



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
JUNE 24-25, 2020, VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and Announcements.** The committee commenced business at 9:05 a.m. Eastern time Wednesday, June 24, 2020.
2. **Membership Committee Roster and Conflict of Interest.** Committee members were reminded of the NCAA Conflict of Interest Policy and proper procedures for recusal if a conflict of interest might arise. Committee members reviewed the roster and conflict of interest documentation and updated as necessary. Committee members followed the recusal procedures during all deliberations.
3. **Review Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed the policies and procedures documents.
4. **Review May 27, 2020, Videoconference Report.** The committee reviewed and approved its May 27, 2020, videoconference report.
5. **Division III Provisional/Reclassifying Membership.**
 - a. Current Roster. The committee reviewed the current roster of provisional and reclassifying institutions and their mentors. New mentors were assigned to Bob Jones University, State University of New York at Delhi and Pratt Institute.
 - b. Process Advancement. 2019-20 Provisional and Reclassifying Institutions. The committee reviewed annual reports from the following provisional and reclassifying institutions and took the following actions:
 - (1) Year One to Year Two – Approval. The committee accepted the annual report from the following institutions with feedback in areas where the institutions could enhance their current practices and approved their advancement in the membership process from year one to year two.
 - (a) Mississippi University for Women;
 - (b) Pratt Institute; and
 - (c) St. Thomas University (Texas).

- (2) Year Two to Three – Approval. The committee accepted the annual report from the following institutions with feedback in areas where the institutions could enhance their current practices and approved their advancement in the membership process from year two to year three.
 - (a) State University of New York at Delhi; and
 - (b) Johnson & Wales University (Denver).
 - (3) Election to Active Membership. The committee accepted the annual reports of the following institutions and approved their election to active membership status per NCAA Constitution 3.2.3.3 (election).
 - (a) Brevard College;
 - (b) Dean College; and
 - (c) Pfeiffer University.
 - c. Discuss New Member Campus Visits. Staff reminded the committee of the upcoming fall 2020 campus visit scheduled to Manor College and the challenges of proceeding with an on-campus visit due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee discussed the potential for a virtual visit this fall in order to provide Manor guidance as they consider application for the provisional membership process and assess Manor's readiness for the process. They determined staff should proceed with the arrangements for a virtual visit. The committee further noted that an in-person campus visit could still occur during year one of the provisional membership process.
6. **Review of Recommended Changes to Membership Process Materials.** The committee reviewed recommended changes to several membership process documents. The changes resulted from the new membership process legislation adopted at the 2020 NCAA Convention.
- a. Exploratory application. The committee reviewed the revised exploratory application and recommended additional changes. The committee approved the application as amended.
 - b. Provisional/reclassifying membership application. The committee reviewed the revised provisional/reclassifying membership application and recommended additional changes. The committee approved the application as amended.
 - c. Conference application guidelines. The committee reviewed the revised conference application guidelines and recommended additional changes. The committee approved the application as amended.
 - d. Single-sport conference application. The committee reviewed the revised single-sport conference application and approved the application as amended
 - e. Multisport conference application. The committee reviewed the revised multisport conference application and approved the application as amended.

7. Division III Active Membership.

- a. Review of University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg Sports-Sponsorship Waiver Request. The committee approved a request from University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg for a waiver of Bylaw 20.11.3.8 (minimum contests and participants requirements for sports sponsorship) in the sport of women's cross country. In its approval, the committee noted the institution demonstrated an intention to comply with the minimum contest requirements by scheduling an additional meet in the nontraditional segment and would have complied had the COVID-19 pandemic not canceled on-campus activities for the remainder of the academic year. In addition, the committee encourages the institution to continue to monitor its roster sizes.
- b. Probation Institution Summary. Staff noted that five institutions will complete the probationary period and return to active status in good standing September 1, 2020. Staff informed the committee that historical records of institutional probationary and restricted status are kept on file should future issues arise.
- c. Discussion on Virtual Recruiting. Staff facilitated a discussion with the committee about the future of virtual recruiting in Division III. Overall the committee had a favorable opinion on virtual recruiting noting cost-savings, efficiency and effectiveness of communicating with prospective student-athletes who are comfortable in the virtual environment. The committee acknowledged the potential for virtual recruiting becoming widely used across the division. The committee noted that while continued use of virtual recruiting would ease the budget and staffing challenges many institutions are facing, there must also be parameters in place that are consistent with the existing recruiting legislation.
- d. Conference Membership. The committee received an update from staff on current conference membership and realignments.

8. Educational Initiatives.

- a. 2020 NCAA Regional Rules Seminar Attendance – Constitution 3.2.4.15. Staff provided the committee with outcomes from the 2020 Regional Rules Seminars. As of the meeting, over 2,600 participants joined in the live webinar programming and over 2,200 module completions had been registered in the NCAA Learning Portal. Staff informed the committee that as of June 22, 2020 eleven institutions that were required to attend 2020 Regional Rules Seminars had outstanding attendance requirements. The committee noted that the virtual format allowed for more participation from a larger portion of the membership.
- b. Division III Rules Test. Staff provided the committee with the 2019-20 Division III Rules Test and the committee discussed potential question structures and topics to include in the 2020-21 Rules Test.
- c. 2020-21 Rule of the Month Topics. The committee provided staff with several areas of the legislation to consider for the monthly education topics for the 2020-21 academic year.

9. **Division III Governance Update.** Dan Dutcher, vice president for Division III, and Louise McCleary, managing director of Division III, provided the committee with Association-wide updates on pertinent items being discussed across higher education. Topics discussed included the NCAA's resocialization of sports resources and how they apply to the Division III membership, anticipated updates to the resocialization frequently asked questions document, and updates from the NCAA COVID-19 Playing and Practice Season Working Group.
10. **Update on Division III Administrative Committee actions.** Mr. Dutcher and Jeff Myers provided the committee with updates on recent actions taken by the Division III Administrative Committee including those that provided flexibility with the preseason practice start date for the 2020 fall sports season and provided institutions with unlimited administrative days to conduct nonathletically related activities for the 2020-21 academic year. Staff also notified the committee that issues related to student-athlete eligibility flexibility and winter sport start dates for the 2020-21 academic year will be reviewed by the relevant governance groups in the near future.
11. **Discussion of Potential Reduction to Sports Sponsorship Minimums.** The committee discussed further reduction to sports-sponsorship minimum requirements for the 2020-21 academic year. The committee expressed its desire to provide member institutions with additional assurances regarding the waiver flexibility for the 2020-21 academic year by instructing staff to issue an official statement clarifying this point. The committee will continue to monitor the need for additional relief in this area.
12. **In-Person Meeting and Teleconference Schedule.** The committee reviewed a schedule for future meetings and videoconferences.
13. **Other Business.** Staff facilitated a discussion with the committee about virtual competition and the current interpretative positions from each division that prohibits the use of virtual competitions to satisfy minimum sports-sponsorship requirements. The committee noted that while it would be willing to consider limited waiver flexibility in this area due to COVID-19 concerns, parameters would need to be established to account for gender equity, sport equity and student-athlete experience concerns. The committee agreed to discuss this topic further at a future date.
14. **Adjournment.** The committee concluded its business and adjourned at 11:08 a.m. Eastern time June 25, 2020.

Committee Chair: Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference

*Staff Liaisons: Eric Hartung, Research
Tiffany Alford, Academic and Membership Affairs
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs*

NCAA Division III Membership Committee June 24-25, 2020, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
William Fell, United States Merchant Marine Academy.	
Michael Frandsen, Wittenberg University.	
Jan Hathorn, Washington and Lee University.	
Jessica Huntley, Atlantic East Conference.	
Charles Jacobs, St. Norbert College.	
Erica Lemm, Mount Holyoke College.	
Monique McLean, Trinity Washington University.	
Laura Mooney, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.	
Elliott Strickland, Pennsylvania College of Technology.	
Megan Valentine, Hilbert College.	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Tiffany Alford, Corey Berg, Debbie Brown and Eric Hartung.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Dan Dutcher, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers and Joan Nissen.	