



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 16-17, 2022, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Administrative items.**
 - a. Rosters.** The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
 - b. April 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 and discussed effective strategies on a personal and campus level to engage with their partners between SAAC meetings.
 - 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 and approved updates to include the new Presidents Council and Board of Governors positions and their selection processes.
 - f. SAAC Liaison Contact information.** The committee discussed completion of their conference's SAAC liaison contact sheet to help communication between National, Conference and Campus SAAC's.
 - g. Committee Assignments.** The national office staff gave an informational overview of the different Division III committees and their tasks and subject matters to get SAAC members thinking about which committees and working groups they would like to serve on in the future. There was also discussion on the likelihood of a proposal that would allow more student-athletes to be on Division III committees and stressed the importance of National SAAC expectations to serve on these working groups and committees.
- 2. Legislation.** NCAA staff provided the committee with an overview of the legislative process and timeline before the committee discussed specific topics that have emerged from

committees within the governance structure in the since the NCAA Convention. NCAA staff presented several new legislative proposals that had been submitted by the membership and governance structure. Proposals not listed below will be considered by the committee and its November 2022 meeting.

- a. **Social Media Deregulation.** The committee opposed the governance sponsored proposal for the deregulation of social media for recruitment purposes. The committee believes that any proposal to deregulate must include an action to represent a prospective student-athlete's consent to be contacted on social media and suggested that the proposal be amended to continue to require a financial deposit before public communication on social media can take place.
- b. **Stunt as an Emerging Sport.** The committee was undecided on the proposal to add stunt to the Emerging Sports for Women list. The committee's concerns surrounded lack of funding and gym time/space as well as limited participation.
- c. **Committee Composition.** The committee was undecided on the proposals to alter Division III committee and council composition. Overall, the committee supported the theme of the proposals to diversify conferences and ethnic representation on both councils. The discussion will continue at the fall quarterly meeting after there has been an opportunity for discussing the topic institution presidents, directors of athletics and conference commissioners.
- d. **Playing and Practice Season.** The committee opposed the 114/144 days model and supported the elimination of weeks model over the current playing and practice season structure. The committee believes that the governance sponsored proposal is the best balance of flexibility with the desire of student-athletes to be able to have clearly defined seasons, allowing them to plan their "out of season" lives, jobs and other opportunities.
- e. **SAAC Vote at Division III Business Session.** The committee was in strong support of a proposal to permit National SAAC to receive a vote at the Business Session at Convention.

3. Guest Speakers.

- a. **NCAA President Mark Emmert.** President Emmert joined the committee virtually to discuss current topics impacting college sports and to answer any question from the committee. Topics of discussion included the transformation committee, review of the previous school year championships, transgender athlete participation, mental health in student-athletes, Division III revenue distribution and how the transition period between Association presidents will look.

- b. **Isaiah Swann.** The Division III Board of Governors student-athlete representative joined the committee virtually to discuss his intentions while serving on the Board of Governors, and to share his story and background as a former Division III student-athlete. The committee asked him questions surrounding his plan for the new role, communication and his stance on current events in college athletics.
 - c. **Brian Hainline.** NCAA Chief Medical Officer Brian Hainline discussed cannabis drug testing, mental health best practices, Transgender student athletes and COVID-19 updates with the committee. The committee had several questions for more details on the topics discussed by Dr. Hainline.
4. **Management Council and SAAC joint meeting.** The committee discussed and voted on round table discussions for the joint meeting between SAAC and Management Council, they decided the topics of discussion were going to focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and student-athlete well-being on Division III campuses.
 - a. **DEI Initiatives.** This discussion included topics on institutional best practices of the Management Council representatives and improving DEI initiatives to retain minority administrators and support minority student-athletes in a more welcoming environment. Best practices were discussed with SAAC and Management Council brainstorming ideas on how to make their DEI initiatives become more seen.
 - b. **Student-Athlete well-being.** The discussion included topics around mental health, including suggestions for improving support to administrator and student-athlete mental health as well as the student-athlete physical health. Groups also discussed tactics for preventing student-athlete burnout. Both student-athletes and administrators desire for athletes and staff to perform at the top of their game, but realize that is a difficult task if there isn't a support system in place. Examples were brought up in regard to having a quick access link that student-athletes can use when they are in crisis or getting close to crisis.
5. **Division III SAAC working group reports.**
 - a. **Mental and Physical Health working group.** The Mental and Physical health working group gathered to review how the Third Annual Mental Health Social Media Campaign went on May 2-5. The working group identified through social media analytics that engagement from the target audience exceeded the working groups expectations, and that the theme was well delivered and received by student athletes and campuses.

The working group found that due to the lack of participation within SAAC, the tasks of posting and content creation was only done by two people. The committee discussed the possibilities of adjusting their mental health campaign to be

permanent, all year long campaign as student-athletes struggle with mental health throughout the year. To do this they will open the campaign to a weekly basis, for example doing a “Mental Health Monday’s”

- b. **Special Olympics working group.** The Special Olympics working group reported on the social media highlights for the Special Olympics partnership with Division III. This has included the production of interviews that are posted on Division III social media channels to highlight the partnership. The focus was on a competition entitled “Decade Duels” where each conference and its partner conference would compete for the highest percentage of student-athlete participation in Special Olympics events. The Duel results were announced in June and the Duel grand prize was voted on through a Special Olympics Spotlight Poll. The Midwest Conference won the grand prize of \$500 to use for their next Special Olympics event.

The working group reported that after the Decade Duel, there has been little reported participation. Working group members stressed the importance of Division III institutions submitting tracking data for all Special Olympics events and even set the goal for all 44 conferences to participate in Special Olympics activities by every SAAC member participating.

Moving into the new year, SAAC has decided to honor its partnership with Special Olympics by promoting it from working group status to a full committee priority. Instead of a small group of the committee, all members have committed to focusing on, planning and celebrating Special Olympics on the campus, conference and national level. Additionally, the Special Olympics joint event with SAAC and Management Council took place at a local basketball court where they played basketball, tag, and capture the flag. Four Special Olympics Indiana athletes, including Liam Price our special guest speaker from the 2022 NCAA Convention attended the event.

- c. **Diversity and Inclusion working group.** The Diversity and Inclusion working group discussed how it wrapped up the end of the academic year. This includes the social media campaigns for Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as Pride Month. The group was pleased with the execution of their social media campaigns and felt there was sufficient engagement on the social media platforms. Group members are going to work to bring more awareness to different areas of diversity and inclusion including gender, ability, ethnicity and more. Group members also stressed to the committee how everyone can campaign for diversity and inclusion on their platforms to support the Division III student-athletes who are already doing great work at their institutions.

- d. **2022-23 New Working Groups.** SAAC brainstormed a number of hot topics in college athletics and took a final vote on the top two to focus on during the 2022-23 academic year. Social media and SAAC University will be the working groups for 2022-23 academic year. The social media group will use SAAC's existing Instagram and Twitter accounts to conduct and promote different causes and campaigns that the committee cares about. SAAC University will provide education, best practices and resources on issues that are important to Division III student-athletes. Effective immediately, Mental & Physical Health, Special Olympics, and Diversity & Inclusion will no longer be the focused working groups.
6. **NCAA Association-Wide and Division III 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.
7. **NCAA Presidential search.** Committee members shared thoughts on qualities that the ideal candidate for the next NCAA President should possess. Suggestions included: former director of athletic or commissioner or student-athlete, someone who is politically savvy, familiar with the NCAA, someone famous or noteworthy with a good public reputation. The SAAC chair and vice chair will share more specific feedback from the committee with the presidential search firm at a later date.
8. **Division III Update.** Louise McCleary, Vice President of Division III, joined the committee to provide updates about developments impacting Division III and the NCAA membership. McCleary updated the committee on discussion from the advisory council and as well as announcing the SAAC members who will be on President's Council, Jess Ader and Jack Langan. She reviewed the current areas of interest from Division III and briefed the committee on emerging proposals related to these key items in priority order. Specific items of discussion included the championships experience, the budget breakdown for Division III, the possibility of the philosophy statement to adjust to stay relevant for another 50 years.

McCleary went into greater detail on updates from the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee and explained the budget enhancements for both championships and the enrichment fund, formerly known as nonchampionship initiatives. Overall, \$4 million is going to the student athlete experience. She emphasized the \$3.3 million increase for championships, going toward reimbursing ground transportation, adding a day of rest between semi-finals and finals, and increasing student-athlete stipend.
9. **Reminder of future meeting dates.**
 - a. September/October 2022 teleconference: primary and associate members.

- b. November 13-14, 2022; Indianapolis: primary members only.
 - c. January 11-14, 2023; NCAA Convention, San Antonio, Texas: primary and associate members.
10. **Other business.** Before adjourning, the committee finalized the plan for the joint meeting with Management Council as well as the Special Olympics activity with Management Council at a basketball facility near the national office. T-shirts and sunglasses were given to SAAC members to wear for the event and game ideas were finalized as well.
11. **Adjournment.**

Committee Chair: Megan Koch, Colorado College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.

*Staff Liaisons: Ali Spungen, Division III Governance
Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs
Adam Skaggs, Division III Governance
Gillian Burns, Division III Governance*

NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee July 16-17, 2022, Meeting	
Attendees-Primary Members:	
Jessica Ader, State University of New York at Potsdam; State University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Zach Bulthuis, Carthage College; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin	
Garrett Clasen, University of Chicago; University Athletic Association.	
Gabby Elliott, Denison University; North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Daniele Iaboni, Anna Maria College; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.	
Megan Koch, Colorado College; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Chris Krum, Albion College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Jack Langan, Cornell College; Midwest Conference.	
Angela Marin, University of Texas, Dallas; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Kate McCann, Mount Saint Mary (NY) College; Skyline Conference.	
Shemarri Miles, Principia College; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	
Mercy Ogutu, Trinity Washington University; Independents.	
Michael Paterson-Jones, Wilkes University; Middle Atlantic Conferences.	
Ariana Pena, Neumann University; Atlantic East Conference.	
KryJuan Roberson, Keystone College; Colonial State Athletic Conference.	
Rachael Scoones, SUNY Delhi; North Atlantic Conference.	
Vaish Siddapureddy, Pomona Pitzer Colleges; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Talia Williams, Carleton College' Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Sabienea Winston, Geneva College; Presidents' Athletic Conference.	

Attendees-Associate Members
Claire Ashley, Bridgewater State University, Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Brittany Fisher, Alfred State College; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.
Lindy Brobeck, Marietta College; Ohio Athletic Conference.
Alex Cassada, Pennsylvania College of Technology; United East Conference.
Julia Cuttone, Baruch College, City University of New York Athletic Conference.
Bailey Farmer, Howard Payne University; Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Brittany Fisher, Alfred State University; Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.
Noah LaBelle, Anderson University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Kara Lewis, North Central (MN); Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Gregory Ricketts; American Rivers Conference.
Nick Pilny, Elizabethtown College; Landmark Conference.
Jackson Popeck, University of Mary Washington; Coast-to-Coast Conference.
Gregory Ricketts, Central College; American Rivers Conference.
Hannah Starr, St. Nobert College; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.
Colonial States Athletic Conference.
Claire Tomczik, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Jamarcus Walker, Brevard College; USA South Athletic Conference.
Alexandra Welch, Roger Williams University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.
Lauren Zeglen, Rochester Institute of Technology; Liberty League.
Absentee:
Jason Claiborne, Eastern Connecticut State; Little East Conference.
Anyia Gunewardena, Johns Hopkins University; Centennial Conference.
David He, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
Shawn McCall, Lesley University; New England Collegiate Conference.
Molli Perry, Millsaps College; Southern Atlantic Conference.
Maddy Thomas, Whitworth University; Northwest Conference.
Victoria Vricella, The College of New Jersey; New Jersey Athletic Conference.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Corey Berg, Gillian Burns, Adam Skaggs and Ali Spungen.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance
Mark Emmert, Brian Hainline, Louise McCleary