



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MARCH 28, 2025, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

- None.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- **Division II Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025-26.**

- (1) Recommendation. Approve the budget requests for the 2025-26 fiscal year (FY26) as noted below. The rationale for each request is listed alongside the amount requested.

Category	Budget Request	Amount	Description
Championships	Per Diem	\$750,000	\$10 increase in per diem from the current \$135 to \$145.
Championships	Travel	\$288,367	The NCAA accounting staff annually estimates expected travel inflation for Division II championships travel. This represents a 2% increase which is the same as the request for FY25.
Championships	Division II Football Championship bracket expansion from 28 to 32 teams	\$545,000	Supported by exceptions to the triennial budget process that include bracket adjustments when a championship policy is triggered, and the membership's adoption of a proposal establishing football as an AQ sport instead of the previous earned access model. With the current bracket of 28, that would result in 57 percent of the bracket being composed of AQs, which is above the current 50 percent requirement to trigger a review.

Category	Budget Request	Amount	Description
Championships	Division II Women's Lacrosse Championship bracket expansion, date formula and format	\$140,000	This request, which already has been approved by the Executive Board, allows the top two seeds in each region to host first- and second-round games (rather than only the top seed in each region). The funding also covers the additional costs not included in the original projections approved as part of the triennial budget process to expand the bracket from 16 to 24.
Championships	Additional women's golf officials	\$7,000	Because all four regionals have expanded to 96 participants, it is important to add one official per region. This also aligns with men's golf from a gender equity standpoint, which satisfies an exception to the triennial budget process.
Championships	Postseason officiating crew size in football	\$3,930	This request, which meets the exceptions to the triennial budget process, allows conferences that use eight-person crews to continue using them during the Division II championship, with the current alternate official being included as the eighth member of the crew.
Revenue Distribution	Conference Sports Sponsorship Fund	\$183,779	A 3% increase to the fund per the division's long-range budget.
Revenue Distribution	Institutional Equal Distribution Fund	\$61,259	A 3% increase to the fund per the division's long-range budget.
Initiatives	Additional expenses to Division II	\$47,554	Per the new NCAA constitution and starting in FY23, an annual review is conducted to validate

Category	Budget Request	Amount	Description
			additional Association service expenses that Division II pays for directly from its 4.37 percent allocation. The total includes a 3% inflationary increase (\$5,554), per the long-range budget and \$42,000 to reclassify a part-time assistant director to a full-time associate director.
Initiatives	Regular season/ championships media	\$40,000	An inflationary increase to support championships web streaming efforts (e.g., contractual expenses for production).
Initiatives	SAAC Super Region Convention	\$32,000	An inflationary increase to support travel and apparel costs.
Initiatives	Coaches Connection Program	\$26,000	Costs for adding a connection program for faculty athletics representatives and athletic trainers.
Initiatives	Apple Training Institute and NCAA Inclusion Forum	\$19,000	This covers an increase in the contract with the Gordie Center (which has remained flat since 2019) for inflationary increases (e.g., hotel, food).
Initiatives	Identity initiatives, communications and marketing	\$10,000	An inflationary increase to support the Division II conference T-shirt program.
Initiatives	FAR Institute	\$7,500	A one-time expense to celebrate 20 years of the institutes.
Initiatives	NCAA Convention	\$3,000	An inflationary increase for apparel given as gifts to the membership.
Initiatives	Insurance	\$2,000	To address an increase in cost for the division's coverage.

Category	Budget Request	Amount	Description
TOTAL		\$2,166,389	

- (2) Effective date. September 1, 2025.
- (3) Rationale. See the explanations next to each category. Division II's 4.37 percent allocation of new Association revenue for FY26 has not yet been determined by the NCAA finance staff. While this increase is conservative, it illustrates the recommended budget allocation for FY26 until the final amount of the projected increase is communicated. In addition, following the recommended budget requests for FY26, the division would still have at least \$7,133,440 in unallocated new revenue that is being discussed as part of the division's strategic planning process.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. \$2,166,389.
- (5) Student-athlete impact. Many of the recommended allocations directly support an enhanced student-athlete experience.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and review of agenda.** Strategic Planning and Finance Committee chair Julie Ruppert welcomed the group and previewed the meeting agenda.
2. **Review of previous reports.** The committee approved the report from its December 11, 2024, videoconference, as presented.
3. **Division II Operating Plan.** The committee continued reviewing the efforts underway to develop the division's next six-year operating/strategic plan that will be launched at the 2026 NCAA Convention. The committee reviewed a revised version that updates language within the strategic priorities.
  - a. **Survey results.** The committee also received an in-depth presentation of preliminary results from the membership survey that was distributed in January and closed in early March. The survey is the final phase of information gathering and membership input before the committee begins drafting initiatives, timelines and funding priorities for the new operating plan.

Committee members discussed key sections of the survey at length (Division II philosophy, athletics operations, athletics healthcare, championships, SAAC, governance, and membership requirements) and noted that while the SPFC is the first to receive this presentation, other Division II governance committees will begin to study results in their relevant areas in the coming weeks.

- b. **Division II long-range budget.** The committee continued discussing the division's long-range budget, particularly how the new revenue coming to the division should be allocated (as well as the portion of the division's reserves that will be spent to align with the level mandated in the division's budget guidelines and principles).

This included a discussion regarding the percent of the new revenue and reserves that should be allocated to support the division's 25 championships (currently about 63% of the FY25 budget is allocated to championships, which includes championships travel, per diem, operations and committee expenses). This discussion also included the understanding that what is allocated to championships would in turn affect allocations to the other two overarching budget categories (revenue distributions to member institutions/conferences, and initiatives/programming for Division II members). Based on feedback from various Division II stakeholders, as well as the preliminary survey results, the committee agreed that the baseline for the championship allocation of the new revenue and reserves should be at least 65%. The committee also asked staff to run additional models reflecting allocations of 70% and 75% for the group to consider during its June meeting.

The committee also discussed whether the current revenue distribution model (75% to conferences through the Conference Sports Sponsorship Fund and 25% to institutions through the Institutional Equal Distribution Fund, and a potential supplemental distribution to institutions in years when there is an operating surplus in the Division II budget) should be reviewed. The committee encouraged this issue to be discussed during a future Management Council meeting to determine whether Management Council members should seek feedback on this topic during conference spring meetings to inform the SPFC's final recommendation.

#### 4. **Division II budget.**

- a. **Division II budget guidelines and principles.** The committee reviewed an updated version of the guidelines and principles that are shared with governance and sport committees to inform decisions with a budget impact.
- b. **Review of budget-to-actuals.** The committee reviewed the Division II budget-to-actuals for the 2024-25 fiscal year through February.

#### 5. **Division II championships budget.** The committee reviewed the report from the Championships Committee's February 24-25 meeting that included four recommendations with a budget impact for the SPFC's consideration. The SPFC approved these recommendations during its review of budget requests for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (see Nonlegislative Action Item above).

6. **Division II budget requests for Fiscal Year 2025-26.** The SPFC reviewed and supported the recommended budget requests for FY26 for the Division II Management Council and Division II Executive Board to formally consider during their April meetings. (See the Nonlegislative Action Item above.) The recommendations must receive final approval by the NCAA Board of Governors at its August 2025 meeting.
7. **Division II revenue distribution.**
  - a. **Policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed the revenue distribution policy.
  - b. **February 2025 supplemental distribution.** Staff updated the committee on the supplemental distribution that the Division II Executive Board approved during its January 2025 meeting (a little more than \$8,000 per institution) and disbursed February 19.
  - c. **April 2025 Conference Sports Sponsorship Fund and Institutional Equal Distribution Fund.** Staff updated the committee on the revenue distributions to schools and conferences that will be disbursed in April.
8. **Other business.**
  - **Committee roster.** The committee acknowledged the outstanding contributions from Division II SAAC representative Alexis Devlin, who was attending her final meeting with the SPFC. A new SAAC representative will join the committee starting with its June meeting.
9. **Future meetings and videoconferences.**
  - a. Monday, June 23, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
  - b. Tuesday, August 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
  - c. Thursday, September 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).
  - d. Friday, December 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eastern time (videoconference).

*Committee Chair: Julie Ruppert, Commissioner, Northeast-10 Conference*

*Staff Liaisons: Terri Steeb Gronau, Division II Governance*

*Maritza Jones, Division II Governance*

*Ryan Jones, Division II Governance*

*Cara Hubert, Administrative Services*

Division II Strategic Planning and Finance Committee March 28, 2025, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Joseph Arnold, Clark Atlanta University.	
Peter Crabb, Northwest Nazarene University.	
Alexis Devlin, Catawba College.	
Curtis Janz, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith.	
Colleen Perry Keith, Goldey-Beacom College ( <i>ex officio</i> ).	
Brandi Laurita, University of Findlay.	
Roberta Page, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania ( <i>ex officio</i> ).	
Julie Ruppert, Northeast-10 Conference.	
David Wilmes, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.	
Sandra Woodley, University of Texas Permian Basin.	
Frank Wu, Queens College (New York).	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Erin Lind, Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.	
Pennie Parker, Rollins College.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Terri Steeb Gronau, Cara Hubert, Maritza Jones and Ryan Jones.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Karen Kirsch, Mariah Murdock, Angela Red, Jill Waddell and Andrea Worlock.	