



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

**a. Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.6.2 – Eligibility – Transfer Regulations – Two-Year College Transfers – Nonrecruited Student Exception – Elimination of Admissions Requirement.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 14.5.4.6.2 (nonrecruited student exception) to eliminate the requirement that the student-athlete was eligible for admission to the certifying institution before initial enrollment in the two-year college.
- (2) Effective date. August 1, 2019, for student-athletes enrolling in an NCAA Division II institution on or after August 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. Following the 2016 Convention, the governance structure began assessing the culture of compliance and reviewed legislation to ensure its alignment with the compliance resources available on Division II campuses. Currently, only qualifiers may use a two-year transfer exception. To apply the nonrecruited student exception, one of the existing conditions requires the analysis of whether the student-athlete would have been immediately eligible for admission at the certifying institution before initial enrollment at the two-year college. This analysis can be challenging for institutions as it requires analysis of a hypothetical application. However, since these students were qualifiers, the academic concern should be minimal and ultimately be the institution's discretion to determine admissions at the time of application.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Noncontroversial Legislation – Bylaw 21.8.5.1 – Committees – Academic Requirements Committee – Composition – Chancellor or President Representative.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 21.8.5.1.1 (composition) to increase the size of the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee from 10 to 11 members; further, to specify that one member of the committee shall be a chancellor or president from an active member institution not represented on the NCAA Division II Presidents Council.

- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Due to the subject matter under the purview of the committee, a member of the Division II Presidents Council has historically been assigned as an informal liaison to provide presidential level guidance on academic issues impacting active member institutions. Amending the composition to include a chancellor or president would ensure continued presidential guidance while decreasing the travel burden on a Presidents Council member who also serves in the liaison role.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Increase in committee expenses with one additional member attending in-person meetings (e.g., travel, lodging, per diem).
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review of Forward Progress Athletics Consulting report regarding academic data review.** The committee received a final report regarding the academic data review conducted by Forward Progress Athletics Consulting as part of the Foundation for the Future initiative. The report contained recommendations based on reviews of institutional academic data and feedback from surveys sent to the following individuals: (1) Institutional staff members who submit data in the NCAA Academic Portal; (2) Current and former members of Division II governance committees; and (3) Institutional and conference administrators, including directors of athletics, chancellors and presidents, and commissioners. The committee agreed to continue its review of the recommendations and potential budgetary implications during its February 2019 meeting.
- 2. Discussion regarding initiatives to assist Division II institutions in the development or enhancement of academic advising programs.** The Division II Presidents Council directed the committee to develop a set of initiatives to assist institutions in strengthening athletics academic advising on campus. The committee began its review by developing a list of current strengths and potential needs at the institutional level. The committee will review and discuss results of an upcoming membership survey, as well as feedback from the 2018 Faculty Athletics Representatives Association annual meeting, during a teleconference in December.

3. **Referrals from NCAA Division II Legislation Committee.** The Academic Requirements Committee considered three legislative referrals recommended by the NCAA Division II Culture of Compliance Think Tank.
  - a. **Bylaw 14.1.2 (Validity of Academic Credentials).** The committee reviewed current legislation that requires member institutions to be primarily responsible for determining the validity of academic credentials of two-year or four-year transfer prospective student-athletes. The committee agreed that the responsibility should fall under the purview of the member institution and recommended no changes.
  - b. **Bylaw 14.4.3.7.10 (Nontraditional Courses From Another Institution).** The committee considered if it is feasible for institutions to monitor whether current legislated conditions (i.e., course is available to any student at the certifying institution, enrollment is in the same manner as any other student, enrollment occurs during the offering institution's regular enrollment periods), have been met for a student-athlete who has enrolled in a nontraditional course at an institution other than the certifying institution. The committee agreed that while increasingly complicated, it is reasonable to expect institutions to monitor these requirements and recommended no changes.
  - c. **Bylaw 14.5.4.6.2 (Nonrecruited Student Exception).** The committee reviewed the nonrecruited student exception for two-year college transfers and whether it was necessary for the student-athlete to meet the condition that they would have been admissible to the certifying institution prior to enrolling in the two-year college. The committee agreed this was an unnecessary requirement as the other elements of the exception prevent abuse. The committee recommended a noncontroversial legislative change. [See Legislative Action Item No. 1a.]
4. **Review of Federal Graduation Rate and NCAA Division II Academic Success Rate data.** The committee received a preview of the Federal Graduation Rate and ASR data that will be released to the public in mid-November. NCAA research staff presented data on trends in the Federal Graduation Rate and ASR.
5. **Discussion regarding the waiver directive related to previously approved waiver checklist.** The committee reviewed a recently adopted NCAA Division I academic waiver directive that allows institutions to self-apply relief on campus when specific mitigation can be documented. The review included the Division I previously approved waiver checklist as well as Division II waiver statistics from the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years. The committee directed staff to update the statistics from fall 2018 and develop a potential checklist applicable to Division II for further review during its February 2019 meeting.

6. **Discussion regarding waiver directive related to final-year eligibility.** The committee discussed whether to recommend adjusting the Division II progress-toward-degree waiver directive to include language allowing staff to consider flexibility for a student-athlete entering their final year of eligibility. The current directive is silent on the issue. The committee requested that staff develop language that could be added to the 2019-20 Division II waiver directive for review during its February 2019 meeting.
7. **Review of the 2017-18 NCAA Division II initial-eligibility waiver statistics.** The committee received an update related to the number of initial-eligibility waivers processed for the 2018-19 academic year following the implementation of the new initial-eligibility standards. The committee will be provided a full report during its February 2019 meeting.
8. **Review of 2019 NCAA Convention Division II proposals.** Staff provided a review regarding the proposals that will be presented for a membership vote at the upcoming convention.
9. **Review of the Division II Diploma Dashboard.** Staff provided a demonstration of the interactive diploma dashboard that allows users to dissect data to compare groups of student-athletes based on year of graduation, gender, race and in some cases, sport. The dashboard is currently active and available to the public via the NCAA.org website.
10. **Overview of the online transfer portal.** The committee received a demonstration of the new transfer portal that will be available to the membership in October 2018.
11. **Update on NCAA Division I academic misconduct interpretation issues.** Staff provided an update regarding ongoing conversations conducted by a Division I working group designed to review the current interpretation and application of academic misconduct legislation. The committee requested future updates as they become available.
12. **Review of 2018-19 Division II priorities.** Staff provided an update on the 2018-19 Division II priorities.
13. **Review of the May 2018 Academic Requirements Committee teleconference report and August 2018 electronic communication.** The committee reviewed and approved its May 2018 teleconference report and August 2018 electronic communication.
14. **Review of the July/August 2018 NCAA Division II Management Council and NCAA Division II Presidents Council summary of actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the July and August 2018 meetings of the Management Council and the Presidents Council.

- 15. Election of committee chair.** The committee elected Christina Whetsel, assistant athletic director for compliance and academic services at Augusta University, to serve as the chair effective February 1, 2019.
- 16. Campus updates and issues.** The committee discussed academic updates and issues at their institutions.
- 17. Future meeting schedule.** The committee affirmed February 11-12, 2019, as the dates for its winter 2019 in-person meeting. The committee agreed to conduct its fall 2019 in-person meeting September 12-13, 2019. Staff will coordinate with the committee to schedule its June 2019 teleconference.

*Committee Chair: Paul Leidig, Grand Valley State University*

*Staff Liaisons: Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs*

*Gregg Summers, Research*

NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee September 13, 2018, In-Person Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Jennifer Heimstead, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.	
Tim Ladd, Palm Beach Atlantic University.	
Paul Leidig, Grand Valley State University.	
Pennie Parker, Rollins College.	
Travis Smith, University of Indianapolis.	
Jessica Swiney, King University.	
Shawn Ward, Le Moyne College.	
Patrick Wempe, Henderson State University.	
Christina Whetsel, Augusta University.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Felicia Johnson, Virginia Union University.	
Jeff Yasalonis, University of Mount Olive.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Jake Renie, University of Indianapolis.	
John Shukie, Forward Progress Athletics Consulting.	
<b>NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Susan Britsch and Gregg Summers.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Madison Ardnt, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Melissa Marchini, Susan Peal, Stephanie Quigg Smith and Karen Wolf.	