



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 6, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **Request for Feedback Regarding Access to Automatic Qualification for Championships for New Division II Conferences.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division II Management Council request that the NCAA Division II Championships Committee provide feedback on whether the five-year waiting period for a new conference to obtain automatic qualification for championships remains appropriate. [see NCAA Division II Bylaw 7.3.5.1.3 (voting rights and other conference active membership privileges).]
- (2) Effective date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. As part of an ongoing discussion by the NCAA Division II Membership Committee regarding the minimum requirements to form a new Division II conference, the committee reviewed active membership privileges that a conference has access to and the timing the conference first obtains access to such privileges. During its meeting, the committee discussed whether it remains appropriate for a new conference to wait five years prior to obtaining automatic qualification for championships. Due to the Championships Committee's expertise in this area, the Membership Committee requested feedback on whether the five-year waiting period should be amended.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. None.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Preliminary review of the institution that submitted an application to begin the Division II expedited provisional membership process in the 2026-27 academic year.** The committee received an update regarding the institution that submitted an application for the expedited provisional membership process by the October 1, 2025, deadline. The following institution was discussed:
 - Shawnee State University.

2. **Discussion on the minimum requirements to form a new Division II conference.** The committee continued its discussion regarding the minimum requirements to form a new Division II conference. Specifically, the committee reviewed potential concepts that would provide flexibility to new conferences and provisional institutions when making application. The concepts included changes to the application deadline for new conferences and applicant institutions and the establishment of a “candidate conference” designation. Upon its review, the committee expressed general support for the concepts brought forward, with a few modifications. As a result, staff will make the necessary updates and bring to the committee to discuss at a future meeting along with the feedback from the Championships Committee related to the application of the five-year waiting period for new conferences to obtain automatic qualification for championships. [See Nonlegislative Action Item.]

3. **Active member issues.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an update regarding Saint Augustine’s University. Specifically, the institution failed to pay its 2024-25 NCAA membership dues by the August 31, 2025, deadline. As such, the institution has forfeited its NCAA membership, effective immediately [Bylaw 7.3.4.3 (failure to pay dues)].

Additionally, the committee received an update regarding the merger between Ursuline College and Gannon University. Upon its review, the committee requested the following: (1) Confirmation from the involved institutions regarding how full-time enrollment on the campuses would work, specifically, whether a student-athlete can take a full-time course load at one institution while competing for the other; and (2) Given the involved institutions are located in different states, an overview for how the institutions will account for differences in state law when it comes to NCAA-related issues, such as name, image and likeness.

[NOTE: Cindy McKnight, director of athletics, Ursuline College, recused themselves from the discussion regarding Ursuline College’s merger with Gannon University.]

4. **Update regarding Utah State University Eastern inquiry.** The committee discussed an inquiry from Utah State University Eastern regarding the institution’s potential interest in becoming an NCAA Division II member. During its discussion, the committee determined that additional information and clarity is necessary regarding the structure of the institution. As a result, the committee agreed to table its discussion and review the additional information during its February 10, 2026, videoconference.
5. **Update regarding approach to assessing institutional acquisitions, consolidations, mergers and integrations.** Staff provided an update regarding the questionnaire that is provided to institutions to assist with assessing acquisitions, consolidations, mergers and integrations. The updated questionnaire reflects questions commonly posed by the committee and will help with ensuring efficiency within the committee’s review process. It was noted that the same questionnaire is used in Divisions I and III.

6. **Feedback related to direct institutional name, image and likeness.** The committee discussed a request for feedback from the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee related to direct institutional name, image and likeness (NIL). The committee offered feedback on several questions being asked by several groups within the Division II membership.
7. **Review of 2026 NCAA Convention meeting with provisional institutions.** Staff provided an overview of the programming for the provisional member meeting that will occur Wednesday, January 14, 2026, during the Convention.
8. **Review of Convention assignments.** The committee discussed its role and responsibilities during the Convention for credentialing and vote counting during the business session.
9. **Update regarding review of for-profit institutions.** Staff provided an update regarding the review of the for-profit Division II institutions. The two active for-profit Division II institutions (Post University and Salem University) have submitted forms affirming their compliance with the for-profit institution legislation outlined in Bylaw 7.3.1.3.1.1 (exception -- for-profit institutions). The next affirmation by the for-profit institutions will be due in 2027.
10. **Update on institutions in the membership process.** The committee received an update on the nine institutions currently in the membership process.
11. **Approval of the September 11, 2025, videoconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved its September 11, 2025, videoconference report.
12. **Update on the work of the NCAA Board of Governors.** The committee received an update from the Board of Governors most recent meeting.
13. **Review of the October 2025 NCAA Division II Executive Board and Management Council summary of actions.** Staff provided an update on the summary of actions from the Executive Board and Management Council October 2025 meetings.
14. **Update from the September 2025 Division II Conference Commissioners Association and Division II Athletics Directors Association meetings.** Staff provided an update on the September meetings of the Conference Commissioners Association and Athletics Directors Association.
15. **Election of chair and vice chair.** The committee elected Melanie Brunsdon, deputy athletic director and senior woman administrator, Winona State University, as chair; and Christie Ward, deputy athletic director, Catawba College, as vice chair, effective January 16, 2026.
16. **Future scheduled meetings/videoconferences.**
 - a. February 10, 2026, videoconference; timing to be determined.

- b. April 2026, videoconference; date and timing to be determined.
- c. July 8-9, 2026, in-person meeting; Indianapolis.
- d. September 2026, videoconference; date and timing to be determined.

Committee Chair: Christina Whetsel, Augusta University

Staff Liaisons: Jeremy Christoffels, Division II Governance and Member Services

Jordan Lysiak, Division II Governance and Member Services

Katelyn Skarr, Division II Governance and Member Services

NCAA Division II Membership Committee November 6, 2025, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Michael Bazemore, Montana State University Billings.	
Molly Belden, Northeast-10 Conference.	
Melanie Brunsdon, Winona State University.	
Kris Dunbar, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Jessica Grasso, East Coast Conference.	
Robert Mallory, Missouri Southern State University.	
Jessica McIntyre, Lee University.	
Cindy McKnight, Ursuline College.	
Thomas Newsom, Pittsburg 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:	
Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Taylor Koper, Angela Red and Jared Tidemann.	