



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 15-16, 2023, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. **Legislative items.**
 - **None.**
2. **Nonlegislative items.**
 - **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Administrative items.**
 - a. **Roster.** The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
 - b. **January 10-11, 2023, meeting report.** The committee approved the report with no changes.
 - c. **Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures.
 - d. **Expectations of a SAAC member.** The committee reviewed the expectations of SAAC primary and associate members and effective strategies to engage with conference and campus SAAC groups.
 - e. **Roberts Rules of Order.** The committee reviewed the Robert's Rules of Order guidelines document.
2. **NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Policies and Procedures.** At the 2023 NCAA Convention the Division III membership adopted Proposal 2023-4, to permit the national Student-Athlete Advisory Committee one vote on each legislative proposal during the divisional business session, beginning at the 2024 NCAA Convention. The adoption of the proposal prompted a discussion at the committee's April 2023 videoconference because there is not currently a process for the committee to cast a vote on legislative proposals.

The committee updated the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee policies and procedures to establish a process by which the committee will cast its vote on legislative proposals, beginning at the 2024 NCAA Convention.

The SAAC chair will serve as the committee's voting delegate and cast the student-athlete vote on behalf of all Division III student-athletes. Should a window of reconsideration occur on any legislation, the committee's executive board has the authority to discuss and decide

how the committee would like to cast its vote. Should the chair be absent or otherwise unable to cast the vote, the vice-chair will act on the committee's behalf.

With this updated policy and procedure, student-athletes will have an established process to contribute to the Division III governance process.

3. **Visit from NCAA President Charlie Baker.** NCAA President Charlie Baker joined the committee and gave his perspective on why Division III, and why he is excited for this role. He gave an update on the work he is doing in Washington D.C. to support the NCAA. President Baker answered some questions that came from the committee and was looking to hear from them on what is needed for the student-athlete.
4. **Division III philosophy statement and strategic position platform.** The committee reviewed the updated Division III philosophy statement and strategic position platform.
5. **Division III campus SAAC liaison contact information.** The committee reviewed the Division III campus SAAC liaison contact information and assigned homework to complete it before the July meeting. The contact information is used to communicate with campus and conference SAAC advisors.
6. **Committee assignments.** The committee reviewed the vacant Association-wide and Division III committee and working group positions. New committee members were assigned to the noted vacancies, given descriptions of each committee and given an overview of their responsibilities.
7. **Legislation.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an overview of the Division III legislative process and timeline before the committee discussed specific topics that have emerged from the governance structure since the 2023 NCAA Convention.
 - a. **SAAC voting procedure for NCAA Convention.** NCAA staff provided the committee with a sample voting process modeled after that which is used by the Division II National SAAC. The committee reviewed the model and finalized the process for casting III National SAAC vote on legislative proposals at future NCAA Conventions.
 - b. **Mental health hardship waiver discussion.** NCAA staff provided the committee with information on the existing hardship waiver criteria and process, as well as information on the resolution adopted at the 2023 NCAA Convention to explore a hardship waiver process specific to mental health assertions. The committee provided feedback on the initial proposed changes suggested by the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement and will have an additional discussion on proposed changes at its July meeting.

8. **NCAA Association-wide committees, Division III committees and working groups.** The committee representatives who serve on Division III committees and working groups and Association-wide committees provided updates on the most recent meetings and reports.
9. **Division III 50th anniversary.** The committee received an update on the Division III 50th anniversary and brainstormed ideas on how they can celebrate on their campuses and get conferences involved. The committee was shown the logo unveiling prior to it being released to the membership. The official launch date for the 50th anniversary of Division III is August 6.
10. **Division III SAAC working groups report outs and updates.**
 - a. **Current working group updates.** The committee reviewed progress and updates on the 2022-23 working groups of SAAC University and social media. The SAAC University and social media working groups teamed up to focus on Mental Health Mondays on the Division III SAAC Instagram and Twitter accounts and to provide helpful resources.
 - b. **2023-24 working groups.** The committee used breakout sessions to discuss 2023-24 goals and topics that were directly important to the student-athletes they serve. The group will cultivate their ideas to help finalize the final two working group topics at the July meeting.
11. **Visit from Isaiah Swann, former student-athlete representative on the Board of Governors.** Isaiah Swann, Division III former student-athlete representative on the Board of Governors, visited with the group to provide insight on his experience as a member of the Board of Governors and how his work with the congressional engagement subcommittee has heightened the Division III voice as he represents Division III student-athletes.
12. **Conference and partner conference meetings.** The committee discussed what the conference and partner conference meetings are and what to expect. The committee gave general guidance on how to handle conference meetings and how to prepare. The veteran committee members shared best practices in how to stay in touch with your partner conference SAAC member and commissioner.
13. **Congressional engagement and action.** The committee heard updates on the Board of Governors Subcommittee on Congressional Engagement Action and Mobilization efforts. They discussed student-athlete advocacy education and provided talking points and resources. There was a discussion on how student-athletes can help in this space and try to get their voice heard.
14. **Discussion of edits to policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures and encouraged all members to conduct an in-depth review ahead of the July meeting so that there may be a discussion about suggested edits and how they may impact the SAAC experience.

15. **Special Olympics partnership and updates.** The committee brainstormed ideas for the Joint SAAC and Management Council Special Olympics event in July. The group discussed the idea of holding the event indoors at the Hall of Champions and having fun interactive stations with different activities.
 - Special Olympics events on campus. The group discussed partaking in events on campus and provided examples on how to initiate these events and how other members may be able to engage their campus and conference SAAC groups.
16. **Discuss agenda and plans for joint MC/SAAC meeting at July meeting.** The committee discussed and brainstormed ideas and topics to discuss during the roundtable portion of the joint meeting.
17. **Division III Governance update.** The committee received updates from Louise McCleary, Vice President of Division III and Bill Regan, Managing Director of Division III. They discussed Division III specific information on Board of Governors Congressional Engagement updates, Division III Championship enhancements and moderated a discussion on campus athletic personal regarding athletic training and sports information director staff concerns. Louise and Bill also answered questions from the committee.
18. **Reminder of future meeting dates.** The committee reviewed the future meeting dates.
 - a. May/June 2023 teleconference: primary and associate members.
 - b. July 15-16, 2023; Indianapolis: primary and associate members.
 - c. September/October 2023 teleconference: primary and associate members.
 - d. November 12-13, 2023; Indianapolis: primary members only.
 - e. January 9-13, 2024; NCAA Convention, Phoenix: primary and associate members.
19. **Other business.**
 - a. **CSC Unite Opportunity.** June 11-13 in Orlando (formerly CoSIDA Convention). The committee reviewed information on the upcoming opportunity.
 - b. **Debrief on Student-Athlete Leadership Forum education session.** The committee received a debrief of the Student-Athlete Leadership Forum education session.
 - c. **Speaking agent policy reminder.** The committee was reminded of the speaking agent policy for SAAC:

The president of the Association and the chair of the Board of Governors are the only individuals authorized to speak on behalf of the Association except as outlined below.

An individual representing a member institution or conference who speaks or opines on an Association issue only has the authority to express the view of that individual or the member institution or conference unless the individual has been designated by the Board of Governors of the Association as a speaking agent of the Association on that issue.

Committee chairs are hereby designated as speaking agents of their committees regarding issues within their committees' jurisdiction on which there is consensus, except that positions of advocacy on behalf of the committee or the Association to be communicated in writing or orally to persons or entities external to the Association must have prior approval by the NCAA Board of Governors or the president of the Association. The president of the Association is hereby granted authority to designate additional speaking agents of the Association (*April 2001 Executive Committee minutes.*).

- d. **SAAC committee composition discussion.** The committee had an initial discussion regarding a potential future legislative proposal around SAAC committee composition. The committee members will solicit feedback from their campus and conference committees to discuss at a future meeting. Greg Ricketts, associate member representing the American Rivers Conference, brought the idea forward after his conference discussed the possibility of all SAAC members being primary members. The committee discussed removing the associate title and making all members primary so everyone can have responsibilities including serving on Division III and Association-wide committees. There is a push from the committee to make everyone accountable and take responsibility for their position on SAAC. To them, this would create more depth and easier transitions.
- e. **Town Halls.** The committee received information on upcoming joint townhalls that Vaish Siddapureddy, chair of Division III SAAC, and Jack Langan, vice chair of Division III SAAC, were hosting with Division II SAAC leaders. The intent of the town halls was to gather feedback from student-athletes about the congressional engagement and provide additional education and resources.

20. Adjournment.

Committee Chair: Vaish Siddapureddy, Pomona-Pitzer Colleges; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

*Staff Liaisons: Ali Spungen, Division III Governance
 Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs
 Katie Mucci, Division III Governance
 Gillian Burns, Division III Governance
 Daniel Scotto, NCAA Eligibility Center*

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee April 15-16, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees – Primary Members:	
Josh Africa, Penn State Harrisburg; United East Conference.	
Lillian Case, Juniata College; Landmark Conference.	
Garrett Clasen, University of Chicago; University Athletic Association.	
Gabby Elliott, Denison University; North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Julia Hathaway, Virginia Wesleyan University; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
TJ Hill-Johnson, William Peace University; USA South Conference.	
Daniele Iaboni, Anna Maria College; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.	
Chris Krum, Albion College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Jack Langan, Cornell College; Midwest Conference.	
Theodore Lockhart III, William Paterson University of New Jersey; New Jersey Athletic Conference.	
Angela Marin, University of Texas, Dallas; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Molly Malachow, Pennsylvania State Univ. Erie, the Behrend College; Allegheny Mountain Conference.	
Muthu Meenakshisundaram, University of Minnesota, Morris; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Hayley Peck, Purchase College, State University of New York; Skyline Conference.	
Vaish Siddapureddy, Pomona Pitzer Colleges; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Rachel Sinclair, Worcester State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Myora Slaughter, Rosemont College; Colonial States Athletic Conference.	
Rohan Springer, University of Texas, Dallas; American Southwest Conference.	
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Sabienea Winston, Geneva College; Presidents' Athletic Conference.	
Attendees – Associate Members in Attendance	
Zack Durr, Castleton University; Little East Conference.	
Kai McClelland, Trinity University; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Greg Ricketts, Central College; American Rivers Conference.	
Hannah Starr, St. Nobert College; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.	

Absentees:
Zach Bulthuis, Carthage College; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.
Abby Diggs, Maryville College; Collegiate Conference of the South.
Clark Kent, Greenville University; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
None.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Corey Berg, Gillian Burns, Katie Mucci, Daniel Scotto and Ali Spungen.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance
Charlie Baker, Louise McCleary, Stephanie Quigg, Bill Regan, Isaiah Swann and Jared Tidemann.