



REPORT OF THE
DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 10-11, 2024, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Administrative items.**

- a. **Roster.** The committee reviewed and updated its current roster.
- b. **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.
- c. **July 20-21, 2024, meeting report.** The committee approved the report with no changes.
- d. **Review policies and procedures.** The committee reviewed its policies and procedures.

2. **NCAA national office updates.**

- a. **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 sports betting, Signify, the development of the fan database, congressional engagement, and the most recent updates pertaining to the House settlement.
- b. **NCAA office of legal affairs update.** The committee reviewed updates from Leilyn Miles from the office of legal affairs. Miles informed the committee of the ongoing legal cases the NCAA is currently facing.
- c. **Division III updates.** The committee received updates from Division III Vice President Louise McCleary and Division III Managing Director Bill Regan on a variety of current topics facing Division III including sports betting, NIL assist, NCAA Power Index, livestreaming of championships, Athletic Training Working Group, and the health and safety grant. The leadership of the division discussed the possible change to remove the prohibition on betting on professional athletics noting the high rate in which student-athletes are partaking in the behavior and how prohibitions do not work.
- d. **NCAA Board of Governors update with Greg Ricketts.** The committee was visited by Greg Ricketts, the former Division III student-athlete representative now serving on the Board of Governors. Ricketts provided insight on several topics being reviewed by the board, including sports betting, congressional engagement, the end

of Board Of Governors Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, student-athlete identity and the importance of communication amongst all committee members.

3. Strategic items.

- a. Sports betting.** The committee reviewed and discussed the potential to remove the prohibition of wagering on professional sports and the appearance that the Association is endorsing sports betting. The committee noted the significant number of Division III student-athletes involved in sports betting and the importance of providing educational resources to encourage these individuals to seek help for gambling rather than fearing punishment.
- b. Review of philanthropic organization for Campus Sexual Violence Policy.** The committee met with Managing Director of Governance and Policy Stephanie Quigg to review the philanthropic organizations eligible to receive the funds acquired from attestation fines. The committee was presented with a list of four potential organizations to consider receiving fines from Division III schools that are unable to attest. The committee reviewed and supported the selection of the One Love Foundation due to the committee's familiarity with the organization and previous trainings some members had participated in on campus. The NCAA Board of Governors Executive Committee will be notified of each national SAAC's selection before its next meeting in January.
- c. Legislation and other updates.** NCAA staff updated the committee and asked for feedback on two legislative topics: the mental health hardship waiver pilot program and the use of social media as it applies to voluntary athletically related activities. The committee also reviewed and took the following positions on the 2025 NCAA Conventional legislative proposals:

 - (1) Proposal 2025-1 – Amending the Composition of the National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The committee voted to support the proposal.
 - (2) Proposal 2025-2 – Amending the Multisport Conference Membership Size Requirement Minimum. The committee voted to support the proposal.
 - (3) Proposal 2025-3 – Amending the Legislative Process. The committee voted to support the proposal.
 - (4) Proposal 2025-4 – Establishing Federated Rules Exemptions. The committee voted to support the proposal.
 - (5) Proposal 2025-5 – Establishing a Waiver for Three-Year Provision in Change of Division Membership. The committee voted to support the proposal.
 - (6) Proposal 2025-6 – Establishing a National Collegiate Championship for Women's Wrestling. The committee voted to support the proposal.

4. Division III and Association-Wide Committees and Subcommittee updates.

- a. NCAA Division III and Association-Wide Committees.** The committee representatives who serve on Division III committees and Association-wide committees provided updates on the most recent meetings and reports.
- b. Association-Wide Subcommittee updates.** The committee representatives who serve on Association-wide subcommittees provided updates on the most recent meetings and reports.

5. 2025 NCAA Convention.

- a. Tentative Convention meeting schedule.** The committee reviewed the tentative Convention meeting schedule.
- b. Plan for joint breakfast at Convention.** The committee discussed the agenda and plan for the Presidents Council, Management Council and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee joint breakfast at Convention. The main presentation topic of the breakfast will be sports betting.
- c. Plan for SAAC sponsored Student-Athlete Luncheon.** The committee was visited by Christopher Newport Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator Carrie Gardner to discuss potential ideas for the SAAC sponsored luncheon. The committee decided to focus its roundtable discussions on 'why SAAC' and use this time as an opportunity to learn about what other institutions do on campus and how their committee works. The luncheon will now require participants to RSVP to allow for table assignments to better facilitate conversations and encourage mingling with other conferences. The committee will continue to discuss the best ways to promote engagement and feedback.
- d. Ideas for student social mixer.** The committee reviewed the plans for the student social mixer. Ideas that were shared included trivia, music trivia, karaoke and bingo.
- e. Special Olympics event at Convention.** Annually Division III SAAC sponsors a Special Olympics Unified activity in partnership with Special Olympics during the Convention. This year's event will have a photo booth, music, cornhole, and a friendship bracelet-making station.
- f. Convention dress code.** The committee discussed the dress code for Convention and elected to bring back the tradition of picking a unified SAAC color, which all would wear during the business session. Purple was the chosen color.
- g. Convention waiver and responsibility statement.** The committee completed the waiver electronically this year.
- h. Conference and partner conference meetings.** The committee reviewed best practices and how to prepare for conference and partner conference meetings.

6. Division III SAAC business and subcommittees.

- a. Special Olympics Partnership and updates.** Staff shared an update on the latest Special Olympics engagement from the membership. The committee was reminded that all member institutions are to report events involving Special Olympic back to the national office. This should be done whether the event is hosted by the institution, or a group of student-athletes participated in an event. The committee noted that some may not know the reporting form exists and discussed how to increase awareness by added a link to the SAAC social media accounts.
- b. Division III subcommittee reports.**

 - (1) Mental and physical health. The mental and physical health subcommittee discussed the upcoming virtual town hall meeting and the interest it has received in the event. The subcommittee will continue to develop content and build upon the momentum it has garnered.
 - (2) Sports ethics and fan behavior. The sports ethics and fan behavior subcommittee recently received approval of its one-pager and banner and spoke to the success it's had with the "show your spirit" on social media. The subcommittee has written a script for member institutions to use to promote good sportsmanship during Division III week.
- c. Election of executive board members and committee assignments.** The national office and SAAC members shared information regarding the Division III committees' subject matter and positions. The committee elected individuals to its executive board, to begin after the conclusion of the 2025 NCAA Convention. The following individuals were elected to new positions that will become effective immediately following the 2025 Convention:

 - (1) Chair: Lillian Case, Juniata College, Landmark Conference.
 - (2) Vice chair: Josey Johnson, Otterbein College, Ohio Athletic Conference.
 - (3) Communications director: Zoey Wexler, Western New England University, Conference of New England.
 - (4) Division III Presidents Council representatives: Lillian Case, Juniata College, Landmark Conference; and Sebastian Knowles, Hartwick College, Empire 8.
 - (5) Division III Interpretations and Legislative Committee: Morgan Shaw, Willamette University, Northwest Conference.
 - (6) Division III Championships Committee: Arturo Casas, Manchester University, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

7. Informational items and other business.

a. Future meeting dates.

- January 13-17, 2025, Nashville, Tennessee.
- April 2025, Virtual.
- July 19-20, 2025, Indianapolis.

b. “What is SAAC?” videos. The committee revisited the idea of creating a “what is SAAC?” video explaining what National SAAC is. The interest in the project remains and the subcommittee discussed the logistics of having members of the subcommittee record videos on their respective campuses and use them to create a video representing all members.

c. Congressional engagement. The committee discussed the need for continued and increased involvement in promoting the importance of student-athletes partaking in congressional engagement and how ways in which that can be done.

d. Other business. The committee discussed the increase in racial and discriminatory comments and events that have been taking place on campus targeted at minority groups and LGBTQ student-athletes. The committee shared their experiences and noted the challenges in determining who is responsible for addressing this issue in order to stop unwanted behavior (e.g., administration, peer-to-peer, referees/officials, etc.).

e. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned Monday, November 11, 11:52 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 November 10-11, 2024, Meeting	
Attendees – Primary Members:	
Arturo Casas, Manchester University; Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Lillian Case, Juniata College; Landmark Conference.	
Garrett Clasen, University of Chicago; University Athletic Association.	
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.	
Muthu Meenakshisundaram, University of Minnesota, Morris; Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.	
Ella Miller, Wisconsin Lutheran College; Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference.	
Grace Moothart, Austin College; Southern Collegiate Athletic 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	
Zoey Wexler, Western New England University; Commonwealth Coast Conference.	
Nathaniel Whisman, University of Valley Forge; United East Conference.	
Oliver Williams, Westfield State University, Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.	
Brian Wigley, Shenandoah University; ex-officio Management Council attendee.	
Attendees – Associate Members in Attendance	
Zack Durr, Castleton University; Little East Conference.	
Grace Hadlich, The College of St. Scholastica; Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference	
Absentees:	
Nadia Simmons, North Carolina Wesleyan; USA South.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Greg Ricketts	
NCAA Staff Liaisons:	
Katie Mucci, Ali Spungen, Becca Trovato and Jonathan Youngblood.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Charlie Baker, Carrie Gardner, Natalia Herrera, Louise McCleary, Leilyn Miles, Stephanie Quigg and Bill Regan.	