



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 9-10, 2021, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Meeting Conducted Virtually.** The committee members gathered virtually via Microsoft Teams to conduct its January 9-10 meeting.
2. **2021 NCAA Convention.** The committee reviewed the schedule of responsibilities for SAAC members throughout the virtual NCAA Convention. The group finalized flow scripts, discussion questions, and logistics for two key events, the joint Management Council/President's Council meeting and the Division III student-athlete social.
3. **Administrative items.**
  - a. Rosters. The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
  - b. November SAAC meeting report. The committee approved the report with no changes.
  - c. SAAC expectations document. The committee reviewed the expectations of SAAC primary and associate members.
  - d. Robert's Rules of Order. The committee reviewed the Robert's Rules of Order guidelines document.
  - e. Policies and procedures. The committee reviewed its policies and procedures. Emphasis was put on the recent change made related to committee eligibility and athletic participation.
4. **DIII SAAC Elections.** The committee elected members to serve as liaisons to Division III and Association-wide committees and working groups. The new liaisons' terms will become effective immediately.
  - a. Championships Committee: Bridgett Finn, soccer student-athlete at Lebanon Valley College.

- b. Committee on Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct: Paxton Blanchard, lacrosse student-athlete at Keene State College.
  - c. Minority Opportunities and Interest Committees: Mercy Ogutu, volleyball and tennis student-athlete at Trinity Washington University.
  - d. Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport (CSMAS): Talia Williams, volleyball student-athlete at Carleton College.
  - e. Diversity and Inclusion Working Group: Vaishnav Siddapureddy, football student-athlete at Pomona College.
  - f. Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee: Megan Koch, track and field and cross-country student-athlete at Colorado College.
5. **Division III Updates.** Dan Dutcher, Vice President for Division III, and Louise McCleary, Managing Director of Division III, joined the committee to provide updates about the Division III membership and current issues facing institutions. The main topic covered was the Name, Image, and Likeness legislation and the impact of the Department of Justice letter sent to the NCAA. The Division III staff members discussed next steps for NIL and encouraged SAAC to plan for how to proceed and utilize its platform to spark change. Further updates entered around college athletics' sustainability, the OneTeam program, sport sponsorship for Division III national championships, and COVID-19's continued impact.
6. **NCAA Executive Updates.** NCAA President Mark Emmert, Cari Van Senus, Chief of Staff, and Scott Bearby, Vice President of Legal Affairs and General Counsel joined the committee to provide updates. The key topic of discussion was NIL legislation, including the Department of Justice letter, recent developments at the state level, the Divisional focus of pushback with Division I athletes, and the representation of the student-athlete voice. Another primary focus was upon the sexual assault prevention task force and its upcoming report to the board in April.
7. **NCAA Board of Governors Updates.** Donald Remy, Chief Operating Officer, and Jack DeGioia, President of Georgetown University and President of the Board of Governors joined SAAC to connect and discuss the Board of Governors priorities heading into the winter. Specific conversation was surrounding COVID-19 and its mental health implications, the Russell rule and inclusive hiring practices, the recent Alston case and the legal cases ahead, and the path forward with NIL. The group posed questions related to the Division III student-athlete experience and the statistics surrounding retention of minority student-athletes in the Division.

8. **NCAA Sport Science Institute Updates.** Brian Hainline, NCAA Chief Medical Officer, joined the meeting to provide insight into the work of the NCAA Sport Science Institute. Dr. Hainline provided updates surrounding vaccine distribution and COVID-19 in the United States, the March Madness “bubble,” and the re-socialization of winter sports. He also reported about the recent gender identity summit and the transgender student-athlete policy where the NCAA absorbed many student-athlete viewpoints and perspectives.
9. **Division III SAAC Working Group Report Outs.**
  - a. **Mental and Physical Health Working Group.** The working group reported to the larger SAAC group about its continued ideation surrounding a theme for the mental health social media campaign this spring. The working group is currently planning website updates and resources for the NCAA.org page to build off of the successes of last year’s campaign. Additionally, the group reported about potential future collaborations with Alston for Athletes and Morgan’s message, external organizations that fit within the working group’s mission and could support SAAC messaging.
  - b. **Special Olympics Working Group.** The working group first reported to the committee about the execution of the NCAA Convention meeting Special Olympics event. January’s event allowed for active engagement and fun exercise, using the Special Olympics’ School of Strength videos and a student-athlete led cool down. There was continued discussion surrounding the best methods to engage the Special Olympics partnership on the digital platform and how to keep promoting the activities and subsequent reporting of any campus events. Lastly, the committee members reported on the development of virtual event resources to further how membership institutions can put on Special Olympics activities in the pandemic friendly space.
  - c. **Social Justice and Inclusion Working Group.** The Social Justice and Inclusion working group emphasized its focus on virtual engagement with student-athletes. This will include a February social media push related to Black History Month and a June Pride Month social media initiative. While both items are still pending the finalization of details, the group is seeking to collaborate alongside SAAC members throughout all three divisions to enhance the impact. Additionally, the group talked about the creation of a one-page resource to guide conversations around social justice on campus. Finally, the group ideated on a summit, like the NCAA’s A4 (Athlete’s Using their Power,) to bring in speakers and student-athletes to spark discussion around inclusivity and social justice.
10. **NCAA Committee and Working Group reports.** 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.
11. **Special Olympics Partnership.** On Jan. 9, Scott George, Manager Unified Champion Schools, University Engagement for Special Olympics joined the committee meeting to prepare for the Division III Special Olympics Event on Jan. 10. George was joined by Andrea Cahn, Vice President for Unified Champion Schools for Special Olympics, who talked about the impact of unified

schools and how Division III athletes have contributed 500,000 hours to service over the past year. Finally, Joy Rector and Evie Slye, two youth ambassadors for Special Olympics joined to tell the committee their story and how their friendship developed through unified athletics.

On Jan. 10, NCAA staff liaisons discussed the upcoming Special Olympics event in detail, ironing out the logistics for the event. The Convention event was a great success, with the WWE School of Strength videos used for a virtual workout and SAAC members leading a warm-up and cool-down for attending Division III student-athletes and administrators and Special Olympics athletes. Finally, with the anniversary of the partnership between Special Olympics and Division III occurring next year, the committee was asked to brainstorm ways to celebrate this partnership in a meaningful way.

12. **SAAC Primary Meeting Update.** On Jan. 10, the associate members of Division III National SAAC joined the committee and received an in-depth report of the previous day's activities and updates.
13. **Legislation.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an overview of the legislative process and timeline. The committee reviewed the legislation proposed on name, image, and likeness, assessing the pros/cons for the legislation to be voted on at the NCAA Convention. However, with the development of the Department of Justice letter, the committee was updated on the process with the legislation, including its likely delay based on the recommendations of the Management Council and President's Council. The legislation discussion then pivoted to what happened if the NIL legislation was tabled. Committee members asked questions about NIL's enforcement, how legislation could be passed prior to the 2022 Convention, and the divisional differences between Divisions I and III in regard to NIL.
14. **Future Meetings.**
  - a. March 2021 orientation teleconferences (new Primary and Associate members).
  - b. April 10-11, 2021; via Microsoft Teams.
  - c. July 18-19, 2021; via Microsoft Teams.
  - d. September/October teleconference; date TBD.
  - e. November 14-15, 2021; Indianapolis.
  - f. January 17-18, 2022; NCAA Convention, Indianapolis.
15. **Other Business.** Unity Pledge and Patches. The Unity Pledge and Patch has been an immense success with collaboration from all three SAACs. The committee expressed its contentment with its rollout and implementation.

## 16. Adjournment.

*Committee Chair: Braly Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University; American Rivers Conference*

*Staff Liaisons: Ali Spungen, Division III Governance*

*Brynna Barnhart, Enforcement*

*Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs*

*Patrick Malin, Leadership Development*

*Adam Skaggs, Division III Governance*

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee January 9-10, 2021, Meeting	
<b>Attendees-Primary Members:</b>	
Madeira Alexander, Salisbury University; Capital Athletic Conference.	
Devonte Amos, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Paxton Blanchard, Keene State College; Little East Conference.	
Janne Brown, Aurora University; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.	
Gerard Bryant, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Mika Costello, Willamette University; Northwest Conference.	
Hannah Durst; Baldwin-Wallace University; Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Charlotte Ellis; Crown College (Minnesota); Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Annabelle Feist, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Bridgett Finn, Lebanon Valley Conference; Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Anthony Francois, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; City University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Cameron Gardner-Nicholson, Penn State University, Altoona; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Braly Keller, Nebraska Wesleyan University; American Rivers Conference.	
Catherine Lanigan, Juniata College; Landmark Conference.	
Michael Litz, Penn State University, Abington; North Eastern Athletic Conference.	
Michael McMahon, Becker College; New England Collegiate Conference.	
Jack Mulvihill, St. John Fisher College; Empire 8 Conference.	
Abigail Newkirk, Bluffton University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Mercy Ogutu, Trinity Washington University; Independents.	
Colby Pepper, Covenant College; USA South Athletic Conference.	
Isaiah Swann, University of Texas at Dallas; American Southwest Conference.	
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
<b>Attendees-Associate Members</b>	
Nik Beshere, Bridgewater State University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Lillian Chamberlin, Saint Mary's College (IN); Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Ireland Clare Kennedy, Mount Holyoke College; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.	
Liv Coletta, Mills College; American Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Cassie Contigiani; Thomas College; North Atlantic Conference.	
Braedon Dobbs, Fontbonne University; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Liam Galligan, Franciscan University; Presidents Athletic Conference.	
Carlie Hansen, Bryn Mawr College; Centennial Conference.	
Owen Harkins, Allegheny College; North Coast Athletic Conference.	

Casey Hipp; Knox College; Midwest Conference.
Benjamin James, Guilford College; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Kristin Lasker, State University of New York at New Paltz; State University of New York Athletic Conference.
Justice Mercadel, Austin College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Morgan Mercier, Emmanuel College; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.
Diamond Onomake, Mount Saint Mary College (New York); Skyline Conference.
Elle Pickrell, Millsaps College; Southern Athletic Association.
Jenna Ruccolo, Case Western Reserve University; University Athletic Association.
Breann Sheaffer, Wilson College; Colonial States Athletic Conference.
Ashley Tutzauer, Cabrini University; Atlantic East Conference.
Luisa Valles, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Talia Williams, Carleton College; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Arcel Kabongo-Ngoy, Western New England University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.
Christine Mayorga, Montclair State University; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
Samantha Munroe, Illinois Wesleyan University; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.
<b>Guests in Attendance</b>
Andrea Cahn, Special Olympics.
Jack DeGioia, Georgetown University.
Scott George, Special Olympics.
Joy Rector, Special Olympics Unified Athlete.
Evie Slye, Special Olympics Unified Athlete
<b>NCAA Staff Members in Attendance</b>
Scott Bearby, Legal affairs.
Dan Dutcher; Division III governance.
Mark Emmert; NCAA President.
Brian Hainline; Sport Science Institute.
Louise McCleary; Division III governance.
Donald Remy; Executive.
Cari Van Senus; Executive.
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