



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 20, 2024, IN-PERSON MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Discussion regarding NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.5.5.1 (general rule).** The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee reviewed Division II Bylaw 14.5.5.1 and alternative options to the current four-year transfer requirements. The committee began its initial discussions on the alternative options and will seek feedback from various Division II committees and affiliate groups. The committee will review the feedback during its April 2024 videoconference.
2. **Update on Division II Academic Performance Census data submissions.** The committee reviewed Academic Performance Census data submissions for the 2023-24 academic year. Eight institutions either failed to submit their data or submitted their data after the deadline. The committee reviewed five waiver requests from institutions that triggered the penalty for failure to submit. The waiver requests from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, West Liberty University and Winston-Salem State University were approved due to the totality of the circumstances, while the waiver request from Barton College was denied due to a lack of mitigating circumstances.

The committee also reviewed information submitted by Edward Waters University for failure to submit the data prior to the deadline; however, since Edward Waters University is currently in the Division II provisional membership process, the institution is not subject to the penalty for failure to submit. The institution's failure to submit their data prior to the deadline was communicated to the NCAA Division II Membership Committee.

[Note: Carlin Chesick, senior associate commissioner, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; and Karen Hjerpe, director of athletics, Pennsylvania Western University, California, recused themselves from the discussion and voting on the waiver request from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.]

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 53%. Scores are based on the 2013-2016 cohorts.

4. **Discussion on membership feedback related to referrals from the NCAA Division II Implementation Committee.** The committee continued its discussions regarding the Division II Implementation Committee's referral to review progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer eligibility requirements. Specifically, the committee noted during its September 2023 videoconference, a desire to continue its conversation regarding the process of determining a student-athlete's transferable grade-point average (GPA) and a self-applied, one-time progress-toward-degree waiver. The committee will continue its discussion on the transferable GPA and self-applied, one-time progress-toward-degree waiver during its June 2024 videoconference.

Further, the Academic Requirements Committee reviewed its noncontroversial recommendation from its September 2023 videoconference, which would permit two-year college transfers to use any academic degree from any two-year college(s) attended. The committee clarified that a two-year college transfer may utilize full-time semesters or quarters from any two-year college, regardless of four-year college attendance, to satisfy Bylaw 14.5.4.1 (eligibility for competition, practice and athletics aid – graduation from two-year college).

5. **Referral from the NCAA Division II Management Council on the legislative recommendation from the Division II Academic Requirements Committee regarding Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.2.1 (application of rule to transfer student).** The committee discussed a question from the Division II Management Council regarding the committee's legislative recommendation to eliminate the requirement that the nine-semester or eight-quarter hours must be transferable degree credit. Specifically, Division II Management Council requested clarification on whether the certifying institution was required to obtain confirmation from the previous institution that the credit hours, for a student-athlete in their fifth semester/seventh quarter or later, were degree applicable. The committee confirmed that the intent of the recommendation was for the nine-semester/eight-quarter hours to be earned at the previous institution, rather than degree applicable and confirmation from the previous institution was unnecessary.
6. **Referrals from NCAA Division II Legislation Committee.** The committee reviewed two referrals from the Legislation Committee. During its September videoconference, the Legislation Committee recommended the elimination of Bylaws 14.1.8.2 (international student exception) and 14.8.1.1 (academic and general requirements) and requested that the Academic Requirements Committee review both bylaws and determine the appropriate location (e.g., the Academic Requirements Committee policies and procedures). The committee determined that the bylaws should be eliminated rather than placed in the Academic Requirements Committee policies and procedures due to them being redundant or unnecessary.
7. **Discussion regarding less-than-full-time waivers for graduate student-athletes and the NCAA Division II Previously Approved Waiver List.** The committee discussed less-than-full-time waivers for graduate student-athletes and whether scenarios specific to a graduate student-athlete seeking to enroll less than full time should be placed on the

previously approved waiver list (PAL). The committee agreed that these scenarios should be placed on the PAL. Staff will update the PAL and provide an updated version for the committee to review during its June 2024 videoconference.

8. **Review of Bylaw 14.4.3.8.1 (missed term exception).** The committee reviewed the application of the missed term exception and whether the current application of the exception is still accurate, or if any clarification should be added to provide guidance for the membership. The committee confirmed staff's analysis of the missed term exception but requested staff perform a legislative history to continue its review. The committee will continue its discussion during its June 2024 videoconference.
9. **Report from the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Academic Interpretations Subcommittee October 2, 2023, videoconference.** The committee reviewed an interpretation that was appealed to the Academic Interpretations Subcommittee regarding the application of the medical absence waiver and a December 6, 1993, educational column. Specifically, the educational column restricts access to a medical absence waiver if the student-athlete retroactively withdraws from a completed term for medical reasons. The committee noted that this application is overly restrictive if a student-athlete presents sufficient medical documentation supporting the retroactive withdrawal. The committee agreed to issue an official interpretation to confirm that a student-athlete who medically withdraws may have access to a medical absence waiver, as follows:

Medical Absence Waiver and Retroactive Withdrawal (II).

The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee confirmed that a student-athlete who has completed a term and is permitted to retroactively withdraw from a term because of an incapacitating injury or illness, in accordance with institutional policy, may utilize the medical absence waiver exception to satisfy Division II Bylaw 14.4 (progress-toward-degree requirements) provided supporting medical documentation is available.

[Reference: NCAA Division II Bylaw 14.4.3.9.1 (medical absence waiver)].

10. **Discussion on the Division II Operating Plan.** The committee reviewed and discussed the draft 2026-32 Division II Operating Plan. Specifically, the committee provided feedback on the strategic priority areas. The feedback will assist in the full implementation of the division's operating plan.
11. **Review of the NCAA Division II newly adopted legislation.** Staff provided an update on the newly adopted legislation from the 2024 NCAA Convention.
12. **Update on educational initiatives.** Staff provided an update on 2023-24 educational initiatives. Specifically, it was noted that the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar will take place June 12-14, 2024, in Las Vegas.
13. **Update from the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update on key

items from the January Board of Governors meeting.

14. **Review of the NCAA Division I Transformation Committee Report.** The committee reviewed items outlined in the Division I Transformation Committee report that directly impact areas specific to academics.
15. **Updates from the NCAA Division II Presidents Council and Division II Management Council October 2023 Summary of Actions and the Presidents Council and Management Council January 2024 meetings.** The committee received an update on the action taken at the October 2023 and January 2024, Division II Presidents Council, now named the Division II Executive Board and Division II Management Council meetings.
16. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee August 28, 2023, electronic vote, September 19, 2023, videoconference and December 1, 2023, electronic vote reports.** The committee reviewed and approved the reports from its August 28, 2023, electronic vote, September 19, 2023, videoconference and December 1, 2023, electronic vote.
17. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee roster.** The committee reviewed the current roster and approved new subcommittee appointments.
18. **Future meeting dates.** Staff reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule, specifically noting that the Academic Requirements Committee will meet virtually in April to continue its discussion regarding Division II Bylaw 14.5.5.1. (general rule).
 - a. April videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - b. June videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - c. September videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - d. February 2025, in-person meeting; Indianapolis.

Committee Chair: Karen Hjerpe, Pennsylvania Western University, California
Staff Liaisons: Jeremy Christoffels, Academic and Membership Affairs
Robert Turick, Research

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee February 20, 2024, In-Person Meeting	
Attendees:	
Carlin Chesick, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Cathy Cox, Georgia College.	
Karen Hjerpe, Pennsylvania Western University, California.	
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University.	
Jason Jones, Catawba College.	
Liz Jorn, Truman State University.	
Danny McCabe, Adelphi University.	
Deborah Narang, University of Alaska Anchorage.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
Krista Plummer, Northwood University.	
Ryan Quann, Goldey-Beacom College.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jeremy Christoffels and Robert Turick.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Terri Steeb Gronau, Kendee Hilliard, Chelsea Hooks, Maritza Jones, Angela Red, Drea Rog and Jared Tidemann.	