in a six-month co-op work experience, the students are considered full-time students but do not receive credit. The sequencing of these programs allows for eight terms of enrollment in academic courses and two six-month of co-op work experiences. However, it is not officially considered a five-year program for purposes of NCAA legislation. The requested relief will allow student-athletes to not be negatively impacted by the two required full-time co-op terms in which they earn no credits.
8. **Committee on Academics Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed and approved the summary of annual updates to the committee's operating manual for the 2022-23 academic year, as a part of the committee's annual review of its policies and procedures.
  9. **NCAA research update.** The committee received an update on key research initiatives.
  10. **NCAA Division I Board of Directors and NCAA Division I Presidential Forum report.** The committee received a report from the most recent meetings of the Board of Directors and Presidential Forum and an update on the groups' future priorities.

11. **NCAA Division I Council report.** The committee received a report from the Council's August, September and October meetings, including the referral to the committee on how postgraduate student-athletes should be regulated in Division I.
12. **NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee report.** The committee received a report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's October 1-2 meeting and an update on the committee's priorities.
13. **Report of the Committee on Academics July 13 videoconference meeting.** The committee reviewed and approved the report from its July 13 videoconference meeting.
14. **Future meeting dates.**
  - Videoconference: February 2023, to be determined.
  - In-person meeting: May 8-9, 2023, Indianapolis.
  - Videoconference: July 2023, to be determined.
  - In-person meeting: October 17-18, 2023, 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*

<b>NCAA Division I Committee on Academics</b> <b>October 12, 2022, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Javaune Adams-Gaston, Norfolk State University.	
Jill Bodensteiner, Saint Joseph's University.	
Lisa Broome, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.	
Rob Carson, Furman University.	
John E. Davidson, The Ohio State University.	
Robert Davies, Central Michigan University.	
Magdi El Shawahy, University of Georgia.	
Jessica Goerke, University of California, Santa Barbara.	
Jaime Gordon, Morehead State University.	
Eric Hall, Elon University.	

Jennifer Heppel, Patriot League.
Madison Hommey, Longwood University.
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.
Lance Tatum, Troy University.
Susan Williams, University of Kansas.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Jeri Beggs, Illinois State University.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Jennifer Henderson, Binh T. Nguyen and Quintin Wright.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Lydia Bell, Eric Brey, Marcus Brown, Greg Dana, Gary deCastro, Judy Delp, Michele Forte-Osborne, Jenn Fraser, Doug Healey, Saquandra Heath, Leilani Hubbard, Sarah Overpeck, Tom Paskus, Marcos Rivera, Dave Schnase, Jennifer Smith, Kathy Sulentic, Sara Thurber and Katy Yurk.