



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I PRESIDENTIAL FORUM
AUGUST 2, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. NCAA Division I Presidential Forum Sustainability Review.** The Division I Presidential Forum continued discussing next steps for its review of sustainability and strategized how best to facilitate the process given the accelerated examination of the state of intercollegiate athletics and the regulatory model due to the NCAA Board of Governors’ decision to convene a constitutional convention in November.

The Forum acknowledged the successful work to date during the exploration phase of the sustainability review to identify the core issues in key focus areas and discussed how best to maintain the momentum given the dynamic state of affairs within intercollegiate athletics. The Forum ultimately supported a recommendation from its NCAA Division I Presidential Forum Steering Committee to refer the core issues already identified to relevant groups in the governance structure (see the chart below) for input and recommendations for the Presidential Forum to consider. Given the demands already being placed on the governance structure, the Forum advised that this review be undertaken in a manner and time appropriate for each group.

Focus Area: Financial Concerns	
Issue	Potential Referrals
Review of revenue distribution policies.	NCAA Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee; Division I Council.
Discussion regarding athletics spending.	Division I Finance Committee; Council.
Focus Area: Membership Requirements	
Issue	Potential Referrals
Review of the Division I philosophy statement.	NCAA Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee.
Review of membership requirements (i.e., sports sponsorship and financial aid minimums).	Strategic Vision and Planning Committee.
Focus Area: Governance Issues	
Issue	Potential Referrals
Elevate the student-athlete voice.	Presidential Forum (no referral).
Discussion of football’s role in the NCAA structure.	Strategic Vision and Planning Committee; Council.
Review of policies and legislation to identify areas in which deregulation or modernization may lead to efficiencies or better alignment with values (e.g., recruiting, playing and practice seasons).	NCAA Division I Legislative Committee (via the NCAA Division I Legislative Committee Modernization of the Rules Subcommittee).
Review of Division I financial aid legislation to identify areas in which deregulation or modernization may lead to efficiencies or better alignment with values	NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Experience Committee (review already set to begin in fall 2021).

Focus Area: Legal Fees	
Issue	Potential Referrals
Comprehensive litigation risk assessment to help determine whether new policies or rules should be recommended that apportion legal liability and litigation expenses among institutions, conferences, and the NCAA.	Council.
Enhancement of the Division I infractions process.	NCAA Division I Board of Directors Infractions Process Committee.

The Presidential Forum also discussed how it can best support the ongoing review related to the state of college sports as the process emerges, noting that much work lies ahead for all presidents at the campus and conference levels as the core questions are raised. In particular, the Forum acknowledged the importance of the student-athlete voice during this critical time and agreed that the Forum could serve as an appropriate connection point for student-athletes to be heard. With so many student-athletes being challenged by the new environment, the Forum believes it is important for presidents to hear directly from student-athletes.

Accordingly, the Forum agreed to use its October meeting to hear from student-athlete representatives from the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and other student-athlete groups to better understand what they consider to be the most critical issues going forward. The Forum acknowledged that such dialogue would help inform the Forum’s role in the broader review during the months ahead.

2. **Impact of the U.S. Supreme Court Decision.** The Presidential Forum reviewed key issues regarding the impact of the Supreme Court’s decision in the *Alston* case, particularly the effects on reviewing current legislation and on future rulemaking.
3. **Name, Image and Likeness Issues.** The Presidential Forum discussed the landscape surrounding name, image and likeness and available educational resources following adoption of the [NCAA’s interim policy](#). Staff continues to monitor activities in this space and is chronicling questions from the membership, mostly regarding schools’ participation in these activities and the application of the interim policy.
4. **Gender Equity Review.** The Presidential Forum received an update regarding the process to be used for the governance structure’s review of the external gender equity report that will be delivered to the NCAA Board of Governors for review during that group’s August 3 meeting. The report also will be made public at that time, and the membership and governance structure (including the Presidential Forum) will vet the report and consider recommendations in the coming months.
5. **Update from NCAA President Mark Emmert.** The Forum received an update from President Emmert regarding important issues facing the Association and Division I, particularly the recent announcement from the NCAA Board of Governors to convene a special constitutional convention in November to propose changes to the NCAA Constitution to enable the Association to more effectively meet the needs of current and future college athletes.

- 6. Report of the April 27 Presidential Forum Videoconference.** The Forum approved the report of its April 27 videoconference. (*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:
Laurence Alexander, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; Southwestern Athletic Conference.
Brian Casey, Colgate University; Patriot League.
Ana Mari Cauce, University of Washington; Pac-12 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.
Adela de la Torre, San Diego State University; Mountain West Conference.
Barry Dunn, South Dakota State University; The Summit League.
Gabriel Esteban, DePaul University; Big East Conference.
Sheri Everts, Appalachian State University; Sun Belt Conference.
Patrick Gallagher, University of Pittsburgh; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Jerome Gilbert, Marshall University; Conference USA.
Ronnie Green, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Big Ten Conference.
Brian Hemphill, Old Dominion University; Conference USA.
Wendy Libby, Stetson University; ASUN Conference.
Brian Mueller, Grand Canyon University; Western Athletic Conference.
Robert Nelsen, California State University; Big Sky Conference.
John Nicklow, University of New Orleans; Southland Conference.
Judy Olian, Quinnipiac University; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.
Donde Plowman, University Tennessee, Knoxville; Southeastern Conference.
Carol Quillen, Davidson College; Atlantic 10 Conference (alternate).
Kim Schatzel, Towson University; Colonial Athletic Association.
Ashish Vaidya, Northern Kentucky University; Horizon League.
Carlos Vargas, Southeast Missouri State University; Ohio Valley Conference.
Absentees:
Victor Boschini, Texas Christian University; Big 12 Conference.
Phil Hanlon, Dartmouth College; The Ivy League.
Geoff Mearns, Ball State University; Mid-American Conference.
Brian Noland, East Tennessee State University; Southern Conference.
Chris Pietruszkiewicz, University of Evansville; Missouri Valley Conference.
Havidan Rodriguez, University of Albany, America East Conference.
David Rudd, University of Memphis; American Athletic Conference.
Eric Spina, University of Dayton; Atlantic 10 Conference.
Malachi Van Tassell, Saint Francis University (Pennsylvania); Northeast Conference.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser, Kevin Lennon and Leeland Zeller.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Scott Bearby, Gary Brown, Derrick Crawford, Joni Comstock, Jon Duncan, Mark Emmert, Dan Gavitt, Karl Hicks, Michelle Hosick, Greg Pottorff, Bridget Rigney, Dave Schnase, Cari Van Sensus and Stan Wilcox.