



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JULY 20-21, 2024, 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. **April 14 meeting report.** The committee reviewed and 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 its expectations.
 - e. **Roberts Rules of Order.** The committee reviewed Robert's Rules of Order guidelines document.
 - f. **Division III Philosophy Statement and Strategic Positioning Platform.** The committee reviewed the Division III Philosophy Statement and Strategic Positioning Platform document.
2. **Campus Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) contact information.** The committee reviewed the Division III campus SAAC liaison contact information and is updating it to help communication between national, conference and campus SAACs.
3. **Committee assignments.** Current SAAC members on committees/working groups gave an informational overview of their tasks and subject matters to get other SAAC members thinking about which committees and working groups they would like to serve on in the future.
4. **Division III SAAC subcommittees.** The committee decided that mental and physical health and sports ethics and fan behavior would be the two areas of focus for 2024-25. The committee discussed the importance of participating and the goals set in place the previous year. The group will also be installing a podcast style "hot topics" update for every quarter and continuing the overall commitment to Special Olympics.

5. **Division III and Association-wide initiatives.** The committee was updated on Student-Athlete Day on the Hill. Members of the NCAA Divisions I, II and III SAAC, with the Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee members, met with various congressional offices to discuss the role of student-athlete committees and the impacts of current legal and legislative threats on student-athletes, advocating for legislation that would clarify that student-athletes are not employees and ensure a level playing field.
6. **Emerging Sports for Women.** The committee received an update on the status of women's wrestling as a national collegiate championship sport and other emerging sports.
7. **Congressional Engagement and Government Relations updates.** The committee addressed the critical nature of a House bill regarding student-athlete employment. It discussed the potential ramifications for Division III sports if Congress doesn't act on this issue, highlighting the urgent need for grassroots advocacy from student-athletes. Staff underscored the bill's recent progress through committee and the necessity of obtaining bipartisan support for it to pass in the Senate. Staff encouraged the committee to mobilize its peers to advocate for their interests, noting that a unified voice could significantly influence the legislative process.
8. **2025 Legislative Proposals and Updates.** The committee was provided an overview of the Division III legislative process and reviewed the proposals for the 2025 NCAA Convention. The committee will revisit the slate of legislative proposals at its September videoconference before members solicit feedback from their conferences and take official positions at the November meeting.
9. **Update from NCAA President.** NCAA President Charlie Baker highlighted current issues facing the Association, including the House settlement, student-athlete employment challenges and sports wagering. President Baker discussed the importance of finding a framework for compensating student-athletes without disrupting the current model of college sports. He emphasized the need for Congress to address these issues.
10. **Division III Update.** The committee received updates from the governance staff regarding the impact of recent events, such as the House settlement, on the division and Association as a whole. The committee discussed concepts involving mental health resources for student-athletes, sports wagering, various legal cases, NCAA Power Index and championships enhancements. Key proposals included the development of an online module for head coaches and athletic trainers, designed to help them recognize mental health crises and provide adequate support to student-athletes. Additionally, the new post-eligibility insurance policy, effective Aug. 1, was explained. The policy will cover injury-related expenses for student-athletes after they graduate, including mental health counseling related to those injuries.

11. **Board of Governors update.** Isaiah Swann, Division III former student-athlete representative on the Board of Governors, provided insight for the group on his experience as a member of the Board of Governors, and how his work with the congressional engagement heightened the Division III voice as he represents Division III student-athletes. Greg Ricketts, a former football student-athlete at Central College (Iowa), will replace Swann when his term ends August 1.
12. **Conference and partner conference meetings.** The committee reviewed the list of partner conferences and had no updates. The committee has updated conference and campus advisor contacts to prepare for the new academic year.
13. **Special Olympics partnership and updates.** SAAC members discussed the division's Special Olympics partnership and reviewed the reporting process for events. The group participated in an event with athletes from Special Olympics Indiana. The final Special Olympics engagement report for the 2023-24 academic year was shared; nearly 4,000 student-athletes dedicated 13,000+ hours to Special Olympics events throughout the year, while raising over \$10,000.
14. **Reminder of future meeting dates.**
 - a. September 23; Legislative teleconference, primary and associate members.
 - b. November 10-11; Indianapolis, primary members only.
 - c. January 14-17, 2025; NCAA Convention, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee, primary and associate members.
15. **Other business.** There was no additional business.
16. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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 July 20-21, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees – Primary Members:	
Arturo Casas, Manchester University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Lillian Case, Juniata College; Landmark Conference.	
Julia Hathaway, Virginia Wesleyan University; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.	
Josey Johnson, Otterbein University; Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Gavin Jones, Westminster College; Presidents' Athletic Conference.	
Jacob Keller, University of Wisconsin-Platteville; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Sebastian Knowles, Hartwick College; Empire 8.	
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.	
Ella Miller, Wisconsin Lutheran College; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.	
Adaobi Nebuwa, Colby College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.	
Hayley Peck, Purchase College, State University of New York; Skyline Conference.	
Morgan Shaw, Willamette University; Northwest Conference	
Rohan Springer, University of Texas, Dallas, American Southwest Conference.	
Zoey Wexler, Western New England University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.	
Nathaniel Whisman, University of Valley Forge; United East Conference.	
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University; ex officio Management Council attendee.	
Attendees – Associate Members in Attendance	
Jacqueline Brandon, California Lutheran; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Alberto Bustamante, Northern Vermont – Lyndon; North Atlantic Conference.	
Jamie Carfagna, Muhlenberg College, Centennial Conference.	
Amanda Cohen, Plattsburgh State; State University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Zack Durr, Castleton University; Little East Conference.	
Grace Hadlich, The College of St. Scholastica; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	
Holly Hall, Alma College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association	
Kayshaun Higgs, Medgar Evers College; City University of New York Athletic Conference.	
Paige Kluba, Piedmont University; Collegiate Conference of the South.	
Brooke LaVallee, Skidmore College; Liberty League.	
Sarah Lodge, The College of Wooster; North Coast Athletic Conference.	
Kai McClelland, Trinity University; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Camy McKenzie, Hendrix College; Southern Athletic Association.	
Grace Norman, Carthage College; College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin.	
Dom Petruzzelli, Cabrini University; Atlantic East Conference.	
Tanner Rowland, University of California Santa Cruz; Coast-To-Coast Athletic Conference.	
Caitlyn Smith, Lasell University; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.	
Abby Sweeney, Smith College; New England Men's and Women's Athletic Conference.	

Absentees:
Gideon Armah-Amissah, Luther College; American Rivers Conference.
Garrett Clasen, University of Chicago; University Athletic Association.
TJ Hill-Johnson, William Peace University; USA South Conference
Emma Kircher, Eastern University; Middle Atlantic Conference.
Angela Marin, University of Texas, Dallas; ex officio Management Council attendee.
Muthu Meenakshisundaram, University of Minnesota, Morris; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
David Hidden, Eureka College; St Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Oliver Williams, Westfield State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Isaiah Swann
NCAA Staff Liaisons:
Katie Mucci, Ali Spungen and Jonathan Youngblood.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance
Charlie Baker, Corey Berg, Dawn Buth, Natalia Herrera, Louise McCleary, Gretchen Miron and Bill Regan.