REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 18-19, 2022, IN-PERSON MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

• None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Preparation for the 2022 NCAA Convention Division II Business Session. The Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee reviewed its legislative positions for the 2022 Division II business session and reviewed voting policies and procedures.

The legislative proposals discussed are listed below. The committee reviewed all aspects of the proposed legislation in preparation for the business session.


f. Proposal No. 2022-6 (2-5): Eligibility – Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements – Eligibility for Competition – Regulations for Administration of Progress-Toward-Degree – Credit Hours Earned or Accepted Toward a Minor – Elimination of Restriction on Credit Hours Earned During a Summer Term.


2. **New Appointments.** There are six new members joining the Division II SAAC: Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association; Davaris Cheeks, Concordia University, St. Paul, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference; Cullen Dore, Francis Marion University, Conference Carolinas; Alexis Hall, Queens College (New York), East Coast Conference; Reilly Johnston, Stonehill College, Northeast-10 Conference and Courtney Medwin, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

3. **Election of 2022 SAAC Executive Board.** The committee elected Wiley Cain, Great Midwest Athletic Conference, as chair of SAAC for 2022. The committee also elected the following individuals to executive board positions: Ismael Contreras, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, vice chair; Maggie Langheim, South Atlantic Conference, internal operations coordinator; and Sylvia Cortés, At-Large, external communications coordinator.


5. **Election of 2022 NCAA Division II and Association-Wide Committee Representatives.** New representatives were selected to serve on various Division II and Association-wide committees.

   a. Molly Hansen, Gulf South Conference, will serve on the Division II Academic Requirements Committee.

   b. Thomas Webb Jr., Lone Star Conference, will serve on the Division II Championships Committee.

   c. Michaela Boyd, Sunshine State Conference; Zach Brown, Peach Belt Conference; Ismael Contreras, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; Madeleine McKenna, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference; and Corbin Thaete, California Collegiate Athletic Association, will serve on the Division II Implementation Committee.

   d. Ismael Contreras, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, will serve on the Division II Legislation Committee as part of his vice chair responsibilities.

   e. Kiana Wiggins, At-Large, will serve on the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement and the NCAA Mental Health Advisory Group.
f. Leshlie Ramirez, Independent, will serve on the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports.

g. Zach Brown, Peach Belt Conference, will serve on the NCAA Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct.

h. Emma Kramer, Great Northwest Athletic Conference, will serve on the NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics.

i. Michaela Boyd, Sunshine State Conference, will serve on the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.

j. Skylar Ross, Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, will serve on the NCAA Olympic Sports Liaison Committee.

6. **Discussion with NCAA President Mark Emmert.** President Mark Emmert met with SAAC for an open forum in which the committee asked about several items, including Name, Image and Likeness, the Association’s transgender policy, the impact student-athletes had on the proposed new constitution and how the proposed new constitution provides greater autonomy for the three divisions. President Emmert reiterated the Association is dedicated to listening to student-athletes and having them involved in the Association’s work.

7. **Discussion with NCAA Board of Governors Chair.** The committee met with Board of Governors Chair Jack DeGioia for an open forum in which several topics were discussed, including his experience with the Constitution Committee, the proposed Board of Governors composition, the need for national, conference and campus SAACs and the importance of mental health and wellness.

8. **Discussion with Division II Presidents Council Chair.** The committee met with Presidents Council Chair Steven Shirley to discuss his reaction to the proposed Board of Governors composition, the committee’s support of Proposal 2022-7 (required day off for civic engagement), concerns regarding the NCAA Transfer Portal and the committee’s support for transgender policies and gender equity.

9. **Discussion with NCAA Chief Medical Officer Brian Hainline.** The committee received an update from Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline regarding COVID-19, the Association’s transgender policy and the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports recent discussions on the Association’s drug-testing policies.

10. **Discussion with NCAA Office of Legal Affairs.** The committee met with Jessica Kerr, NCAA Director of Legal Affairs and Associate General Counsel, to discuss Name, Image and Likeness and the Association’s transgender policy. The committee was informed of NIL guidelines and transgender policy rulings.
11. **Implementation Committee Update.** The committee received an update on the areas of review for the Division II Implementation Committee. The Implementation Committee gathered feedback from student-athletes and the membership on potential changes to Division II legislation and policies. The Implementation Committee believes Division II has a strong foundation and enhancements can be made to help make the division better. The Implementation Committee is split into six subcommittees and will have a national SAAC member on five of the six subcommittees. Student-athletes and the membership will have an opportunity to provide feedback throughout the process.

12. **2022 SAAC Super Region Convention Update.** The committee received an update on the next Division II SAAC Super Region Convention, which is scheduled for April 8-10, 2022, in Anaheim. The conferences included in this super region convention are the California Collegiate Athletic Association, Great Northwest Athletic Conference, Lone Star Conference, Pacific West Conference and Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. The committee also discussed the success of the 2021 November SAAC Super Region Convention.

13. **Educational Resources on Convention Legislation Discussion.** The committee discussed opportunities to educate student-athletes if Proposal Nos. 2022-3 (elimination of written release for sickle cell solubility test) and 2022-7 (required day off for civic engagement) are adopted at the 2022 Convention. The committee was in favor of creating educational resources to educate student-athletes on sickle cell with an emphasis on how international student-athletes can get tested. For Proposal No. 2022-7, the committee proposed creating a resource on ways to get involved in the community and sharing current successful civic engagement initiatives within Division II.

14. **NCAA Student-Athlete Well-Being Survey Outcomes.** The committee reviewed the results from the NCAA Student-Athlete Well-Being Survey. The survey highlighted student-athlete well-being and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey discussed the effects of race, sexual orientation, academics, athletics and student-athlete voice on student-athletes' well-being and mental health. Division II had the best response rate among the three divisions with almost 4,000 student-athletes completing the survey.

15. **NCAA Gender Identity Summit Outcomes.** NCAA Diversity and Inclusion and Sport Science Institute staff members discussed the NCAA Gender Identity Summit and how the summit came to life. The purpose of the summit was to create a framework that may develop policies and changes. The summit also discussed education surrounding the transgender student-athlete policy and the work to increase inclusive languages and resources among NCAA institutions.

16. **Discussion on Role of Observers.** The committee continued its November discussion on the role of observers. A conference who has a vacancy on national SAAC is permitted to designate a student-athlete of its choice to attend a quarterly SAAC meeting. In support of the student-athlete voice, the committee generally believes the observer should have the opportunity to speak but not vote. The committee stressed the importance of the observer
speaking on behalf of their conference, not their personal beliefs. No action was taken by the committee to update its policies. The committee will continue to discuss the role of observers at its April meeting.

17. **Review of 2021-22 SAAC Initiatives and Goals.** Each task force gathered during the meeting to discuss its designated goal and provided the committee with an update on the goal’s progress and action items. The areas of emphasis discussed were part of the committee's overarching goal, Total Package Student-Athlete, which includes diversity and inclusion, mental health and professional development.

   a. **Diversity and Inclusion.** Task force members have created a diversity and inclusion conversation starter document to share with Division II institutions. Once the document is reviewed by national office staff, the task force plans to share the document and similar documents with Division II student-athletes throughout the calendar year.

   b. **Mental Health.** In response to multiple people in the task force rolling off national SAAC, the task force discussed next steps and goals. The task force will continue to have #MentalHealthMonday on the Division II SAAC Twitter but is looking for ways to expand its efforts.

   c. **Professional Development.** To broaden the scope of the task force, the committee voted to rename the task force “Life After the Game.” The task force will continue to focus on its previous goals of creating helpful documents on resumes, careers, resource finders and transferrable skills while also encompassing ways to transition out of being a student-athlete.

18. **Make-A-Wish®.** The committee received an update on Division II’s fundraising for Make-A-Wish. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and cancellation or postponement of in-person events, the division’s fundraising has decreased. The committee members were informed of how the organization is adapting to the pandemic. The foundation has added another wish kid and workout to its Workout for Wishes toolkit. The committee members were reminded of the 2022 Week of Wishes scheduled for Feb. 20-26.

19. **Team IMPACT®.** The committee received an update on Team IMPACT’s Division II matches. Since the partnership began, the division has made 540 matches and 160 of these matches are currently active.

20. **2021 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.** The 2021 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award was awarded to Dr. Brenda Cates of the University of Mount Olive, who was honored during the 2022 Convention.

21. **2022 Division II Award of Excellence.** The committee reviewed the finalists for the 2022 Division II Award of Excellence as selected by SAAC’s Honors, Awards and Recognition Subcommittee.
22. **Presidents Council, Management Council, SAAC Joint Meeting.** The committee reviewed the agenda and discussed the information that would be covered during the Presidents Council, Management Council and SAAC joint meeting. Committee members participated in roundtable discussions on enhancing the Division II governance structure, the roles and responsibilities of the national office, conferences and institutions and shared best practices from their campus and conference.

23. **Prepare Conference Meeting Summaries.** The committee reviewed discussion topics to be shared during conference meetings later in the week.

24. **Division II Degree Completion Award Program.** The committee was provided an update on the Division II Degree Completion Award Program. The NCAA established the award to provide deserving student-athletes financial assistance for them to complete their first baccalaureate degree. The Division II Academic Requirements Committee approved a recommendation by the Division II Degree-Completion Award Committee to waive selected award requirements for student-athletes who received an extension of eligibility waiver in 2020-21, due to COVID-19. The requirements that have been waived for this award cycle are an applicant shall be a student-athlete who has completed athletics eligibility at an active NCAA Division II institution, applicant cannot concurrently receive any athletics aid from an institution and the degree must be completed within 10 semesters (15 quarters).

25. **Discussion on Committee Gifts.** Each SAAC member receives a gift from Division II as a thank you for their time on SAAC. For the last several years, committee members have received a desk clock. In lieu of the clock, the committee discussed the option to choose an item from an online gift catalog. The committee decided to continue giving clocks to those who roll off the committee.

26. **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, Presidents Council and Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.

27. **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 Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports and the Committee on Women’s Athletics.

28. **Make Game Day Yours Initiative.** The committee received an update on a new Division II initiative that will focus on improving the Division II game day experience for fans, athletics departments and student-athletes – Make Game Day Yours. The first regional training session took place on Jan. 18, 2022, and it marked the first of eight regional training sessions that will occur in 2022 and 2023.
29. **DII Day Update.** The committee received an update on the inaugural DII Day. Division II conferences, schools and student-athletes are encouraged to participate in the celebration of Division II and highlight the division's mission and Life in the Balance philosophy on Feb. 22, 2022. Participation can occur through community engagement and social media posts.

30. **NCAA National Office Vaccination Policy.** The committee was informed of the new NCAA national office vaccination policy. To ensure the safety of NCAA staff and visitors, each visitor is required to sign an attestation form stating they have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

31. **November 2021 meeting report.** The November 2021 committee meeting report was reviewed and approved.

32. **Future Meetings.**

   a. April 7-10, 2022, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Anaheim, California.

   b. July 15-17, 2022; SAAC/Management Council Summit, videoconference.

   c. Fall 2022 videoconference, date to be determined.

   d. Nov. 18-20, 2022; videoconference.

   e. Jan. 10-14, 2023, in conjunction with 2023 NCAA Convention; San Antonio.

Committee Chair: Mackenzie O'Neill, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association

Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance
               Amanda Benzine, Championships and Alliances

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**NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee**

**January 18-19, 2022, Indianapolis**

**Attendees:**

Alexia Autrey, King University, Conference Carolinas.

Michaela Boyd, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference.

Zach Brown, University of North Georgia, Peach Belt Conference.

Wiley Cain, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.

Ismael Contreras, Purdue University Northwest, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Sylvia Cortés, University of Alabama in Huntsville, At-Large.

Father John Denning, Stonehill College, Northeast-10 Conference.

John Michael Etheridge, Kentucky State University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Marty Gilbert, Mars Hill University, South Atlantic Conference.
Molly Hansen, University of Montevallo, Gulf South Conference.
Braydon Kubat, University of Minnesota Duluth, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.
Margaret Ann Langheim, Mars Hill University, South Atlantic Conference.
Grace Martin, West Virginia State University, Mountain East Conference.
Madeleine McKenna, California University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.
Mackenzie O'Neill, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.
Kate Pigsley, Southern New Hampshire University, Northeast-10 Conference.
Leslie A. Ramirez, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Independent.
Skylar Ross, Dominican College (New York), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.
Corbin Thaete, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association.
Cameron Trudell, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Thomas Webb Jr., Western New Mexico University, Lone Star Conference.
Kiana Wiggins, Caldwell University, At-Large.
Billy Wildeman, Molloy College, East Coast Conference.

**Absentees:**

Nicholas Dill, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Great American Conference.
Emma Kramer, Simon Fraser University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.
Bianca Lockamy, Virginia Union University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.
David Mayser, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Pacific West Conference.
Austin Mondello, Colorado Mesa University, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
Gracie Neff, Lindenwood University, Great Lakes Valley Conference.

**Guests in Attendance:**

Jack DeGioia, Georgetown University (chair, NCAA Board of Governors).
Jim Johnson, Pittsburg State University (chair, Division II Management Council).
Steven Shirley, Minot State University (chair, Division II Presidents Council).

**NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**

Lydia Bell, Amanda Benzine, LaGwyn Durden, Mark Emmert, Haydyn Gibson, Terri Steeb Gronau, Brian Hainline, Ryan Jones, Jessica Kerr, Jordan Lysiak, Gretchen Miron, Stephanie Quigg, Angela Red, Robert Turick, Amy Wilson and Julie Zike.