



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 31, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Discussion on NCAA Student-Athlete Community Engagement Survey.** Stephannie Harvey-Vandenberg, NCAA managing director of external engagement, special projects and strategic programs, and Matt White, director of community engagement, previewed a community engagement survey that will be administered to all NCAA student-athletes this fall. It is anticipated that the survey will ask student-athletes about the importance of community engagement to them and their campuses, initiatives student-athletes are doing on campus and student-athletes' involvement in the community.

The committee also learned the community engagement team's strategic pillars that were designed to enhance the student-athlete experience. The strategic pillars include literacy, underserved/underrepresented communities and health and wellness for student-athletes and the youth.

The committee was joined by the Division I and Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committees. The three SAACs were asked to provide examples of community engagement on their campuses. The committee members discussed a student-athlete field day involving the community, initiatives involving mental health, wellbeing and LGBTQ+, life after athletics and a wheelchair basketball game.

2. **Update on NCAA's Congressional Engagement Efforts.** Dawn Buth, NCAA managing director of government relations, and Austin Meo, assistant director of government relations, provided an overview of the work of the office of government relations and the NCAA's goals for congressional policies, and they reiterated why student-athlete voices matter. In the next few weeks, the office of government relations anticipates four hearings and a roundtable discussion on college athletics.

Student-athletes were encouraged to get involved by writing a letter on behalf of their school or conference, sharing their thoughts on social media and meeting with members of Congress to advocate for congressional action to benefit student-athletes. Congressional engagement resources are available to help student-athletes, such as previous letters written by student-athletes, templated letters created by student-athletes and a student-athlete toolkit for social media posts.

A monthly congressional engagement meeting hosted by the office of government relations is available for committee members to attend. The first meeting was held in March 2025 and attended by the committee's congressional engagement goal team. Other committee members interested in attending were encouraged to contact Meo. Student-athletes from the Division I and Division III SAACs also participated in this update.

3. **Update on Division II Eligibility Review Working Group.** The committee received an update on a Division II working group created to perform a comprehensive eligibility review. The group is composed of 25 members and includes all members of the Division II Academic Requirements Committee and Legislation Committee as well as the chairs of the Division II SAAC, Management Council and Executive Board who serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members.

The Eligibility Review Working Group has met three times. In its last meeting, the group drafted four concepts for membership feedback in April and May. The group will then reconvene to review the feedback and may submit legislative recommendations this summer to the Management Council and/or Executive Board to consider sponsoring for a vote at the 2026 NCAA Convention.

4. **Update on Division II Football Date Formula.** The committee received an update on the responses received by football-sponsoring conferences on the Division II football date formula. Given the number of responses received by some conferences, the committee discussed ways to potentially increase the number of responses. About 1,300 completed responses have been received. The committee was reminded that the survey closes April 7. The committee will review the survey feedback during its April 24 meeting and determine whether it will indicate its support for a potential football date formula policy change currently being discussed by the Division II Football Committee and the Division II Championships Committee.
5. **Update on Next Steps with Division II SAAC's 2024-25 Goals.** With the committee accomplishing its civic engagement and internal document activations in the last few months, members are asked to meet with their respective goal teams one time before the committee's April 24 meeting to determine a member who will lead the goal team. For the meeting, teams are asked to determine how they would like to determine the team leader and if needed, conduct an election. It was noted that the leader will be responsible for making sure their goal team is meeting regularly, and progress is being made. These individuals will also be responsible for facilitating the discussion during goal team meetings and scheduling the meetings. First-year committee members were encouraged to consider the opportunity as a way to step into a leadership role early in their term.
6. **Future Meetings.**
  - a. April 24-27, 2025, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Indianapolis.
  - b. July 16-17, 2025, SAAC meeting; videoconference.
  - c. July 18, 2025, Management Council and SAAC Summit; videoconference.
  - d. November 20-23, 2025, in conjunction with SAAC Super Region Convention; Denver.

- e. January 13-17, 2026, in conjunction with the 2026 NCAA Convention, Washington, D.C.

*Committee Chair: Avery Hellmuth, Oklahoma Baptist University, Great American Conference.*  
*Staff Liaisons: Ryan Jones, Governance*  
*Marcus Brown, Academic and Membership Affairs*  
*Morgan Melchert, Eligibility Center*  
*Megan Villanueva, Academic and Membership Affairs*

NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee March 31, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Sean Belzer, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.	
Scott Borgmann Jr., Wilmington University (Delaware), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference.	
Ben Cherry, California State University, San Marcos, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Addison Courtney, Fairmont State University, Mountain East Conference.	
Adorijan Daniels, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
Alexis Devlin, Catawba College, South Atlantic Conference.	
Darcey Dorris, Central State University, Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Connor Fournier, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.	
Haley Gilbert, Augusta University, Peach Belt Conference.	
Theresa Grosbach, Missouri Western State University, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
JJ Hayes, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Sunshine State Conference.	
Avery Hellmuth, Oklahoma Baptist University, Great American Conference.	
Grace Hoeppner, Michigan Technological University, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Scout Huffman, Texas Woman's University, Lone Star Conference.	
Zeke Jarzyniecki, Belmont Abbey College, Conference Carolinas.	
Rita-Marie Masi, Mercy University, East Coast Conference.	
Rachel McCool, Ashland University, Great Midwest Athletic Conference	
Dustyn McKenney, Western Oregon University, Great Northwest Athletic Conference.	
Derrick Parker II, Grand Valley State University, At-Large.	
Larry Parkinson, Executive Board Independent Member.	
Rowan Ruggerio, American International College, Northeast-10 Conference.	
Darius Satterfield, Elizabeth City State University, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Alia Scotka, University of West Florida, Gulf South Conference.	
Lily Ventresca, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Haley White, Lincoln Memorial University, At-Large.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
DJ Guest Jr., California State University, Dominguez Hills, California Collegiate Athletic Association.	

<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Roberta Page.
<b>NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Marcus Brown, Dawn Buth, Terri Steeb Gronau, Stephannnie Harvey-Vandenberg, Maritza Jones, Ryan Jones, Morgan Melchert, Austin Meo and Matt White.