



REPORT OF THE  
DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 9-10, 2024, MEETING

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 primary and associate members and effective strategies to engage with conference and campus SAAC groups.
  - d. **November 12-13, 2023, meeting report.** The committee approved the report with no changes.
  - e. **Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures.
  - f. **Roberts Rules of Order.** The committee reviewed the Robert's Rules of Order guidelines document.
2. **Division III campus SAAC liaison contact information.** The committee reviewed the updates on the Division III campus SAAC liaison contact information. The contact information will enhance the communication between national, conference and campus SAACs.
3. **Committee assignments.** The committee reviewed the individuals who were elected to new positions at the November meeting that will become effective immediately following the 2024 Convention.
4. **Division III philosophy statement and strategic position platform.** The committee reviewed the Division III philosophy statement and strategic position platform.
5. **Division III SAAC subcommittee reports.**
  - a. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice.** The diversity, equity, inclusion and justice subcommittee are focused on the launch of the series "DIII and Me" which will feature student-athlete stories from around the division.

- b. Mental and Physical Health.** The mental and physical health subcommittee discussed upcoming initiatives and plans. The subcommittee is looking to expand content and build off the Mental Health Mondays to focus on physical health.
- 6. Division III and Association-wide initiatives.**
  - a. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Division III.** The weekly podcast for Division III that hosts former and current Division III student-athletes has recorded more than 20 episodes. Division III Week of Service which ran from November 27 to December 3, 2023, had over 6,000 student-athletes and athletic administrators log over 60,000 hours of service. Due to its success, Division III may continue to hold the event in future years. The committee also discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign and the engagement seen on their individual campuses. The committee provided positive feedback as it pertains to both the signage, logos and social media engagement.
  - b. Division III Week.** This year Division III Week will take place April 1-7 and will focus on the six attributes of Division III. The committee is encouraged to engage with their campus SAAC and administration to try and plan either community service or Special Olympic events during that time.
- 7. NCAA update with President Charlie Baker.** President Baker visited the committee where he answered a variety of questions from the committee and engaged in conversation regarding the injury insurance program, the building of an NCAA Association-wide fan database, the recent ESPN media rights deal, Project DI, sports wagering, the transfer portal, minority protections, and the focus on a four-year athletic experience.
- 8. Division III update.** The committee received updates from Louise McCleary, Division III Vice President, on a variety of current topics facing Division III including Project DI, the new media rights deal, transfer regulations, inclusive leader facilitator program, the transgender policy, and the work of the athletic trainer working group. The leadership of the division discussed the recent temporary restraining order pertaining to four-year transfer legislation which has prompted a review of the division's current transfer legislation this spring. The proposed changes to the philosophy statement were discussed and the importance of making a decision that will last and best serve our student-athletes and institutions for decades to come was emphasized.
- 9. Athletic Trainer Working Group update.** Marybeth Lamb, Vice President for Athletics & Student Wellness at Bridgewater State, visited the committee where she discussed the work of the athletic trainers working group and the need for the voice and feedback from the student-athletes. The committee will receive a survey and was tasked with providing feedback from their fellow student-athletes pertaining to athletic trainers.
- 10. Legislation and other updates.** NCAA staff updated the committee and asked for additional feedback on the use of social media as it applies to voluntary athletically related activities. NCAA staff provided the committee with an overview of the legislative process

and timeline. The committee reviewed all the proposed legislation to be voted upon at the Division III business session, as well as the non-controversial legislation that was accepted via the governance structure. The committee re-evaluated to ensure their justifications were aligned with student-athlete input and rehearsed position papers to deliver at the business session to provide attending voters with input from Division III student-athletes. Upon further discussion, the committee took the following positions on the 2024 NCAA Conventional legislative proposals:

- a. **Proposal 2024-1 – Amending the Division III Philosophy Statement.** The committee voted to support the proposal.
  - b. **Proposal 2024-1-1 – Four-Year Transfers.** The committee voted to support the proposal.
  - c. **Proposal 2024-1-2 – Financial Aid.** The committee voted to support the proposal.
  - d. **Proposal 2024-2 – Amendment-to-Amendment period.** The committee voted to support the proposal.
  - e. **Proposal 2024-3 – Minimum Number of Participants in Tennis.** The committee voted to support the proposal.
  - f. **Proposal 2024-4 – Stunt as an Emerging Sport for Women.** The committee voted to support the proposal.
11. **Visit from NCAA Board of Governors chair Linda Livingstone.** The committee received updates from the NCAA Board of Governors from Linda Livingstone. Dr. Livingstone discussed Project DI and its larger implications over the Association and Division III specifically, the effort to garner support for a bipartisan name, image, and likeness bill, the recent ESPN media rights deal, streaming visibility for Division III student- athletes, and mental health guidance and best practices.
  12. **Special Olympics Updates.** The committee was visited by Lexxi O'Brien from Special Olympics North America. The mission and history of Special Olympics was discussed and best practices for creating an enhanced Special Olympics experience on their own campuses were shared.
    - **Unified Sports Activity.** On Thursday, January 11, Division III SAAC sponsored a Special Olympics Unified activity in partnership with Special Olympics Arizona. The activities at the event were a photo booth, giant Jenga, cornhole, bocci ball, and other games. There were eight Special Olympic athletes in attendance and over 100 student-athletes.
  13. **Visit from Isaiah Swann, former student-athlete representative on Board of Governors.** The committee was visited by Isaiah Swann, former student-athlete representative on the Board of Governors. Swann provided insight on his experience as the

student athlete board representative, the time commitment required, voting, and application process.

14. **Leadership Development opportunity updates.** Lamarr Pottinger and Colby Wilson provided the committee with information regarding upcoming Leadership Development opportunities, such as the Postgraduate Internship Program, the Career in Sports Forum, and Student-Athlete Leadership Forum.
15. **Conference and partner conference meetings.** The committee discussed the expectations and responsibilities for SAAC representatives attending partner conference meetings.
16. **Update from Office of Legal Affairs.** The committee reviewed updates from Leilyn Miles from the Office of Legal Affairs. Miles informed the committee of the seven ongoing legal cases the NCAA is currently facing.
17. **NCAA Sport Science Institute Update.** Dr. Brian Hainline, Chief Medical Officer and John Parsons, managing director of the Sport Science Institute, discussed the Transgender student-athlete participation policy and the decision by CSMAS and the Board of Governors to stay in phase two for the 2024-25 academic year. The committee also discussed the balance between fairness and inclusion, concussions, and the concussion safety protocol checklist, mental health best practices, sudden cardiac arrest among student- athletes, cannabinoid policy, and energy drink/caffeine use among the student- athlete population.
18. **Reminder of future meeting dates.** The committee reviewed the future meeting dates.
  - a. February/March 2024 orientation teleconference – new primary and associate members.
  - b. April 14, 2023; virtual – primary members only.
  - c. July 20-21, 2024; Indianapolis – primary and associate members.
  - d. September 2024 teleconference – primary and associate members.
  - e. November 10-11, 2024; Indianapolis – primary members only.
  - f. January 15-18, 2025; NCAA Convention, Nashville, Tennessee – primary and associate members.
19. **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  
 Becca Trovato, Academic and Membership Affairs

| NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee<br>January 9-10, 2024, Meeting                  |  |
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| <b>Attendees – Primary and Associate Members:</b>  |  |
| Josh Africa, Penn State Harrisburg; United East Conference.  |  |
| Lindy Brobeck, Marietta College; Ohio Athletic Conference.   |  |
| Alberto Bustamante, Northern Vermont – Lyndon; North Atlantic Conference.                            |  |
| Lillian Case, Juniata College, Landmark Conference.  |  |
| Jamie Carfagna, Muhlenberg College, Centennial Conference.   |  |
| Garrett Clasen, University of Chicago; University Athletic Association.                              |  |
| Amanda Cohen, Plattsburgh State; State University of New York Athletic Conference.                   |  |
| Lydia Coombs, Nazareth College; Empire 8.  |  |
| Zack Durr, Castleton University; Little East Conference.   |  |
| Grace Hadlich, The College of St. Scholastica; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.        |  |
| TJ Hill-Johnson, William Peace University; USA South Conference.                                     |  |
| Daniele Iaboni, Anna Maria College; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.                             |  |
| Noah LaBelle, Anderson University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.                         |  |
| Jack Langan, Cornell College; Midwest Conference.  |  |
| Theodore Lockhart III, William Paterson University of New Jersey, New Jersey Athletic Conference.    |  |
| Molly Malachow, Penn State Behrend; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.                        |  |
| Angela Marin, University of Texas, Dallas; ex officio Management Council attendee.                   |  |
| Kai McClelland, Trinity University; Southern Collegiate Athletic 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.                     |  |
| Dom Petruzzelli, Cabrini University; Atlantic East Conference.                                       |  |
| Greg Ricketts, Central College; American Rivers Conference.  |  |
| Maddie Russell, Pacific University; Northwest 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.                              |  |

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| Rohan Springer, University of Texas, Dallas, American Southwest Conference.  |
| Hannah Starr, St. Nobert College; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.  |
| Abby Sweeney, Smith College; New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference.  |
| Zoey Wexler, Western New England, Commonwealth Coast Conference.   |
| <b>Absentees:</b>  |
| Zach Bulthuis, Carthage College; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.   |
| Julia Cuttone, Baruch College, City University of New York Athletic Conference.  |
| Gabby Elliott, Denison University, North Coast Athletic Conference.  |
| Julia Hathaway, Virginia Wesleyan University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.  |
| Chris Krum, Albion College, Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.   |
| Emma Kirchner, Eastern University; Middle Atlantic Conference.   |
| Kameri Meredith, University of Wisconsin, River Falls; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.  |
| Jackson Popeck, University of Mary Washington; Coast-to-Coast.   |
| Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University; ex officio Management Council attendee.   |
| Sabienea Winston, Geneva College; Presidents' Athletic Conference.   |
| Lauren Zeglen, Rochester Institute of Technology, Liberty League.  |
| <b>Guests in Attendance:</b>   |
| Marybeth Lamb, Linda Livingstone, Lexxi O'Brien, Isaiah Swann.   |
| <b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>  |
| Corey Berg, Katie Mucci, Ali Spungen and Becca Trovato.  |
| <b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance</b>  |
| Charlie Baker, Michael Cioroianu, Brian Hainline, Kameron Jones, Louise McCleary, Leilyn Miles, John Parsons, Lamarr Pottinger and Colby Wilson. |