



**REPORT OF THE NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MAY 17, 2021, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Update on the gender equity review.** An update from the weekly Division I women's basketball leadership group meetings with Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP was provided to the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee. It was noted that the firm plans to conduct targeted outreach to women's basketball student-athletes in order to secure their feedback on the basketball championship. An outside firm is conducting a side-by-side comparison of the television contracts for men's and women's basketball. It was also noted that moving forward, a lens of gender equity be utilized when considering any policy or legislative change. This would be similar to the legal review that is utilized in many regulatory and championships areas.

Kaplan Hecker also shared that groups external to the NCAA, such as conference offices, are providing them with recommendations. The women's basketball leadership group plans to do the same through a position paper to the firm. It was noted that the budget process is currently underway at the national office and the WBOC should communicate to the NCAA leadership that funding be set aside in order to address the disparities already identified between men's and women's basketball and possible items from the Kaplan Hecker report. The weekly leadership meetings will continue through early August with Kaplan Hecker.

2. **Updates from governance and other stakeholder groups.** The WBOC received an update from the various groups noted below.
  - a. Women's Basketball Coaches Association. The executive director and the incoming president noted that the coaches are engaged in the gender-equity review and have been encouraging coaches to engage with the Kaplan Hecker in listening sessions. They also noted their appreciation for the inclusion of the incoming president as a member of the Division I Women's Basketball Leadership Group that is meeting weekly with Kaplan Hecker. The WBCA leadership noted that the association has moved into a communication phase and is exploring opportunities to continue the momentum and to engage with decision-makers. Lastly, it was noted that the WBCA continues to receive media requests and inquiries from members of the United States Congress.

- b. Committee on Women's Athletics and other gender-equity entities. All four NCAA governance committees on diversity and inclusion have met with Kaplan Hecker within the last three weeks. The Committee on Women's Athletics sent a memo to President Mark Emmert on March 19 noting its expectation for action and met with Kaplan Hecker on April 8 and April 21 to discuss gender equity concerns across all sports. The Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee also met with Kaplan Hecker and will re-convene in September jointly with CWA. The Gender Equity Task Force and the NCAA Division I Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity also has engaged with Kaplan Hecker. The WBOC expressed its desire to collaborate with these groups as the gender equity review continues, to keep the momentum moving forward and for accountability purposes.
  - c. NCAA Division I Council. It was noted that once the Kaplan Hecker report is submitted to the NCAA, the governance structure is ready to act and refer recommendations to the appropriate entities. The Division I Council will receive regular updates from Kaplan Hecker, as well. On June 3, the NCAA Division I Administrative Committee of the Board will review and approve the approach Division I will employ to address the recommendations on the Kaplan Hecker report, including timelines, roles and responsibilities. October 28 is the deadline for consideration of items for the 2021-22 legislative cycle.
3. **Open discussion and reflections on work and discussions to date.** The WBOC provided the following feedback for the full group to consider:
- a. For the branding strategy, the desired state needs to be articulated and the roadblocks need to be identified. Also, the support media vendors provide needs to be included in this review (e.g., concerts, social media apps, activation).
  - b. For the valuation of the women's basketball championship, it was noted that the outside firm is developing a valuation of women's basketball in an open market and how much it is worth if women's basketball is separated out.
  - c. A marketing firm should be hired to create a marketing plan for all women's sports.
4. **Communication priorities and strategies.** It was noted that an update of the WBOC's work to date will be provided to the membership in early June. Efforts are currently focused on communication from the WBOC to external groups. As noted earlier, a position paper will be developed that shall provide the membership an overview of the work the WBOC/WBCA is currently doing and its stance on the various disparities identified between the championships.

*Committee Chair: Lisa Campos, University of Texas, San Antonio*  
*Staff Liaisons Meredith Cleaver, Championships and Alliances*  
*Lynn Holzman, Championships and Alliances*  
*Binh T. Nguyen, Academic and Membership Affairs*

<b>NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Committee Meeting May 17, 2021, Videoconference</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jamie Boggs, Grand Canyon University.	
Lisa Campos, University of Texas, San Antonio.	
Jackie Carson, Furman University.	
Cori Close, University of California, Los Angeles.	
Danielle Donehew, Women's Basketball Coaches Association (nonvoting member).	
Rich Ensor, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.	
Irma Garcia, St. Francis College Brooklyn.	
Darrice Griffin, University of Georgia.	
Alyson Hagy, University of Wyoming.	
David Harris, University of Northern Iowa.	
Maisha Kelly, Bucknell University.	
Kathy Meehan, St. John's University (New York).	
Debbie Richardson, Atlantic-10 Conference (nonvoting member).	
Jennifer Strawley, University of Miami (Florida).	
Elizabeth Wood, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Zipporah Broughton, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick.	
Nina King, Duke University.	
<b>Guest(s) in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Meredith Cleaver, Lynn Holzman and Binh Nguyen.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Meghan Durham, Jenn Fraser, Amy Reis, and Amy Wilson.	