



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III INTERPRETATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
APRIL 13, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- *None.*

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review March Report.** The committee reviewed the report from its March 31 videoconference.
2. **Referral of 2022 Convention Proposal 2022-3.** At the 2022 NCAA Convention, Proposal No. 2022-3 (Only Competition Triggering Use of a Season) was referred to the committee "to further review and discuss historical enrollment trends with a future recommendation being made to Presidents Council based on that research." The Committee engaged in that review and agreed on the following:
 - a. That additional available data did not provide clear direction regarding change; and
 - b. Before a legislative change is considered, the review of the philosophy statement being considered by the governance structure should be completed.

Consequently, the committee is not recommending the governance structure propose any change at this time.

During its meeting, the committee reviewed the following information: (a) the current legislation for determining when a season of participation is used along with legislated exceptions; (b) current waiver opportunities available in the legislation; (c) the historical background of the current season of participation legislation; (d) the division's philosophy statement that Division III athletics is primarily focused on a four-year, undergraduate experience; (e) results from prior membership surveys; (f) graduation rates, (g) post-baccalaureate opportunities; and (h) the average cost of attendance.

The committee reviewed graduation rate data that included four-year and six-year graduation rates for the general student body at Division III institutions from 2016 to 2020 to determine if the amount of time from initial enrollment to the attainment of an undergraduate degree has increased significantly. The data was not specific to Division III student-athlete because there are no Division III student-athlete specific four-year graduation rates available. The findings show that an additional 8 to 11% of students from Division III institutions graduate between the fourth and sixth year following initial enrollment. While the overall four-year and six-year graduation rates have increased incrementally in the past five years, the gap between the two rates has not. The committee concluded that based on available information it is not possible to prove or disprove if the amount of time from initial enrollment to graduation has increased over the past five years for Division III student-athletes. Data relative to the post-graduate opportunities available at Division III institutions indicated that 68% of Division III institutions offered some level of post-Baccalaureate opportunity. However, the data cannot show how many opportunities are offered per institution nor the types of opportunities. The committee also noted the increase in cost of attendance at

Division III institutions over the past four years with a 6% increase at public institutions and a 9% increase at private institutions.

The committee also discussed whether the current Division III Philosophy Statement aligns with the membership's view concerning student-athlete participation in intercollegiate athletics and believes that until the Philosophy Statement is reviewed, the governance structure should not sponsor a proposal to change the current legislation concerning the use of a season of participation. Additionally, the committee also believes that discussion concerning the philosophy statement will determine whether changes should be considered for the current legislation regarding non-Division III graduate student participation.

3. **Future Meetings.** The committee reviewed its future meeting schedule.
4. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 12:40 Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference
Staff Liaison(s): Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs
Bill Regan, Academic and Membership Affairs
Sarah Turner, Academic and Membership Affairs

Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee April 13, 2022, Videoconference.
Attendees:
Kurt J. Beron, University of Texas at Dallas.
Matt Hill, University of Northwestern-St. Paul.
Keri Alexander Luchowski, North Coast Athletic Conference.
Bethany Marren, Rochester Institute of Technology.
Michael A Mattia, Gettysburg College.
Mercy Ogutu, Trinity Washington University. (SAAC).
Mila Su, Plattsburgh State University.
Patrick B. Summers, New England Women's & Men's Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
None.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaison (or Staff Support if subcommittee) in Attendance:
Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Sarah Turner.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Eric Hartung and Joan Nissen.