



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I PRESIDENTIAL FORUM
JANUARY 11, 2023, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Remarks from Incoming NCAA President Charlie Baker.** Incoming NCAA President Charlie Baker joined the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum to discuss the current state of college sports and the role of the presidential voice in addressing the issues at hand and enhancing the enterprise for the future. Governor Baker summarized his background and noted that his interest in the NCAA presidency was fueled by his own experiences as a student-athlete (his wife and children also were student-athletes). Governor Baker noted that he considers college sports to be among America's most important human development programs and, as such, it is important to appropriately address the complex challenges currently facing the Association. Presidential Forum members reiterated with Governor Baker the importance of university presidents and chancellors serving in a leadership capacity within the Division I governance structure.
2. **NCAA Division I Transformation Committee Report.** The Presidential Forum engaged in discussions with Transformation Committee co-chairs Greg Sankey and Julie Cromer regarding the committee's final report to the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. North Carolina State University Chancellor Randy Woodson, who serves as a member of the Transformation Committee and the Board of Directors, also joined the Forum to participate in the discussion.

Forum members expressed their appreciation to the committee for its work over the past year and acknowledged the tremendous amount of progress the committee accomplished and the thoughtfulness with which the committee reached its final recommendations. Much of the Presidential Forum's discussion related to the committee's recommendations regarding decision-making and governance, particularly the recommendation to eliminate the Presidential Forum and activate the presidential voice in an alternative approach. The reaction to the committee's recommendation from Forum members was mixed, though there was consensus that the Forum has not been as influential or effective as had been hoped. Accordingly, the Forum spent significant time discussing how presidents can be engaged in the NCAA structure moving forward.

As a result of that discussion, the Forum voted to submit the following two concepts for the Board of Directors to consider:

- The Forum recommends that the highest-ranking body in the new Division I governance structure include representation from all 32 conferences. (The vote for this concept was 13 in favor, eight opposed and one abstention). In making this recommendation, the Forum does not necessarily believe that the highest-ranking

body must be exclusively composed of presidents and chancellors, but it does feel that having all conferences represented is valuable and important.

- The second concept is to establish an effective consultative process between the Board of Directors and the chairs of conference presidential bodies not represented on the Board. The Forum would defer to the Board as to the specifics related to such a process, but, at a minimum, the Forum recommends that the process include a meaningful opportunity for presidents to provide feedback on Board agenda items and raise issues for consideration. The Forum recommends that the process include a period of commentary during which conferences can go on record with their feedback in advance of Board meetings. This process would require timely communication of relevant agenda items and materials so they can be assessed at the conference level. (The vote for this concept was 17 in favor, four opposed and one abstention.)

The Forum noted that these recommendations are not presented in rank order; nor are they mutually exclusive. The Forum also considered whether to recommend a reduction in the length of Board terms so that unrepresented conferences have a shorter wait before rotating on the Board. However, the motion was defeated due to concerns about the voice of the non-Football Bowl Subdivision conferences, who do not have permanent seats, being further diluted if terms were to be shortened.

Ultimately, the Forum's overriding concern is preserving and enhancing the important role presidents play in the NCAA governance structure. Presidents have a broader view of the implications of policy decisions on their campuses and their input is critical to informing the implementation of the recommendations by the Board.

3. **Other Business.** The Presidential Forum formally thanked its chair, San Diego State University President Adela de la Torre, for her outstanding leadership during her two years as chair.
4. **Report of the October 24-25 Presidential Forum Meeting.** The Forum approved the report of its October 24-25 meeting. (*Unanimous voice vote.*)

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

Staff Liaisons: Amanda Conklin, Governance, Policy and Human Resources
Jenn Fraser, Governance, Policy and Human Resources
Kevin Lennon, Governance, Policy and Human Resources
Leeland Zeller, Governance, Policy and Human Resources

Division I Presidential Forum January 11, 2023, Meeting
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.
Bob Davies, Central Michigan University; Mid-American Conference.
Adela de la Torre, San Diego State University; Mountain West Conference.
Susan Edwards, Wright State University; Horizon League.
Sheri Everts, Appalachian State University; Sun Belt Conference.
Joan Ferrini-Mundy, University of Maine; America East Conference.
Ronnie Green, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Big Ten Conference.
Bennie Harris, University of South Carolina Upstate; Big South Conference.
Thayne McCulloh, Gonzaga University; West Coast Conference.
Robert Nelsen, California State University, Sacramento; Big Sky Conference.
Mark Nemece, Fairfield University; Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.
John Nicklow, University of New Orleans; Southland Conference.
Brian Noland, East Tennessee State University; Southern Conference.
Donde Plowman, University Tennessee, Knoxville; Southeastern Conference.
Philip Rogers, East Carolina University, American Athletic Conference.
Phil Schubert, Abilene Christian University; Western Athletic Conference.
Eric Spina, University of Dayton; Atlantic 10 Conference.
Carlos Vargas, Southeast Missouri State University; Ohio Valley Conference.
Framroze Virjee, California State University, Fullerton; Big West Conference.
Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University; Big 12 Conference.
Absentees:
Deb Curtis, Indiana State University; Missouri Valley Conference.
Colleen Hanycz, Xavier University; Big East Conference.
Joanne Li, University of Nebraska Omaha; The Summit League.
Jim Ryan, University of Virginia; Atlantic Coast Conference.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser, Kevin Lennon and Leeland Zeller.
Guests in Attendance:
Julie Cromer, University of Ohio, Division I Transformation Committee.
Greg Sankey, Southeastern Conference, Division I Transformation Committee.
Randy Woodson, North Carolina State University, Division I Transformation Committee.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Charlie Baker, Lydia Bell, Gary Brown, Zandria Conyers, Meghan Durham, Michele Forte-Osborne, Brittney Jackson, Bridget Rigney, and Stan Wilcox.