



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION I PRESIDENTIAL FORUM
OCTOBER 24-25, 2022, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Presidential Search Update.** The NCAA Division I Presidential Forum received an update on the process and timeline of the NCAA presidential search, which has been underway since the end of June. The NCAA Board of Governors secured a search firm, which conducted conversations with stakeholders and thought leaders about what characteristics and expertise the NCAA president should have. The Board of Governors also assigned members to serve on the search committee, which received updates from the search firm, directed additional information gathering and finalized the position description. The search committee will conduct initial interviews and the full Board of Governors will make the final selection of a chosen candidate. It is anticipated that interviews will be conducted, and the candidate of choice will be selected before the end of the calendar year. An announcement of the new president could occur at the NCAA Convention in January.
2. **NCAA Division I Transformation Committee Update.** The Presidential Forum received updates on critical areas of the Transformation Committee's work (including a summary of polling and focus-group data helping to inform that work) and engaged in breakout sessions for further discussion on each concept. The areas of focus included student-athlete benefits, congressional strategy, membership expectations and decision-making (governance). The breakout group discussions were meant to generate feedback for the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, which will discuss these areas during its meeting later in the week and provide further direction for the Transformation Committee. The Transformation Committee is expected to finalize recommendations in December for the Board of Directors to consider at its meeting during the Convention in January.
3. **Breakout Group Discussions and Feedback.** The Presidential Forum broke into small groups to discuss general reactions to the presentations noted in Item 2 above. The first breakout session focused on the polling data, student-athlete benefits and membership expectations. Feedback from the breakout groups included the following:
 - a. Regarding the polling and focus group data, concerns were raised about overemphasizing just the highest-profile football and basketball programs. Forum members recommended against using this information as the primary driver to shape changes that may be more impactful on (and potentially damaging to) the majority of Division I student-athlete experiences in the other sports.
 - b. For the student-athlete benefits model and congressional strategy, the Forum found it challenging to provide meaningful feedback absent more specificity regarding the model. For future consideration, Forum members stressed that for them to offer meaningful input it is important to be provided relevant data and context about

how the data were used to inform decision-making. Such an approach will help fully inform the group when asked to make policy observations and/or recommendations in the future.

- c. Regarding student-athlete benefits and membership expectations, some Forum members expressed concerns about a one-size-fits-all approach to student-athlete benefits and membership expectations given the disparate level of resources among conferences and institutions in Division I. While there was a general sense that health and well-being minimums should be consistent among subdivisions, other membership expectations may be better addressed at the subdivisional level where institutional variance can be accounted for.
- d. Some Forum members recommended looking to possible accreditation models or scorecards to hold institutions accountable for meeting membership expectations.
- e. The Forum believes that as membership expectations are contemplated, it is important for the Transformation Committee, Division I Board of Directors and the membership to continually ask the “why” behind any enhanced membership requirements. What is the need being addressed by the creation of requirements for all Division I schools? Do these requirements address the tensions in the system, tie directly to desired outcomes and increase accountability?
- f. In addition to any thoughtful adjustments to membership expectations, the Forum noted the need for a more effective public relations strategy that accurately communicates the nature and realities of college sports and the benefits of intercollegiate athletics participation.

The second breakout session focused solely on decision-making. Feedback from the breakout groups included the following:

- g. Forum members support the concept of a flatter governance structure.
- h. The Forum has previously noted significant support among members to have the highest-ranking body in any new governance structure include representation from all 32 conferences. Some presidents once again strongly voiced this opinion.
- i. In line with the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee Decision-Making Subgroup’s focus on positional diversity, the Forum supported exploring an alternative composition for the Division I Board or senior-most governance body that includes both president/chancellors and practitioners.
- j. The Presidential Forum’s charge should be revisited, and it should be structured in a way that is more focused on action and provides the opportunity for direct engagement with the Division I Board (or equivalent) to give the presidential voice

more weight. Members recommended that if the Forum remains as part of the structure that the chair become a voting member of the Division I Board.

- k. Forum members ultimately agreed that having presidents serve on an advisory body without a specific charge is not the most effective use of their time. As an alternative, the Forum would recommend that presidents be deployed as members of ad hoc committees as necessary rather than engaging them on an additional standing committee.

4. **Update on Student-Athlete Name, Image and Likeness.** The Presidential Forum received an update on the work of the NCAA Division I Council Working Group on Name, Image and Likeness and the draft guidance that will be presented to the Division I Board at its meeting later in the week. The working group has received feedback from the Division I membership in the past several months on the current interim policy and the activities that have occurred since the policy was implemented in July. The working group also acknowledged the ongoing challenges related to the enforcement of existing NCAA rules that intersect with NIL activities. The working group is in the process of drafting additional guidance related to institutional involvement in student-athletes' NIL activities and is seeking feedback from influential groups, including the Presidential Forum.

Forum members emphasized the need to provide as much guidance as possible related to “collectives” and what is permissible for institutions in that space (and perhaps what institutions are accountable for reporting).

Forum members also provided practical feedback to staff about the questions and situations they are encountering on campus related to NIL engagement. Specifically, members highlighted questions that underscore the need for education for student-athletes regarding tax implications, financial aid implications and financial literacy. The Forum noted the importance of continually evaluating all available data to better inform the scope of NIL activity and to determine the impact of NIL on academic performance and other aspects of the student-athlete experience. The data can also be used to help inform communications with the public and others about the true impact of NIL on college sports. There is a recognition of the complex environment in which the Association finds itself, but the Forum encourages continued commitment to working toward a sustainable NIL environment.

5. **Report of the April 26 Presidential Forum Videoconference.** The Forum approved the report of its April 26 videoconference. (*Unanimous voice vote.*)

Report of the Division I Presidential Forum

October 24-25, 2022, Meeting

Page No. 4

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 October 24-25, 2022, 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.
Ana Mari Cauce, University of Washington; Pac-12 Conference.
Kimberly Cline, Long Island University; Northeast Conference.
Deborah 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.
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.
Joanne Li, University of Nebraska Omaha; The Summit League.
Robert Nelsen, California State University, Sacramento; Big Sky Conference.
Mark Nemecek, 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:
Brian Casey, Colgate University; Patriot League.
Phil Hanlon, Dartmouth College; The Ivy League.
Thayne McCulloh, Gonzaga University; West Coast Conference.
Jim Ryan, University of Virginia; Atlantic Coast Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Andrew Bleeker, Bully Pulpit Interactive.
Chandler Goodman, Bully Pulpit Interactive.
Graves Spindler, Bully Pulpit Interactive.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Amanda Conklin, Jenn Fraser, and Kevin Lennon.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Scott Bearby, Gary Brown, Emily Capehart, Brittney Jackson, Jobrina Marques, Bridget Rigney, Dave Schnase, Geoff Silver, and Cari Van Senus.