

REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 13, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **Noncontroversial Legislation -- NCAA Division II Bylaw 7.5.1.7.2 -- Use of Association's Registered Marks.**
 - (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 7.5.1.7.2 (use of Association's registered marks) to remove the ability for an institution in provisional year three of the Division II provisional membership process to use the Association's registered marks; further, to clarify that an institution in the Division II membership process is limited to using Division II specific logos.
 - (2) Effective date. Immediate.
 - (3) Rationale. Under current Division II legislation, an institution in provisional year three of the Division II provisional membership process may use Division II specific logos and the registered marks of the Association, while institutions in provisional years one and two are limited to using Division II specific logos. Conversely, as outlined in the Division II Membership Committee's policies and procedures, institutions in the provisional membership process may only use the Division II specific logo throughout the membership process. The committee determined that it was appropriate to amend the legislation to align with the committee's policies and procedures to specify that access to use of the registered marks of the Association should be limited to active member institutions. Aligning the legislation with the committee's policies and procedures will ensure consistent guidance is provided to provisional institutions.
 - (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
 - (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Preliminary review of the institution that submitted an application to begin the Division II expedited provisional membership process in the 2025-26 academic year.** The committee received an update regarding the institution that submitted an application

for the expedited provisional membership process by the October 1, 2024, deadline. The following institution was discussed:

- Ferrum College.

2. **Active member issues.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an update regarding the merger between Bloomfield College and Montclair State University (Division III), which was executed as of July 1, 2024. Staff will continue to review the information provided by the institution and provide an update during a future meeting.

Additionally, the committee continued its discussion on the potential merger between the University of Findlay and Bluffton University (Division III). The committee reviewed additional information provided by the institution and agreed to table its discussion until accreditation is resolved through the regional accrediting agency.

Further, the committee received an update regarding the strategic partnership between Ursuline College and Gannon University. More information regarding the strategic partnership will be provided at a future meeting.

Finally, the committee received an update regarding the acquisition of Post University by Universidad Andres Bello, an international four-year institution. The committee reviewed the information provided by the institution and determined that additional information is not necessary at this time. The committee will continue its discussion regarding the acquisition during a future meeting.

[NOTE: Cindy McKnight, director of athletics, Ursuline College, recused themselves from the discussions regarding the University of Findlay's merger with Bluffton University and Ursuline College's strategic partnership with Gannon University.]

3. **Update regarding the use of logos by institutions in the provisional membership process.** The committee discussed Bylaw 7.5.1.7.2 and what should be permissible regarding a provisional member institution's use of the marks of the Association. While the legislation permits an institution in provisional year three of the provisional membership process to utilize the marks of the Association, the committee's policies and procedures prohibits it. Due to the discrepancy between the legislation and the committee's policies and procedures, the committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to prohibit the use of the marks of the Association by institutions in provisional year three of the membership process and only permit institutions in the provisional membership process to utilize Division II specific logos, regardless of year. [See Legislative Action Item.]
4. **Review of guiding principles for NCAA Division II Membership.** The committee reviewed the Division II membership guiding principles as it relates to strategic membership growth, the role of the committee and the purpose of the membership process. Upon review, the committee determined that no changes to the guiding principles were necessary.

5. **Update regarding the Division II to Division I reclassification process.** The committee received an update regarding the Division I Strategic Vision and Planning Committee's review of the Division II to Division I reclassification process.
6. **Review of 2025 NCAA Convention meeting with provisional institutions.** Staff provided an overview of the programming for the provisional member meeting that will occur on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, during the Convention.
7. **Review of Convention assignments.** The committee discussed its role and responsibilities during the Convention for credentialing and vote counting during the business session.
8. **Update on institutions in the membership process.** The committee received an update on the 11 institutions currently in the membership process.
9. **Approval of the September 23, 2024, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its September 23, 2024, videoconference report.
10. **Division II strategic planning process.** The committee received an update on the recommendations from the Division II Think Tank that was held in September. Staff noted that a Division II survey will be sent to the broader Division II membership to gather feedback in January 2025. Governance committees will use the results of the survey to finalize the Division II Operating Plan, outline initiatives to accomplish, including the timing for them and determine a funding model for implementation. The final 2026-32 Division II Operating Plan will be shared at the January 2026 NCAA Convention.
11. **Update on the work of the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the Board of Governors most recent meeting.
12. **Review of the October 2024 NCAA Division II Executive Board and NCAA Division II Management Council summary of actions.** Staff provided an update on the summary of actions from the Executive Board and Management Council October 2024 meetings.
13. **Update from the October 2024 Division II Conference Commissioners Association and Division II Athletics Directors Association meetings.** Staff provided an update on the October meetings of the Conference Commissioners Association and Athletics Directors Association.
14. **Future scheduled meetings/videoconferences.**
 - a. February 11, 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - b. April 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.
 - c. July 8-9, 2025, in-person meeting; Indianapolis.
 - d. September 2025, videoconference; timing to be determined.

Report of the NCAA Division II Membership Committee

November 13, 2024, Videoconference

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Committee Chair: Christina Whetsel, Augusta University

Staff Liaisons: Jeremy Christoffels, Academic and Membership Affairs

Jordan Lysiak, Academic and Membership Affairs

Katelyn Skarr, Academic and Membership Affairs

NCAA Division II Membership Committee November 13, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Michael Bazemore, Montana State University Billings.	
Molly Belden, Northeast-10 Conference.	
Melanie Brunsdon, Winona State University.	
Troy Dell, Frostburg State University.	
Kris Dunbar, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Robert Mallory, Missouri Southern State University.	
Jessica McIntyre, Lee University.	
Cindy McKnight, Ursuline College.	
Thomas Newsom, Southeastern Oklahoma State University.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Management Council chair).	
James Reid, Angelo State University.	
Christie Ward, Catawba College.	
Christina Whetsel, Augusta University.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:	
Jeremy Christoffels, Jordan Lysiak and Katelyn Skarr.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dana Conner, Brooke Dixon, Terri Steeb Gronau, Molly Hansen, Maritza Jones and Angela Red.	