

# REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUGUST 6, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- Performance Funds. Based on a recommendation from the Board of Directors Finance Committee, the NCAA Division I Board of Directors sponsored legislation for a membership vote in January 2025 that would add a Women's Basketball Performance Fund and a Women's Basketball Equal Conference Fund as components of Division I's revenue distribution formulas. If adopted, units would be earned starting with the 2025 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship and would be paid out for the first time in 2026. The distributions would be funded by increasing the Division I revenue distribution budget using Association-wide funds. The fund would begin at \$15 million in fiscal year 2025-26 and increase to \$20 million in fiscal year 2026-27 and \$25 million in fiscal year 2027-28. Following fiscal year 2027-28, the funds would grow at the same rate as all other Division I revenue distribution funds. The Division I membership will vote on the proposal during the Division I business session at the 2025 NCAA Convention in Nashville. (Unanimous voice vote.)
- 2. Future Division I Governance Structure. The Board of Directors engaged in a preliminary discussion about the future of the Division I decision-making structure and provided feedback on key questions. A redesigned structure would aim to reflect current and emerging changes in Division I with institutional groupings that reflect these changes, while recognizing and valuing the connective tissue that binds the Division I membership together. Elements of the discussion included legislation that would apply to all of Division I (e.g., minimum membership requirements), and components that would be managed separately by homogeneous groupings of schools or conferences. The board also discussed ways in which constituent groups (e.g., student-athletes, coaches) may be more engaged and better represented in discussions and decisions.
- 3. Notification-of-Transfer Windows. The Board of Directors discussed NCAA Division I Proposal No. 2024-46, which would reduce, from 45 days to 30 days, the notification-of-transfer windows in football and men's and women's basketball. The board also received a report of the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's discussion of the proposal. Board members noted that data from the NCAA Transfer Portal show that most student-athletes who enter their names in the Transfer Portal do so in the first few days of the notification-of-transfer windows. The board also noted that the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee will consider whether to recommend that the NCAA Division I Council amend Proposal No. 2024-46 to apply to other sports. The Division I Council will consider the proposal, and any amendments, during its October meeting.
- 4. Name, Image, and Likness Database Update. The Board of Directors received an update on the progress of the name, image, and likeness database that will be available for student-athletes beginning August 8. The platform, which is called <a href="NIL Assist">NIL Assist</a>, is designed to connect student-athletes with potential service providers, facilitate disclosures of NIL activities and provide insight into evolving trends with the NIL environment.

- 5. Review of Student-Athlete Eligibility Regulations Interim Regulatory Approach. The Board of Directors received an update on the interim regulatory approach to student-athlete eligibility cases, which has been implemented as part of the review of student-athlete eligibility regulations authorized by the Division I Council during its June 2024 meeting. The council authorized NCAA staff to apply reasonable discretion in its review of eligibility cases and interpretation requests and consider mitigating factors and the intent of the applicable legislation. Recommendations for changes to student-athlete eligibility regulations will be presented to the council on a rolling basis with anticipated completion in October 2025.
- 6. Review of Sports Wagering Legislative Concepts. The Board of Directors received an update on the review of the NCAA's sports wagering legislation and discussed potential legislative changes. Board members provided feedback on concepts related to deregulation of the prohibition on betting on professional sports. Some members expressed concerns that deregulation could result in wagering on intercollegiate sports activities and contribute to gambling problems and mental health issues among student-athletes. The Division I Council and other committees will continue to discuss the concepts and consider the results of a recent national survey of student-athlete sports wagering attitudes and behaviors. Updates on those discussions will be provided to the Board of Directors.
- 7. Accountability Concepts for Core Guarantees. The Board of Directors provided feedback on concepts to hold schools accountable for providing core guarantees to Division I student-athletes. The core guarantees are key outcomes from the work of the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee and became effective August 1. The core guarantees require additional support and resources to Division I student-athletes. The board supported the following recommendations for cases involving violations of the core guarantees requirements:
  - a. Failure to Provide the Required Core Guarantees. If an institution does not comply with the requirements of NCAA Bylaws 15.01.5.2.1 (degree-completion program), 16.3.1.2 (career counseling and life skills programs), 16.4.1 (medical coverage) or 20.2.4.24 (review of mental and physical health, safety and performance support services), a review will occur according to normal procedures for a potential violation of NCAA rules.
  - b. Failure to Attest. An institution's failure or refusal to submit an attestation is normally addressed outside the infractions process. Similarly, an institution that does not submit an attestation required by Bylaws 20.2.4.24 (review of mental and physical health, safety and performance support services), 20.2.4.26 (consensus-based care, education and services model) or 20.2.4.27 (attestation of student-athlete services requirements) or submits it after the prescribed deadline should be subject to financial penalties as prescribed by the NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee. This concept will be referred to the Strategic Vision and Planning Committee to consider recommending that the council introduce legislation to establish the process for addressing noncompliance.

- **8. Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Update.** The Board of Directors received an update on key items and issues deliberated during the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's July meeting.
- **9. NCAA Division I Committee on Academics Update.** The Board of Directors received an update on key items and issues deliberated during the Committee on Academics' May meeting.
- **10. NCAA Division I Board of Directors Infractions Process Committee Update.** The Board of Directors received an update from the Board of Directors Infractions Process Committee's July meeting.
- **11. NCAA Board of Governors Update.** The Board of Directors received a summary of key agenda items the Board of Governors will consider during its August 8 meeting.
- **12. NCAA President's Report.** President Charlie Baker updated the board on important issues facing the Association and Division I.
- 13. Congressional Engagement Update. The Board of Directors received an update about the ongoing congressional engagement efforts being made on behalf of the NCAA and the positive impact that engagement from Division I members has made on influencing potential congressional action.
- **14. Legal Update.** The Board of Directors received a privileged and confidential update from Scott Bearby, senior vice president of legal affairs, related to ongoing litigation.
- 15. Election of Division I Board of Directors Chair. The Board of Directors elected Tim Sands, president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, as chair. President Sands' two-year term begins immediately. He replaces Jere Morehead, president of the University of Georgia, whose term has ended. In addition, the board approved a waiver of its policy that requires the board chair to have served on the board for at least one year. President Sands has served on the Board of Directors since January 2024. (Unanimous voice vote.)
- **16. Report of the June Board of Directors Meeting.** The Board of Directors approved the report of its June 28 meeting. (*Unanimous voice vote.*)

Board of Directors chair: Jere Morehead, University of Georgia, Southeastern Conference

Staff Liaisons: Geoff Bentzel, Division I Governance

Amanda Conklin, Division I Governance Jenn Fraser, Division I Governance Leeland Zeller, Division I Governance

# Division I Board of Directors August 6, 2024, Videoconference

#### Attendees:

Janna Blais, Northwestern University; Women Leaders in College Sports.

John Bravman, Bucknell University; Patriot League.

Pam Bruzina, University of Missouri, Columbia; FARA.

Ashley Cozad, University of North Florida, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Kelly Damphousse, Texas State University; Sun Belt Conference.

Houston Davis, University of Central Arkansas; ASUN Conference.

Linda Livingstone, Baylor University; Big 12 Conference.

Sidney McPhee, Middle Tennessee State University; Conference USA.

Geoff Mearns, Ball State University; Mid-American Conference.

Jere Morehead (chair), University of Georgia; Southeastern Conference.

Brian Noland, East Tennessee State University; Southern Conference.

Ora Pescovitz, Oakland University; Horizon League.

Chris Pietruszkiewicz, University of Evansville; Missouri Valley Conference.

Darryll Pines, University of Maryland, College Park; Big Ten Conference.

Susan Poser, Hofstra University; Coastal Athletic Association.

Mark Reed, Loyola University Chicago; Atlantic 10 Conference.

Philip Rogers, East Carolina University; American Athletic Conference.

Peter Salovey, Yale University; The Ivy League.

Tim Sands, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Atlantic Coast Conference.

Harvey Stenger, Binghamton University; America East Conference.

Jaime Taylor, Lamar University; Southland Conference.

Josh Whitman, University of Illinois, Division I Council.

### **Absentees:**

Marlene Tromp, Boise State University; Mountain West Conference.

#### **Guests in Attendance:**

Josh Emmanuel, University of Incarnate Word, Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Robert Davies, Central Michigan University, Division I Committee on Academics chair.

Pradeep Khosla, University of California, San Diego; Big West Conference.

Quinton Ross, Alabama State University; Southwestern Athletic Conference.

## NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:

Geoff Bentzel, Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser, and Leeland Zeller.

## Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:

Charlie Baker, Scott Bearby, Gary Brown, Tim Buckley, Dawn Buth, Michael Cioroianu, Derrick Crawford, Jon Duncan, Michele Forte-Osborne, Terri Steeb Gronau, Brandy Hataway, Jennifer Henderson, Ethan Hite, Lynn Holzman, Kevin Lennon, Felicia Martin, Mike Massa, Mario Morris, Stephanie Quigg, Bridget Rigney, Lynda Tealer, Jerry Vaughn, Meghan Wright and Quintin Wright.