



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- **Request for Feedback from NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, NCAA Division II Faculty Athletics Representative Association, and NCAA Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators – NCAA Bylaws 14.4 and 14.5.4 – Eligibility – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements and Two-Year College Transfers.**

(1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division II Management Council request the Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators facilitate initial discussions and seek feedback on the current application of the progress-toward-degree requirements legislation (Bylaw 14.4) and two-year college transfer legislation (Bylaw 14.5.4) from their institutional compliance administrators on: (1) What are the obstacles on campus regarding certification and why; and (2) Possible streamlining opportunities on the current requirements without jeopardizing the academic success of student-athletes, including the overall grade-point average and the nine-credit hour requirement specific to transfers (Bylaw 14.4.3.2.1). Further, that the Division II Management Council request that the Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Faculty Advisory Representative Association provide feedback based on the discussions from the Division II Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators.

(2) Effective date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. During its February 2024 videoconference, the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee continued a discussion regarding progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer requirements. The committee reviewed data and discussed whether changes to Bylaws 14.4 (progress-toward-degree requirements) and 14.5.4 (two-year college transfers) are needed to provide efficiencies in the academic certification process without jeopardizing the academic success of student-athletes.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete well-being. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Discussion of Bylaw 14 progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer requirements.** The committee continued its discussion regarding the referrals it received from the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee. Specifically, the committee reviewed the 2013 Academic Requirements Committee white paper related to progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer requirements, recent academic waiver data and current legislation. The committee discussed areas where modernization may be necessary and requested feedback from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, Faculty Athletics Representatives Association and Conference Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators on whether change is needed. The committee will continue this discussion at its summer 2023 videoconference [See Nonlegislative Item].

2. **Update on NCAA Division II Academic Performance Census data submissions.** The committee reviewed Academic Performance Census (APC) data submissions for the 2022-23 academic year. Eight institutions either failed to submit their data or submitted their data after the deadline. The committee reviewed seven waiver requests from institutions that triggered the penalty for failure to submit. The waiver requests from Savannah State University and Walsh University were approved due to a totality of the circumstances, while the waiver requests from Emmanuel College, Kentucky State University, University of Indianapolis, University of Puerto Rico, Bayamon, and University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, were denied due to a lack of mitigating circumstances.

[Note: Dani Mabry, women's lacrosse student-athlete, Rockhurst University, recused themselves from the discussion and voting on the waiver request from the University of Indianapolis.]

3. **Review of Federal Graduation Rates and NCAA Division II Academic Success Rates.** NCAA staff provided the annual update of trends in current graduation rates. The federal graduation rate and Academic Success Rate (ASR) for student-athletes matched last year's percentages. The national four-year ASR average was 76% overall. The federal graduation rate for student-athletes remains at 60%, while the general student body value is 52%. Scores are based on the 2012-2015 cohorts.

4. **Review of 2026-32 NCAA Division II Strategic Plan timeline.** Staff facilitated a conversation regarding the proposed timeline for a new Division II Strategic Plan. The committee reviewed the results of the 2021 NCAA Division II SWOT analysis and discussed what new topics should be considered during the development of the future strategic plan.

5. **Update on the NCAA Eligibility Center's communication plan regarding the adoption of NCAA Division II Proposal No. 2023-4 [Eligibility – Freshman Academic Requirements – Elimination of Standardized Test-Score Requirements (SAT or ACT)].**

Staff provided a brief overview of the communication plan that has been developed to educate the Division II membership, prospective student-athletes and high schools on the change to the initial-eligibility requirements that were adopted at 2023 NCAA Convention.

6. **Discussion regarding the modernization of the core-course legislation.** Staff provided an update and sought feedback on a potential legislative change that would combine core-course delivery methods. Current legislation specifies separate definitions for ‘traditional’ and ‘nontraditional’ methods (which are becoming more traditional). The draft concept will be refined this spring and will be reviewed by the committee during its summer 2023 videoconference to determine whether a legislative change is warranted.
7. **Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee was provided an update from the NCAA Board of Governors’ most recent meeting, specifically highlighting the work of the NCAA Board of Governors Subcommittee on Congressional Engagement and Action. Further, staff led the committee through a review of the final report from the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee, specifically those items related to academics. The committee will continue to receive updates during future meetings and discuss whether any changes in Division II are necessary.
8. **Updates from January 2023 meetings of the NCAA Division II Management Council and NCAA Division II Presidents Council.** Staff provided an update from the January 2023 meetings of the Management Council and Presidents Council.
9. **Review of the NCAA Division II newly adopted legislation.** Staff provided an update on the 11 proposals that were adopted at the 2023 Convention.
10. **Update from the October 2022 NCAA Division II International Records Committee meeting.** Staff provided an update on the recent work of the NCAA International Student Records Committee.
11. **Update on education initiatives.** Staff provided an update on the 2023 Regional Rules Seminar, noting that the seminar is returning to an in-person event. The seminar will take place March 16-18 in Indianapolis.
12. **Election of vice chair.** The committee elected Karen Hjerpe, director of athletics, Pennsylvania Western University, California, to serve as vice chair effective immediately.
13. **Approval of the December 12, 2022, videoconference report of the Academic Requirements Committee.** The committee reviewed and approved its December 12, 2022, videoconference meeting report.
14. **Review of the Division II Academic Requirements Committee roster.** The committee reviewed the updated roster.

15. **Future meeting schedule.** Staff reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule. The summer 2023 meeting date has yet to be scheduled. The committee selected September 19 for its fall videoconference and February 7, 2024, as its next in-person meeting date.

Committee Chair: David Haase, University of West Georgia
Staff Liaisons: Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Jeremy Christoffels, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Robert Turick, Research

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee February 8, 2023, Videoconference
Attendees:
Timothy Briles, Georgian Court University.
David Haase, University of West Georgia.
Theresa Hanson, Simon Fraser University.
Karen Hjerpe, Pennsylvania Western University, California.
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University.
Danny McCabe, Adelphi University.
Carrie Michaels, Shippensburg University, (Management Council chair).
Madison Peterson, Augustana University.
Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College.
Kelli Wooley, Cameron University.
Absentees:
Cathy Cox, Georgia College.
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:
Susan Britsch, Jeremy Christoffels and Robert Turick.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Olivia Beach, Gary Brown, Alyson Grady, Terri Steeb Gronau, Doug Healey, Maritza Jones, Sarah Overpeck, Angela Red, Olivia Sappington and Jenny Collins Taylor.