



REPORT OF THE
DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 14, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Administrative items.**

- a. **Roster.** The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
- b. **Partner conference pairings.** The committee had no questions, comments or concerns.
- c. **Expectations of a SAAC member.** The committee reviewed the expectations of SAAC members and effective strategies to engage with conference and campus SAAC groups.
- d. **January 9-10, 2024, meeting report.** The committee approved the report with no changes.
- e. **Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures and approved a variety of edits.
- f. **Roberts Rules of Order.** The committee reviewed Robert's Rules of Order guidelines document.

2. **Division III campus SAAC liaison contact information.** The committee reviewed the Division III campus SAAC liaison contact information and will update the contact information before the July meeting. The contact information will enhance the communication between national, conference, and campus SAACs.

3. **Committee assignments.** The committee reviewed the committee assignments and responsibilities. No action was taken.

4. **Division III philosophy statement and strategic position platform.** The committee reviewed the philosophy statement and the strategic position platforms citing how the committee aligns with both resources.

5. **Division III SAAC subcommittee reports.**

- a. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice.** The committee received updates on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice subcommittee. The subcommittee has been sharing stories of Division III student-athletes through the DIII & Me series that are being shared on the Division III SAAC Instagram page.

- b. Mental and Physical Health.** The committee received updates regarding the Mental and Physical Health subcommittee. The subcommittee has been sharing regular videos as part of the Mental/Physical Health Minutes series. These short videos highlight the importance of various health-related topics. The videos can also be found on the Division III SAAC Instagram page.
- 6. Special Olympics partnership and updates.** The committee shared ideas for National SAAC members taking part in Special Olympics activations at the campus and conference levels. In addition, the committee discussed the agenda and plans for a joint meeting with the Management Council in July while in Indianapolis. The group has suggested a variety of fun sports and games, including pickleball, to be considered for the July Special Olympics event with the Management Council.
- 7. Association-wide and Division III committee and working group reports.** The committee representatives who serve on Division III committees working groups and Association-wide committees provided updates on the most recent meetings and reports.
- 8. Visit From NCAA Senior Vice President of External Affairs, Tim Buckley.** The committee was updated and discussed NCAA Association-wide updates with Tim Buckley. The committee received updates on the Association's legislative objectives, the extended benefits being offered to student-athletes, the collaboration with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, sports wagering, and the Division III implications of the unionization of college athletes.
- 9. Division III and Association-wide initiatives and updates.** The committee discussed sportsmanship/fan behavior and officiating, Division III 50th Anniversary and Division III Week. In addition, the committee was provided updates on the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group as well as the LGBTQIA+ Working Group. No action was taken.
 - a. Recommendation for Division III NCAA Board of Governors Representative.** The committee reviewed applications for Division III former student-athlete representative to the NCAA Board of Governors. The committee approved the recommendations of Greg Ricketts, Adaobi Nebuwa (first alternate) and Vaish Siddapureddy (second alternate).
 - b. Updated Mental Health Guidelines.** The committee received an update on new mental health best practices released by the Sport Science Institute.
 - c. Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee.** The committee reviewed the structure and composition of the Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, as well as the value of the group as it undergoes an Association-wide review.
- 10. NCAA update with President Charlie Baker.** President Charlie Baker addressed with the committee data collection for fan databases to enhance engagement, legislative actions surrounding prop betting (Draw the Line campaign), transgender student-athlete

participation policy and prioritizing mental health and suicide prevention for student-athletes, and the injury insurance program for student-athletes after they have exhausted their eligibility started August 1.

11. **Division III update.** The committee received updates from Louise McCleary, Division III Vice President and Bill Regan, Managing Director of Division III, on a variety of current topics facing Division III including the implementation of name, image, and likeness (NIL) protections for student-athletes, the ongoing Deloitte audit, and touched upon the increased visibility of Division III sports through streaming platforms. Further, the committee also discussed the retention and improvement of conditions for athletic training staffs on Division III campuses, the importance of sportsmanship and the creation of safe playing environments for Division III student-athletes, plans to expand bracket sizes for championships, enhancements in the per diem framework, and the introduction of the National Performance Index (NPI) for bracket formation.
12. **Legislative discussions and updates.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an overview of the legislative process and timeline, along with an update on its previous discussion about the use of social media as it applies to voluntary athletic-related activities. NCAA staff asked the committee for feedback on the current transfer regulations, and non-Division III graduate/postbaccalaureate participation.
 - a. **Transfer regulations.** The committee discussed the current transfer policy and whether the transfer year in residence should be the standard for student-athletes who do not meet a transfer exception. Overall, the committee felt the year in residence should not be the standard but felt circumstances involving a disciplinary suspension may warrant the year in residence. Additionally, SAAC recognized the importance of respecting the autonomy of individual institutions in setting transfer policies while also addressing concerns about enabling transfers as an escape from academic difficulties.
 - b. **Seasons of participation.** The committee was notified that both the Subcommittee for Legislative Relief and the Interpretation and Legislative Committee recommended noncontroversial legislation to incorporate the directive of the current non-Division III graduate student-athlete blanket waiver into Bylaw 14.1.8. The committee felt that student-athletes coming from other divisions do take away participation opportunities from younger student-athletes, and older student-athletes need to leave their sport at some point.
13. **Conference and partner conference meetings.** The committee discussed best practices for presenting at conference meetings and communicating with associate members.
14. **SAAC communications expectations checklist.** The committee was tasked to design a checklist of SAAC member communications.

15. Other business.

- a. Debrief on Student-Athlete Leadership Forum Education Session.** Lillian Case and Rohan Springer recounted their experience from the Student-Athlete Leadership Forum Education Session and discussed the feedback they received from the Division III student-athletes who were in attendance.
- b. SAAC Associate members becoming primary members.** The committee discussed the idea of all SAAC representatives becoming primary representatives and provided feedback stating that having each conference represented would better provide feedback and involvement from all conferences.

16. Reminder of future meeting dates. The committee reviewed the future meeting dates.

- a.** July 20-21, 2024; Indianapolis – primary and associate members.
- b.** September 2024 teleconference – primary and associate members.
- c.** November 10-11, 2024; Indianapolis – primary members only.
- d.** January 15-18, 2025; NCAA Convention, Nashville, Tennessee – primary and associate members.

17. Adjournment.

Committee Chair: Jack Langan, Cornell College; Midwest Conference.

*Staff Liaisons: Ali Spungen, Division III Governance
Katie Mucci, Division III Governance
Becca Trovato, Academic and Membership Affairs
Jonathan Youngblood, Championships*

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee April 14, 2024, Videoconference	
Attendees – Primary Members:	
Arturo Casas, Manchester; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference. Lillian Case, Juniata ; Landmark Conference. Garrett Clasen, University of Chicago; University Athletic Association. Julia Hathaway, Virginia Wesleyan; Old Dominion Athletic Conference. TJ Hill-Johnson, William Peace; USA South Conference. Josey Johnson, Otterbein; Ohio Athletic Conference. Gavin Jones, Westminster (Pennsylvania); Presidents Athletic Conference. Jacob Keller, Wisconsin-Platteville; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Sebastian Knowles, Hartwick; Empire 8. Angela Marin, Texas-Dallas; ex officio Management Council attendee. Muthu Meenakshisundaram, Minnesota,-Morris; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference. Ella Miller, Wisconsin Lutheran; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference. Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby, New England Small College Athletic Conference. Hayley Peck, Purchase College; Skyline Conference. Morgan Shaw, Willamette; Northwest Conference. Rohan Springer, Texas-Dallas, American Southwest Conference. Nathaniel Whisman, Valley Forge; United East. Oliver Williams, Westfield State; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Attendees – Associate Members in Attendance:	
None.	
Absentees:	
Jack Langan, Cornell College; Midwest Conference. Theodore Lockhart III, William Paterson; New Jersey Athletic Conference. Molly Malachow, Penn State-Behrend; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference. Zoey Wexler, Western New England; Commonwealth Coast Conference. Brian Wigley, Shenandoah; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Katie Mucci, Ali Spungen, Becca Trovato and Jonathan Youngblood.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Charlie Baker, Tim Buckley, Kameron Jones, Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Kaylen Overway and Bill Regan.	