



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JULY 14-15, 2023, IN-PERSON MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative items.**

**a. Request for Feedback from NCAA Division II Championships Committee and Legislation Committee – NCAA Bylaws 21.8.5.2.1 and 21.8.5.6.1 – Composition.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division II Management Council request that the Division II Championships Committee and Division II Legislation Committee provide feedback on whether it would be beneficial to add current or former Division II student-athletes to the composition of the Division II Championships Committee (Bylaw 21.8.5.2.1) and Division II Legislation Committee (Bylaw 21.8.5.6.1) in addition to the current Division II National SAAC representative.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. During its July 2023 in-person meeting, the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee continued a discussion regarding a referral the committee received from the Division II Implementation Committee to determine whether it would be beneficial for Division II general committees that already have a SAAC representative to add student-athletes or former student-athletes that are not on Division II SAAC to serve on these general committees. The national SAAC members who serve on the Championships Committee and Legislation Committee both felt that additional student-athletes would benefit the committees by offering more student-athlete perspectives in the discussions when committees are largely composed of administrators. These current or former student-athletes would potentially enhance the gender, sport and ethnic diversity and conference representation that the national SAAC representative provides. Also, adding current or former student-athletes would provide opportunities that are currently limited to national SAAC representatives.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Adding current or former student-athletes to the Championships Committee and/or Legislation Committee would increase travel costs for in-person committee meetings. These travel costs would include additional airfare, lodging and per diem. Further, negligible

meeting expenses would be incurred for additional food and beverage during in-person committee meetings.

- (5) Student-athlete impact. This would enhance the voice of Division II student-athletes in the governance structure and give student-athletes who are not a member of the national SAAC an opportunity to serve.

**b. Request for Feedback from NCAA Division II Committee on Infractions, Infractions Appeals Committee, Committee for Legislative Relief, Membership Committee and Nominating Committee – NCAA Bylaws 19.4.1, 19.5.1, 21.8.5.4.1, 21.8.5.7.1 and 21.8.5.8.1 – Composition.**

- (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Division II Management Council request the Division II Committee on Infractions (Bylaw 19.4.1), Infractions Appeals Committee (Bylaw 19.5.1), Committee for Legislative Relief (Bylaw 21.8.5.4.1), Membership Committee (Bylaw 21.8.5.7.1) and Nominating Committee (Bylaw 21.8.5.8.1) provide feedback on whether there is a need to update the committees' composition to include Division II National SAAC representation on these Division II general committees that currently do not include a SAAC member.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. During its July 2023 in-person meeting, the committee continued a discussion regarding a referral the committee received from the Division II Implementation Committee to determine for Division II general committees that do not have a SAAC representative whether there is a need to update the committees' composition to include Division II National SAAC representation. Since no national SAAC members serve on the Division II Committee on Infractions, Infractions Appeals Committee, Committee for Legislative Relief, Membership Committee and Nominating Committee, national SAAC felt it would be important for the respective committees to have a conversation and share their feedback on whether there is a need to add the student-athlete perspective.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. Adding a national SAAC representative to the Committee on Infractions, Infractions Appeals Committee, Committee for Legislative Relief, Membership Committee and/or Nominating Committee would increase travel costs for in-person committee meetings. These travel costs would include additional airfare, lodging and per diem. Further, negligible meeting expenses would be incurred for additional food and beverage during in-person committee meetings.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. This would enhance the voice of Division II student-athletes in the governance structure and give national SAAC members an

opportunity to serve on a committee that currently does not include a student-athlete representative.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Discussion on 2023-24 SAAC Goals.** The committee reflected on its goals and priorities from the 2022-23 academic year. The committee discussed implementing three new themes and how they will align with Division II SAAC and student-athletes. The potential themes are the three E's (Empower, Empathize and Enhance). The committee agreed to encompass its 2022-23 goals (diversity and inclusion, mental health and Life After the Game) through the proposed themes. They also discussed that implementing working groups rather than task forces will allow for more creativity and alleviate burnout. The committee will establish its official goals during a fall meeting.
2. **Division II Congressional Engagement Student-Athlete Resources.** The committee discussed successful social media interactions following its [congressional engagement statement](#) in June. Additionally, the committee reviewed and discussed the similarities and differences of the letters sent to members of Congress from each divisional SAAC. The committee was reminded of the [congressional engagement resources](#) that are available for all Division II student-athletes. Resources include tips for student-athletes to share their story, a templated letter created by a Division II SAAC member that can be personalized by student-athletes and sent to members of Congress, and a discussion guide and PowerPoint to educate student-athletes on congressional engagement.
3. **Division II SAAC Elected Management Council Representatives.** SAAC held an election for the committee's new male representative on the Division II Management Council after the departure of Corbin Thaete (California Collegiate Athletic Association, California State University, San Marcos). The new representative is Austin Mondello (Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, Colorado Mesa University). Mondello's first opportunity to represent national SAAC was at the July Management Council meeting.
4. **Discussion of 2024 NCAA Convention Proposed Legislation.** SAAC reviewed proposals for the 2024 NCAA Convention that are sponsored by the Division II Presidents Council and the Division II membership. The committee will distribute materials to conferences and institutions regarding the legislative process, including the legislative grids in September. These grids are a condensed version of each of the legislative proposals that make for easier understanding and workability when campus SAACs take a position on each proposal. Further instructions and submission details will be provided to each conference and institution by their national SAAC representative. Each institution should complete its grid and submit it via email or hard copy to their national SAAC representative not later than Monday, Oct. 16. National SAAC representatives should send their conference's completed grids to national SAAC Vice Chair Molly Hansen by Monday, Oct. 23.
5. **2024 Convention Education Sessions.** The committee discussed possible education sessions during the 2024 Convention. Education sessions dedicated to developing a strong

campus or conference SAAC, mental wellness, diversity, equity and inclusion, name, image and likeness in Division II, faculty athletics representative programming and resources, academic advising, athletic trainers' workforce issues and education on available grants and scholarships were highlighted. The staff liaisons sought feedback from the committee regarding examples of campuses and conferences who have a strong SAAC.

6. **Discussion with NCAA President Charlie Baker.** SAAC members had the opportunity to speak with President Baker about his experience to date as president, the challenges associated with the day to day lives of student-athletes, the future of officials, sports wagering and how student-athletes can use their voices through congressional engagement.
7. **Discussion on Gender Equity at Championships.** The committee was joined by representatives from Lewis Rice. Lewis Rice has been tasked with evaluating all aspects of NCAA championships excluding Division I men's and women's basketball on the basis of gender equity. Lewis Rice discussed with the committee additions to its six-factor rubric of the student-athlete experience. The six-factor rubric includes health and safety, practice facilities/locker rooms, traveling to championships, marketing before, during and after the championships, gear and fan festivals/student-athlete engagement.
8. **November 2023 SAAC Super Region Convention.** The next Division II SAAC Super Region Convention will be held Nov. 17-19 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta. Active member institutions in the following conferences will have an opportunity to send one administrator and two student-athletes: Conference Carolinas, Gulf South Conference, Peach Belt Conference, South Atlantic Conference, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, Sunshine State Conference and the super region's independent institutions. Each conference office can also send one conference office administrator. Registration for the super region convention will open in September.
9. **Team IMPACT®.** The committee was provided highlights from the division's 2022-23 Team IMPACT partnership from Chief Executive Officer Seth Rosenzweig and East Coast Conference Commissioner Bob Dranoff. During the 2022-23 academic year, 74 Division II teams were matched with a Team IMPACT child. Currently, Division II has 128 matches across 79 campuses and 22 conferences. Since Division II began partnering with Team IMPACT, the division has had 635 matches across 200 campuses and all 23 conferences. In addition, Team IMPACT is interested in growing Division II fellows to increase community engagement and overall awareness. Currently, there are 21 active fellowships on 11 campuses. For more information on the fellowship program or for questions, the committee was encouraged to contact Amanda Benzine at [abenzine@ncaa.org](mailto:abenzine@ncaa.org) or Amy VanRyn at [avanryn@teamimpact.org](mailto:avanryn@teamimpact.org).
10. **Make-A-Wish®.** Division II continues to partner with Make-A-Wish to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Division II has raised more than \$6.75 million toward granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Over 780

“wishes” have been granted through Division II contributions.

All donations for the 2023-24 academic year must be submitted directly to Make-A-Wish by July 31. Conferences and institutions can visit [ncaadii.wish.org](https://ncaadii.wish.org) to view their donation page that can be customized for their conference office or school. Access the [Make-A-Wish page on NCAA.org](#) for information on the Workout for Wishes fundraiser and for other resources available to assist the Division II membership with fundraising. For questions, the committee was encouraged to contact Amanda Benzine at [abenzine@ncaa.org](mailto:abenzine@ncaa.org) or Andrew Kluge at [akluge@wish.org](mailto:akluge@wish.org).

11. **SAAC and Management Council Summit.** The committee prepared for the SAAC and Management Council Summit that occurred in-person July 15-16. The committee prepared to lead and facilitate discussions during the summit with members from the Management Council.
12. **New SAAC Members.** SAAC welcomed Eddie Baker (at-large representative, The College of Saint Rose), Alexis Devlin (South Atlantic Conference, Catawba College), JJ Hayes (Sunshine State Conference, Palm Beach Atlantic University), Avery Hellmuth (Great American Conference, Oklahoma Baptist University), Scout Huffman (Lone Star Conference, Texas Woman’s University), Alexis Montalvo (Great Midwest Athletic Conference, Ashland University) and Justin Zavala (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, Bowie State University) to the committee as its newest members.
13. **April and May Meeting Reports.** The April 2023 and May 2023 committee meeting reports were reviewed and approved.
14. **SAAC Annual Reports.** Each SAAC representative except for the committee’s at-large representatives is responsible for providing a written report by email to their commissioner by Thursday, Aug. 31. The report should summarize the work of their conference SAAC and national SAAC. When the report is submitted to the commissioner, SAAC members were asked to send it to Ryan Jones at [rjones@ncaa.org](mailto:rjones@ncaa.org).
15. **SAAC Network.** SAAC members were reminded to make sure their conference’s SAAC network is updated with both campus SAAC advisors and presidents for the 2023-24 academic year by Sept. 15. If there are any questions or members need best practices for this initiative, committee members were encouraged to reach out to fellow committee members or Ryan Jones at [rjones@ncaa.org](mailto:rjones@ncaa.org).
16. **Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award.** The Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award honors faculty members at Division II schools for their dedication to supporting and mentoring student-athletes, as well as their commitment to Division II student-athletes’ lifelong learning, competition and well-being. The committee noted that the nomination process for the 2023 Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award is open and the nomination form is available [here](#). SAAC representatives should work with their conference office and conference SAAC to nominate one representative from an active member institution for the

award. Division II independent institutions may also nominate one representative each for the award. The deadline to submit nominations is Sunday, Oct. 15. SAAC's honors, awards and recognition subcommittee will choose the recipient and present them the award at the 2024 Convention in Phoenix. For more information on the award, the committee was encouraged to reference the award's [frequently asked questions](#).

17. **Division II Committee Reports.** SAAC 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.
18. **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 Women's Athletics and Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.
19. **Future Meetings.**
  - a. Aug. 9, 2023; videoconference.
  - b. Fall 2023 videoconference; date to be determined.
  - 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.
  - e. April 13-14, 2024, videoconference.
  - f. July 19-21, 2024; SAAC/Management Council Summit; Indianapolis.
  - g. Nov. 23-24, 2024; videoconference.
  - h. Jan. 14-18, 2025; in conjunction with 2025 NCAA Convention; Nashville, Tennessee.

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

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee July 14-15, 2023, In-Person Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Laura Amaya, Roberts Wesleyan University, East Coast Conference.	
Kara Amos, Missouri Southern State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
Eddie Baker, The College of Saint Rose, At-Large.	
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Michaela Boyd, Azusa Pacific University, At-Large.	
Davaris Cheeks, Concordia University, St. Paul, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.	
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University, Mountain East Conference.	
Alexis Devlin, Catawba College, South Atlantic 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.	
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference.	
Avery Hellmuth, Oklahoma Baptist University, Great American Conference.	
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star 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.	
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.	
Alexis Montalvo, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Tanner Olson, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Justin Zavala, Bowie State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
DJ Guest Jr., California State University, Dominguez Hills, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Katie Williamson, Southern Connecticut State University, Northeast-10 Conference.	
Sandra Woodley, University of Texas of Permian Basin, Lone Star Conference.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Hunter Beeson, Bob Dranoff, Allison Knopp, Ryan Krutz, Carrie Michaels, Sarah Mullen and Seth Rosenzweig.	
<b>NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Charlie Baker, Amanda Benzine, Susan Britsch, Marcus Brown, Michael Cioroianu, Terri Steeb Gronau, Kendee Hilliard, Chelsea Hooks, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Kelsi Mahoney, Becca Burchette Medel and Angela Red.	