



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 13, 2023, IN-PERSON MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Referrals from Division II Implementation Committee.** The committee reviewed two referrals from the Implementation Committee. The first referral asks SAAC to determine if there is a need to add SAAC representation on Division II general committees that do not currently have a SAAC member. The second referral asks SAAC to determine if it is beneficial for committees that already have SAAC representation to add additional student-athletes or former student-athletes that do not currently serve on Division II SAAC. The committee will seek feedback on the second referral from conference SAACs and discuss both referrals at its July meeting.
2. **Updates on 2022-23 Division II SAAC Goals.** The committee discussed its goals to continue empowering student-athletes to become the “Total Package Student-Athlete” by emphasizing diversity and inclusion, mental health and life after the game.
 - a. **Diversity and Inclusion.** The task force conducted student-athlete interviews at the 2023 Division II National Championships Festival. With April being diversity month, the task force plans to spotlight select people using the Division II SAAC Twitter.
 - b. **Mental Health.** The task force plans to create a newsletter that will highlight student-athletes gearing up for finals and the end of the semester. Moving forward they plan to spotlight events on campuses that promote student-athlete well-being to provide examples for other campuses to consider implementing. The task force also plans to promote mental health speakers.
 - c. **Life After the Game.** The task force plans to evolve the format of the Champions for Life podcast and host a panel on the podcast in May. They plan to increase the utilization of the Division II SAAC Twitter to promote the podcast.
3. **Discussion on Campus SAAC Guide.** The committee received an update from a task force that is modernizing Division II’s current campus SAAC guide. The task force plans to condense the existing materials and provide an updated document that will better assist with the creation and support of campus SAACs.
4. **Visit with NCAA President Charlie Baker.** The committee met with new NCAA President Charlie Baker and discussed the work he has done in his first few months. President Baker shared how he has plans to meet with all 90 conferences in his first 100 days in addition to the work he is doing surrounding congressional engagement. He also shared his top

priority heading into his new role is the mental health and well-being of all student-athletes.

5. **Division I Transformation Committee Update.** The committee received an update on the Division I Transformation Committee report and the items that could benefit Division I student-athletes if the recommendations are adopted. One item discussed was Division I's holistic student-athlete benefits model. The committee was informed that every committee in Division II is reviewing the report to understand potential impacts on the division. The SAAC will receive another update on the recommendations after Division I takes action.
6. **NCAA Board of Governors Update.** The committee received an update from Madeleine McKenna, the Board of Governors' former Division II student-athlete representative, on the work of the board. The Board of Governors and the Association believe it is beneficial for the NCAA to work with Congress to garner protections around college athletics. The committee discussed the importance of student-athletes using their voice to advocate on behalf of the NCAA with legislatures. The committee also was updated on the NCAA's media rights negotiations. The Board of Governors is looking to utilize all three divisional SAACs to understand what is important for student-athletes in the new media rights agreements.
7. **Update on Board of Governors Subcommittee on Congressional Engagement and Action.** The committee received an update on the work of the subcommittee regarding the college sports landscape, the challenges ahead and the potential impact. The committee discussed the virtual townhalls that are being held with Division III SAAC. These townhalls serve as educational opportunities for student-athletes on the importance of congressional engagement. Emma Kramer and Davaris Cheeks, two Division II SAAC members who serve on Division II's congressional engagement advisory group, will lead the sessions with two Division III SAAC members.

The committee was informed that Division I SAAC will be releasing a statement in the coming days. The statement reflects Division I SAAC's support of the holistic student-athlete benefits model, a request for two student-athletes to serve as voting members on the Division I Board of Directors, their interest to be involved in congressional engagement conversations with the Division I board and elected representatives, and their support of a national legislative solution for NIL. Division II SAAC discussed the statement and reiterated its plans to release a similar statement in May. The committee formed a working group to write the statement and plans to share a draft with the full committee for feedback.

8. **2023 SAAC Super Region Convention.** The committee prepared for the division's fifth SAAC Super Region Convention for conferences and institutions in the Atlantic and East regions April 14-16 at the Westin Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The committee prepared to lead and facilitate discussions during the super region convention. Student-athletes and administrators from the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, Central

Intercollegiate Athletic Association, East Coast Conference, Mountain East Conference, Northeast-10 Conference, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and the super region's independent institutions attended. SAAC will host the sixth super region convention in Atlanta, Georgia in November 2023.

9. **NCAA Transfer Portal Update.** The committee received an update on data metrics from the Transfer Portal across all divisions. The committee also was updated on the work of the education dashboard for student-athletes looking to transfer and the requirement to complete an education module before entering the portal.
10. **Discussion on Election of Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee Representative.** The committee discussed the adoption of the 2023 NCAA Convention proposal that will amend the Division II organizational structure. Effective Feb. 1, 2024, the Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee will consist of 11 members, including one Division II SAAC representative. The committee discussed how it will determine which representative will serve on the strategic planning and finance committee. It voted to hold a nominations process amongst current SAAC members and conduct an election consistent with current practices for the committee's leadership openings.
11. **Make-A-Wish[®] Update.** The committee received an update on the total donations so far in the 2022-23 academic year. Through the end of March, Division II institutions and conferences have raised over \$63,000. The total is lower than previous years, but the hope is to see a spike in donations towards the end of the spring and fiscal year. The committee received updates that Make-A-Wish is looking to streamline the online donation process and release new marketing and branding materials specific to Division II. The committee discussed ways to continue to highlight the relationship between Make-A-Wish and Division II after hearing there is great interest from local chapters about the partnership.
12. **Team IMPACT[®] Update.** The committee was informed that Division II currently has 131 active matches involving Team IMPACT children and there have been 621 matches since Team IMPACT was created. The committee learned that a current Team IMPACT family who is matched with East Stroudsburg's softball team will speak at the super region convention.
13. **Discussion on SAAC Elections Process.** The committee continued its discussion from January regarding the SAAC policies and procedures. The committee took action to add to the policies that the chair will serve on the Division II Administrative Committee effective August 1, 2023, and the vice chair serves on the Division II Legislation Committee as part of their vice chair responsibilities. The committee approved new language for the committee's elections process that it updated at its January meeting.
14. **2026-32 Division II Strategic Plan Update.** The committee received an update on the proposed timeline for Division II's 2026-32 strategic plan and discussed current priorities and concerns from a student-athlete perspective.

15. **Conference Updates.** Committee members gave an update on their respective conference SAAC meetings, initiatives and events.
16. **Division II Committee Reports.** Committee members serving on Division II committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Division II committees represented were the Academic Requirements Committee, Championships Committee, Legislation Committee, Management Council and Presidents Council.
17. **Association-Wide Committee Reports.** Committee members representing Association-wide committees provided updates on their respective committees. The Association-wide committees represented were the Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, Mental Health Advisory Group, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, Olympic Sports Liaison Committee and the Committee on Women's Athletics.
18. **New Division II Championships Committee Representative.** The committee elected Courtney Medwin from the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference as the committee's new Championships Committee representative.
19. **New Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee Member.** The committee elected Eddie Baker, an at-large representative from The College of Saint Rose, as a new Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee member.
20. **Division II 50th Anniversary Celebration.** The committee received an update on the marketing plan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Division II. The celebration will kick off internally with NCAA staff May 16 and publicly Aug. 7. It will run throughout the 2023-24 academic year and culminate with the 2024 Division II Baseball Championship finals. Campuses and conferences will receive a communications kit and digital downloads ahead of the launch date to prepare for the celebration. In addition, specific administrators on each campus and in conference offices will receive 50th anniversary lapel pins. To celebrate the 50 years of the division, there will be a Gold Award, with winners announced at the 2024 Convention. This award is to celebrate one male and one female who have made a positive impact in Division II. The committee also received updates on a 50th anniversary scholarship, social media promotions and signage.
21. **Make It Yours Brand Strategy.** The committee received an update on the status of the Make It Yours brand strategy. National office staff have been engaging with marketing firm Barkley on a proposal that would target prospective student-athletes and those who influence where they choose to attend college to learn about their perceptions of Division II. This proposal includes baseline market research, media strategy and tactical planning, and monthly quantitative and qualitative reporting.

22. **DII Day Recap.** The committee discussed the second annual DII Day. Division II conferences, schools and student-athletes across the country participated in the celebration of Division II and highlighted the division's mission and Life in the Balance philosophy Feb. 22. Overall, the day was successful as #D2Day was trending at No. 7 on Twitter.
23. **January 2023 and March 2023 Meeting Reports.** The January and March committee meeting reports were reviewed and approved.
24. **Future Meetings.**
 - a. July 14-15, 2023; Indianapolis.
 - b. July 15-16, 2023; SAAC/Management Council Summit, Indianapolis.
 - c. Nov. 16-19, 2023; in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Atlanta, Georgia.
 - d. Jan. 9-13, 2024, in conjunction with 2024 NCAA Convention; Phoenix, Arizona.

Committee Chair: Emma Kramer, Simon Fraser University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference
Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance
 Amanda Benzine, Women's Basketball
 Marcus Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Haydyn Gibson, Governance
 Becca Burchette Medel, Governance

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee April 13, 2023, In-Person Meeting	
Attendees:	
Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University, East Coast Conference.	
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Michaela Boyd, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference.	
Davaris Cheeks, Concordia University, St. Paul, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.	
Bennett Cherry, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University, Mountain East Conference.	
Cullen Dore, Francis Marion University, Conference Carolinas.	
Haley Gilbert, Augusta University, Peach Belt Conference.	
Theresa Grosbach, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
Molly Hansen, University of Montevallo, Gulf South Conference.	
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Myles Jackson, Queens College (New York), At-Large.	
Emma Kramer, Simon Fraser University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.	

Margaret Ann Langheim, Mars Hill University, South Atlantic Conference.
Dani Mabry, Rockhurst University, Great Lakes Valley Conference.
David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pacific West Conference.
Courtney Medwin, West Chester University, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
Austin Mondello, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
Tanner Olson, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Corbin Thaete, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association.
Thomas Webb Jr., Western New Mexico University, Lone Star Conference.
Katie Williamson, Southern Connecticut State University, Northeast-10 Conference.
Absentees:
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
Eddie Baker, The College of Saint Rose, At-Large.
Alexis Montalvo, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.
K'ymon Pope, Virginia State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
Sandra Woodley, University of Texas of Permian Basin, Lone Star Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Madeleine McKenna and Carrie Michaels.
NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Charlie Baker, Amanda Benzine, Gary Brown, Marcus Brown, Haydyn Gibson, Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Pat Lichtenstein, Becca Burchette Medel, Susan Peal, Liv Sappington, Jared Tidemann and Cari Van Senus.