



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative item.

- **Division Membership -- Change of Division Membership -- Application Fee.**
 - (1) Recommendation. The NCAA Division I Membership Committee recommends the NCAA Division I Board of Directors introduce legislation to modify the Division I reclassification application fee to be determined each year based on six times the amount of the estimated annual average value of direct benefits through distribution and championships made available to Division I members.
 - (2) Effective date. January 20, 2027, effective for institutions applying to begin the reclassification process during the 2027-28 academic year and thereafter.
 - (3) Rationale. In response to a referral from the NCAA Division I Decision-Making Working Group to evaluate the current membership reclassification standards and determine whether any adjustments should be made, the Division I Membership Committee assessed the current standards, the impacts of membership migration and reviewed data related to finances and championship access. This recommendation reflects the committee's conclusion that the current application fee undervalues Division I membership. The increased application fee is based on the fewest number of years that a reclassifying institution needs to move from entering the reclassification process to becoming fully eligible to receive DI revenue distribution. It more accurately reflects the value of Division I membership, retains the legislation's existing refund provisions, mitigates the dilution of revenue distribution for members of the division and helps positions the division to address any championships-related pressures a larger division may face. Further, the increased application fee helps a reclassifying institution demonstrate its financial commitment to Division I's philosophy, operating principles and student-athlete experience.
 - (4) Estimate budget impact. Varies, based on institutional decisions.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. Varies, based on institutional decisions.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **NCAA Division I Proposal 2026-45 Legislative authority and process -- Division I legislative processes update.** The committee deferred this topic to its next meeting.
2. **Introduction to legislative review of NCAA Division I Bylaw 20.** The committee deferred this topic to its next meeting.
3. **Approval of the NCAA Division I Membership Committee report.** The committee approved the September 17, 2026, Division I Membership Committee report.

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.

NCAA Division I Membership Committee October 15, 2026, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Carray Banks, Norfolk State University.	
Amanda Braun, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.	
Janet Cone, University of North Carolina Asheville.	
Shawna Jordan, Kansas State University; Big 12 Conference.	
Sheila Vélez Martínez, University of Pittsburgh; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Emily Moon, Student-Athlete Advocacy Committee.	
Christina Munger-Rivera, University of California, Los Angeles; Big Ten Conference.	
Jennifer Phillips, James Madison University.	
Absentees:	
Matt Harris, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Southeastern Conference.	
Nicki Moore, Cornell University.	
Guests:	
Niesha Campbell, Marshall University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Kris Richardson, Jenn Samble and Sara Thurber.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Amanda Conklin, Jared Tidemann and Jerry Vaughn.	