



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I PRESIDENTIAL FORUM
APRIL 26, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **NCAA Division I Transformation Committee Update.** The NCAA Division I Presidential Forum received presentations from outside legal counsel and Division I Transformation Committee member Lynda Tealer, the executive associate athletics director for administration at the University of Florida and vice-chair of the NCAA Division I Council, regarding the work of the Transformation Committee to date. The presentations outlined the case for change in the post-Alston environment to redefine the Division I collegiate model to operate effectively in a new landscape and meet the needs of the modern student-athlete.

The Transformation Committee has made significant progress in its initial areas of focus, which are the infractions process, rules modernization and transfers. The group expects to present recommendations in these areas to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors in August. The committee also has engaged with the Division I membership for feedback, most recently via an April 21 webinar, followed by a survey of concepts distributed electronically to presidents, athletics directors, conference commissioners and other key stakeholders.

2. **Breakout Group Discussions.** To further inform the Transformation Committee's work, the Presidential Forum broke into small groups to discuss general reactions to the presentations noted in Item 1 above and to offer feedback on specific topics assigned to each of the three groups (infractions, rules modernization and transfers). The three groups also discussed the role of the Presidential Forum as the Transformation Committee continues its work. The following themes emerged consistently from the three groups:

- Appreciation for the Transformation Committee's work to date and the commitment that committee members have made to address a complex task.
- While the presidents understand more work must be done even in the three areas in which the Transformation Committee has made significant progress, there are concerns about the impact of "decentralization" on rules making and governance (e.g., what can be nationally regulated and what is delegated to the conference or institutional levels). Some members expressed concern that conferences may not be prepared to oversee the kinds of regulations being discussed, particularly as it relates to infractions. A hybrid model in which some regulations are managed nationally, and others are managed locally may help mitigate the challenges.
- Also, presidents acknowledged that while the Transformation Committee's initial focus on resolving regulatory matters may be necessary to pave the way for defining

membership expectations and structure, they are anxious for the committee to address those latter issues quickly and to provide opportunities for input from across the division to inform any models being contemplated.

- There is agreement that the presidential voice should not be minimized in any of these discussions. While the presidents understand that the Forum as an entity may change in a new governance structure, presidential leadership and input remains critical to oversight of the enterprise.
- Representation of all conferences in any future governance structure continues to be a focus for the Forum.
- Presidents understand the impact of the Alston decision but lament the possible migration from the collegiate model toward a more professional model. In that regard, presidents underscored the continued importance of the primacy of academics in any future model.
- Forum members noted that with the changing landscape, particularly related to NIL and transfers, it will be critical to provide education to student-athletes to promote their well-being and success. Further, many expressed the desire for more transparency, disclosure, and accountability.
- The Forum noted the importance of continued engagement with Congress and arming presidents and chancellors with information that can be shared with their local lawmakers and constituents as the transformation process continues.

- 3. Update on Student-Athlete Name, Image and Likeness.** The Presidential Forum received an update on the NCAA Division I Council Working Group on Name, Image and Likeness. The Board of Directors directed the Council to review the current NIL environment and make recommendations regarding additional guidance and/or adjustments to the Interim NIL Policy or NCAA rules. The Board of Directors requested an initial report for its April meeting and a final report with potential recommendations in June. To meet the requested timeline, the NCAA Division I Council Coordination Committee determined that a group of Council members and individuals who served on the NCAA Division I Name, Image and Likeness Legislative Solutions Group should be formed to complete the work.

The Council working group has been meeting regularly and is nearing completion of its work. The group anticipates recommending to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors Administrative Committee, in May, a set of guidelines that may help institutions apply the Interim NIL Policy. The guidelines also could help clarify instances that would merit NCAA enforcement staff involvement.

4. **Report of the January 19 Presidential Forum Meeting.** The Forum approved the report of its January 19 meeting. *(Unanimous voice vote.)*

Presidential Forum chair: Adela de la Torre, San Diego State University, Mountain West Conference

*Staff Liaisons: Amanda Conklin, Law, Policy and Governance
Jenn Fraser, Law, Policy and Governance
Kevin Lennon, Law, Policy and Governance
Leeland Zeller, Law, Policy and Governance*

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Attendees:	
Johnson Akinleye, North Carolina Central University; Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.	
Laurence Alexander, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; Southwestern Athletic Conference.	
Connie Book, Elon University; Colonial Athletic Association.	
Brian Casey, Colgate University; Patriot League.	
Ana Mari Cauce, University of Washington; Pac-12 Conference.	
Kimberly Cline, Long Island University; Northeast Conference.	
Jane Conoley, Long Beach State University; Big West Conference.	
Brad Creed, Campbell University; Big South Conference.	
Deb Curtis, Indiana State University; Missouri Valley Conference.	
Bob Davies, Central Michigan University; Mid-American Conference.	
Houston Davis, University of Central Arkansas; ASUN Conference.	
Adela de la Torre, San Diego State University; Mountain West Conference.	
Gabriel Esteban, DePaul University; Big East Conference.	
Sheri Everts, Appalachian State University; Sun Belt Conference.	
Ronnie Green, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Big Ten Conference.	
Phil Hanlon, Dartmouth College; The Ivy League.	
Robert Nelsen, California State University; Big Sky Conference.	
Mark Nemec, Fairfield University; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
John Nicklow, University of New Orleans; Southland Conference.	
Brian Noland, East Tennessee State University; Southern Conference.	
Ora Pescovitz, Oakland University; Horizon League.	
Donde Plowman, University Tennessee, Knoxville; Southeastern Conference.	
Havidan Rodriguez, University of Albany; America East Conference.	
Phil Rogers, East Carolina University; American Athletic Conference.	
Phil Schubert, Abilene Christian University; Western Athletic Conference.	
Carlos Vargas, Southeast Missouri State University; Ohio Valley Conference.	
Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University; Big 12 Conference.	
Absentees:	
Barry Dunn, South Dakota State University; The Summit League.	
Thayne McCulloh, Gonzaga University; West Coast Conference.	
Jim Ryan, University of Virginia; Atlantic Coast Conference.	
Eric Spina, University of Dayton; Atlantic 10 Conference.	
Guests:	
Lynda Tealer, University of Florida; Southeastern Conference.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser, Kevin Lennon and Leeland Zeller.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Brynna Barnhart, Scott Bearby, Gary Brown, Emily Capehart, Derrick Crawford, Mark Emmert, Michelle Hosick, Felicia Martin, Stacey Osburn, Dave Schnase, Cari Van Sensus and Stan Wilcox.	