



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 11-12, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- **None.**

2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **Revise all Division III Policies and Procedures to Gender-Neutral Language.**

Recommendation. The committee voted to recommend to the Management Council an action that would require all current and future Division III policies and procedures and communications be written (or rewritten) to contain only gender-neutral language.

Rationale. In an effort to be inclusive of all student-athletes and following what many member institutions have already done with campus documentation, Division III should update its language to gender binary terminology.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Administrative items.

- a. **Roster.** The committee reviewed and made corrections to its official roster.
- b. **September Videoconference Report.** The committee approved its September 2018 videoconference report.
- c. **Policies and Procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures and voted to amend the service requirements for the executive board with the following changes: To be elected to the chair or Management Council representative roles, the committee member must have served at least one year on the committee. To be elected to either the Vice Chair or Communications Director roles, the committee member must have served for at least two meetings. They shall be elected by SAAC for a one-year renewable term with a maximum of two years in the position. The committee also approved the addition of policies and procedures related to the SAAC associate members.
- d. **Expectations of SAAC members.** The committee reviewed its policies regarding expectations for SAAC members. It was noted that these expectations are now incorporated into the policies and procedures.

- e. **Associate Member overview.** The committee reviewed the associate member overview document. The committee discussed drafting basic guidelines, such as a standard of communication, that each pairing of members could initially use before establishing a personalized plan that works best for the two conferences.
 - f. **Roberts Rules of Order.** The committee reviewed a resource on Roberts Rules of Order for use during the meeting.
 - g. **Elections.** The committee held elections for its executive committee for 2019-2020. The following individuals were elected and will assume their duties after the 2019 NCAA Convention:
 - (1) Chair: Madison Burns, women's soccer student-athlete at Randolph-Macon College.
 - (2) Management Council Representative (female): Samantha Kastner, field hockey and softball student-athlete at Notre Dame of Maryland University.
 - (3) Management Council Representative (male): Colby Pepper, men's soccer student-athlete at Covenant College.
 - (4) Communications Director: Annabelle Feist, rowing student-athlete at Williams College.
 - (5) BOG Student-Athlete Engagement Committee: Colby Pepper, men's soccer student-athlete at Covenant College.
2. **Division III Updates.** Louise McCleary, managing director of Division III, provided the committee with an update on Division III governance. Specifically, Ms. McCleary covered the following:
- a. Convention;
 - b. Sports wagering update;
 - c. Current landscape of eSports;
 - d. Men's and women's basketball joint-championships;
 - e. NCAA Transfer Portal;

- f. DIII University;
 - g. Board of Governors update;
 - h. Division III budget;
 - i. Sport Science Institute update;
 - j. Eligibility certification for international ice hockey players; and
 - k. Division III working group updates.
3. **eSports.** The committee provided feedback on the topic of eSports. The committee expressed positive feedback, noting that students at institutions who have already implemented eSports on campus enjoy their involvement and it provides the institution with additional income. However, the committee also expressed concerns, such as potential addiction issues, mental health concerns, and possible social isolation issues. Another concern expressed was the message sent to the disability community, particularly when adaptive sports do not have their own NCAA sponsored events despite previous attempts to advocate for the opportunity within the NCAA structure. The committee also questioned whether eSports players would act as “true” student-athletes or whether the current environment with Twitch accounts would lead to a different amateur model. Finally, committee noted the games’ often violent nature does not align the NCAA’s values, noting that the popularity of the games is what drives the interest and that if the games are specifically designed or chosen to exclude violence and other negative elements, they would not have the organic popularity that the current environment thrives upon.
4. **NCAA Division III Management Council October 2018 report.** The committee reviewed the October Management Council report and highlighted the action items being sent forward to the President’s Council, specifically noting the men’s and women’s basketball joint-championship and DIII University.
5. **2019 NCAA Convention.**
- a. **Tentative Convention Meeting Schedule.** The committee reviewed a tentative schedule for the 2019 Convention. Additionally, any committee member that would like to attend an additional conference meeting, for instance going to their associate members conference, may attend so long as he or she does not have a conflict and the conference is informed in advance.
 - b. **Special Olympics Clinic.** Staff provided the committee with an update on the Special Olympics activity planned for the Convention. The activity will include a unified soccer skills challenge and unified bocce tournament. Twelve volunteer positions are needed to help with the unified experience at Convention. A google sign-up sheet will

be created for committee members to volunteer for the coordinator, station leader, and team captain positions.

- c. **Agenda and Plans for Joint Presidents Council/Management Council/Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Breakfast at Convention.** The committee discussed a draft agenda and asked for feedback on proposed topics.
 - d. **Conference and Partner Conference Meetings.** The committee discussed best practices for attendance at conference and partner conference meetings during Convention and scheduling of the conference meetings.
 - e. **Convention Attendance Numbers.** NCAA staff reviewed the anticipated number of Convention attendees comprising non-SAAC Division III students, Student Immersion Program attendees and future national SAAC representatives.
 - f. **Student Luncheon and Social Mixer.** The committee brainstormed various ways to engage the Convention attendees and to make the most use of the allotted time. The committee discussed the information it would like to communicate during this time, as well as ice breakers to engage the group. The committee discussed the possibility of a murder mystery party or hypnotist for the entertainment during the social mixer.
 - g. **Convention Waiver and Responsibility Statement.** The committee members attending Convention signed a Convention Waiver and Responsibility Statement.
6. **Division III SAAC working group breakouts.** The committee broke into its working groups.
 7. **FARA Convention.** Kiana Verdugo, former women's track and field student-athlete from Hamline University, provided the committee with an update on the recent 2018 FARA Annual Meeting, which she and Sean Cain, former men's soccer student-athlete from Adrian College, attended.
 8. **NCAA Committee and Working Group Reports.** The committee representatives that serve on Division III committees and working groups and Association-Wide committees provided updates on the most recent meetings and reports. Following are specific updates of note:
 - a. Feedback for Interpretations and Legislation Committee on social media deregulation. ILC requested feedback from the SAAC on whether they supported a complete deregulation of social media related to recruiting. The committee did not support complete deregulation.
 - b. Division III FAR working group. The committee discussed the FAR Best Practices Guide that will be released at Convention and how student-athletes and FARs can communicate more effectively. Committee members were urged to help promote FAR work and relationships on their campuses.

- c. Division III LGBTQ Working Group. The Division III LGBTQ working group recently sent out banners, a non-discrimination kit, and guide. Athletic directors have access to purchase more of these materials for their campuses through the online purchasing website.

9. **Special Olympics Partnership.** Representatives of Special Olympics North America joined the committee and gave an overview of several of its initiatives. The representatives also discussed institutions' involvement with Special Olympics, particularly working with an institution's recreation department and leagues to create a unified sports program. However, they noted that institution can also volunteer at already established Special Olympics events or host smaller unified activities. NCAA staff encouraged the committee to remind institutions to report all involvement with Special Olympics on the Division III website. Additionally, the staff asked the committee to continue to submit ideas for 50 for 50th profiles which are featured on the Special Olympics and NCAA Division III social media platforms each week.

10. **Legislation.** The committee reviewed the current proposals for the 2019 legislative cycle and discussed the feedback received from the committee members' conferences and partner conferences. A chart outlining the committee's final position on each proposal is attached to this report. [Attachment]

11. **Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee.** The committee discussed the Board of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee's proposed policy to combat sexual violence and provided feedback as it relates to maximizing student-athlete and peer engagement, how to foster student-athlete leadership and grass roots engagement and how to recognize excellence in programs and student-athlete leadership as it relates to this.

12. **Division III SAAC Working group report outs.**
 - d. Communications and Best Practices Working Group. The working group is updating the best practices guide for communication between the National SAAC, conference and partner conferences. The working group also discussed adding a template constitution that institutions can use to formally create and codify their SAAC policies. Finally, the working group discussed drafting a frequently asked questions document related to SAAC best practices.

 - e. Mental Health Working Group. The working group drafted mental health cards. The working group has asked all committee members to reach out to their conferences to receive each schools' list of necessary information to include on the mental health education cards. Second, the working group revised a script for the mental health awareness video social media campaign. Each video will feature a student-athlete sharing his or her support of mental health education and awareness. The working group must revise the social media campaign plan further before releasing it. The working group also discussed ways to include DI and DII SAAC student-athletes in this campaign.

f. Special Olympics. The working group discussed the current 50 for 50th participation challenge, which requires institutions to have at least 50 student-athletes participate in Special Olympics event(s) between August 2018 and February 2019. Based on feedback from institutions about annual spring Special Olympics events, the working group and full committee approved extending the deadline for the challenge to April 2019, which will be announced on Division III social media. Additionally, the working group discussed ideas for starting an annual challenge in future years to continue to encourage participation.

13. Practice and refinement of legislative position papers. The committee members practiced and refined their legislative position papers for Convention.

14. Attain. The Attain team met with the committee to receive feedback on the Association's strategic plan. NCAA staff were not present during the meeting.

15. Future meetings.

- a. January 22-26, 2019; NCAA Convention, Orlando.
- b. April 13-14, 2019; Indianapolis.
- c. July 20-21, 2019; Indianapolis.
- d. November 10-11, 2019; Indianapolis.

16. Other Business.

17. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Parker Hammel, Wartburg College; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

*Staff Liaisons: Jay Jones, Division III Governance
 Brynna Barnhart, Enforcement
 Corey Berg, Academic and Membership Affairs*

Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee November 11-12, 2018, Meeting
Attendees:
Ryan Booth, Norwich University; Great Northeast Athletic Conference.
Gerard Bryant, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; ex officio Management Council attendee
Madison Burns, Randolph-Macon College; Old Dominion Athletic Conference.
Fran Capaldi, Bethany College; Presidents' Athletic Conference.
Ireland Clare Kennedy, Mount Holyoke College; New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference; Substitute attendee for Annabelle Feist.

Zachary Cook, College at Brockport, State University of New York; State University of New York Athletic Conference
Mika Costello, Willamette University; Northwest Conference.
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.
Emily Goodwin, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Mikayla Greenwood, Illinois College; Midwest Conference.
Parker Hammel, Wartburg College; Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Samantha Kastner, Notre Dame of Maryland University; Colonial States Athletic Conference.
NJ Kim, Emory University; University Athletic Association.
Nicole Monick, Johnson State College; North Atlantic Conference.
Kelsey Morrison, University of Valley Forge; American Collegiate Athletic Association.
CJ Pakeltis, MacMurry College; St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Colby Pepper, Covenant College; USA South Athletic Conference.
Mason Rapp, Defiance College; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference; Substitute attendee for Julia Higgins.
Jake Santellano, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater; Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Isaiah Swann, University of Texas at Dallas; American Southwest Conference; Substitute attendee for Matthew Gillette.
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College; ex officio Management Council attendee.
Kiana Verdugo, Hamline University; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
Absentees:
Sean Cain, Adrian College; Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference
Annabelle Feist, Williams College; New England Small College Athletic Conference.
Matthew Gillette, Texas Lutheran University; Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
Julia Higgins, The College of Wooster; North Coast Athletic Conference.
Catherine Lanigan, Juniata College; Landmark Conference.
Guests in Attendance:
Scott George, Manager, Unified Champion Schools: University Engagement, Special Olympics North America.
Ryland Towne, University Growth Assistant, Special Olympics North America.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Bryna Barnhart, Enforcement
Jay Jones, Division III Governance
Corey Berg, Division III Academic and Membership Affairs
Lorne McManigle, Division III Governance
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Division III Governance