



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
JANUARY 13, 2026, IN-PERSON MEETING**

KEY ITEMS.

- 1. Review of NCAA Division I Decision-Making Working Group referrals.** The NCAA Division I Membership Committee reviewed two referrals from the NCAA Division I Decision-Making Working Group. Specifically, the committee had initial discussions on the creation of an autonomy subdivision and the current definition of autonomy status, and current membership reclassification standards. The committee identified information to assist with completing the referrals, including participation numbers, sport sponsorship and financial data, and charged NCAA staff with collecting and presenting that data during future meetings.
- 2. Approval of 2026-27 single-sport conference application.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2026-27 single-sport conference application. The application will be available online no later than February 15.
- 3. Review of requests for exceptions to current reclassification moratorium.** The committee reviewed the August 5, 2025, NCAA Division I Board of Directors-approved moratorium on new applications for reclassification from Division II and Division III to Division I. The committee reviewed documentation provided by a Division I multisport conference and agreed the documentation satisfied the moratorium's exception. As a result, those institutions may apply to enter the reclassification process to Division I no later than June 1, 2026, provided the institutions satisfy the legislated requirements, including a bona fide invitation from the Division I multisport conference.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. NCAA Division I Membership Committee charge and scope of work.** The committee received an overview of the NCAA Division I Decision-Making Working Group's development of the new governance structure and reviewed the committee's purpose, charge and scope of work.
- 2. Committee education and orientation.** The committee received an orientation from NCAA staff regarding key responsibilities and expectations for committee members, a review of draft committee policies and procedures, and an overview of the Division I legislative process. In addition, the committee received education on and discussed several topics impacting their work. Those topics included Division I membership legislation, specifically NCAA Division I Bylaw 20; Division I membership attestation requirements; current Division I membership statistics; multidivisional institutions; sport sponsorship requirements; institutional mergers, acquisitions, consolidations and integrations; impact of conference realignment; reclassification to Division I; and single-sport conference requirements. The committee will continue to discuss these topics during future meetings.
- 3. Update from NCAA Office of Legal Affairs.** The committee received an update from the NCAA Office of Legal Affairs.

Report of the NCAA DI Membership Committee

In-Person Meeting

January 13, 2026

Page No. 2

4. **Future meetings.** The committee plans to meet in-person twice each year and, in 2026, to meet via videoconference approximately 10 times.
 - a. February – May TBD; videoconferences.
 - b. June 17-18, 2026, in-person meeting, Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Nicki Moore, Cornell University.

Staff Liaisons: Kris Richardson, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services.

Jenn Samble, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services.

Sara Thurber, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services.

Angela Tressel, NCAA Division I Governance and Member Services.

NCAA Division I Membership Committee January 13, 2026, In-Person Meeting	
Attendees:	
Caray Banks, Norfolk State University.	
Janet Cone, University of North Carolina Ashville.	
Mark Harris, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Southeastern Conference.	
Shawna Jordan, Kansas State University, Big 12 Conference.	
Lisa Liotta, Canisius University.	
Shella Vélez Martínez, University of Pittsburgh, Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Emily Moon, Lamar University.	
Nicki Moore, Cornell University.	
Christina Munger-Rivera, University of California, Los Angeles, Big Ten Conference.	
Jennifer Phillips, James Madison University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Kris Richardson, Jenn Samble, Sara Thurber and Angela Tressel.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Amanda Conklin and Jared Tidemann.	