

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III ANALYSIS WORKING GROUP
MAY 11, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome.** Marc Camille, chair of the working group, provided a welcome, reviewed the working group's charge and commenced the videoconference at 12:06 p.m. Eastern.
2. **Report from the April 20 meeting.** The working group approved the report from its April 20 meeting as presented.
3. **Review, assess and prioritize options to address tensions.** In small group discussions, the working group discussed the six identified tensions and preliminary options to address the tensions. The working group's objectives included: to become more familiar with the proposed options; pressure testing the options; identifying connections between the options; and identifying new options. At a later meeting, the working group will identify the best options for each tension and develop actionable solutions.

The following themes emerged from the working group's review of potential options for each tension. Stakeholder engagement interviews ranked the significance of the identified tensions on a scale of one to six. A low number indicates a higher tension.

- a. **Economic implications.** Stakeholder tension ranking is 1.96.
 - NIL guardrails are the top priority. There is near-universal agreement that institutionally-facilitated arrangements through collectives and boosters may be functioning as de facto athletics scholarships. The working group noted that any recommendations should be coordinated with the Division III NIL Working Group, which will be established in the coming months.
 - The working group had divergent views on data-based tools. Levels of interest from the group in options regarding national benchmarking, cost modeling, and a return on investment calculator varied significantly. Any tool requires upfront investment in standardized definitions to be meaningful, given wide variability in how institutions classify and report costs.

- The working group identified that some options are helpful but not urgent. The collective purchasing consortium is underutilized but already exists. Streaming and media support is important for the long-term Division III brand but is a multi-year play. Both belong in a longer-range roadmap rather than near-term action.

b. Playing seasons and resources. Stakeholder tension ranking is 2.30.

- The working group discussed an option that would provide national guardrails on season structures. Maximum days have become de facto minimums through competitive pressure. The option does not reverse the expanded season but could establish clearer start and end dates with mandatory breaks so institutions have more options.
- The athletic trainer crisis is real and structurally driven. Shortages are compounded by a reduced pipeline, expanded responsibilities, and a more competitive labor market. The working group favored an option to include athletic trainers in governance conversations, as their voices are largely absent from the decisions that most affect them.
- The working group will continue to explore shared athletic trainer coverage models. Interstate licensing, insurance liability, and concussion diagnosis concerns make models difficult to implement without significantly more logistical detail and legal clarity.

c. Eligibility evolution. Stakeholder tension ranking is 3.19.

- The working group agreed that a commissioned audit of fifth-year usage, hardship waiver frequency, and institutional capacity is the necessary first step before considering any structural change.
- The working group discussed eligibility models and agreed that any changes to the Division III model must be membership driven versus a reaction to changes in the other divisions.
- The working group discussed that the word "primarily" in the Division III Philosophy Statement is used to support both sides of most eligibility debates.

d. Championship selection criteria. Stakeholder tension ranking is 4.31.

- NCAA Power Index (NPI) is broadly seen as meaningful progress.

- The strongest initial support is around an option that proposes publishing rationale for championships hosting decisions. Frustration largely stems from the absence of transparency rather than the decisions themselves. Publishing rationale alongside a clear disclaimer that unlisted schools did not submit bids would address both the perception of unfairness and the reality of incomplete information, without requiring any change to the selection process itself.
- e. **Membership standards.** Stakeholder tension ranking is 4.35.
- This tension appears to be a lower priority, with a limited appetite for structural change. The working group noted consistent skepticism with options that would adjust sponsorship floors or create new membership tiers without clearer evidence that the current membership standards are the root cause of this tension.
- f. **Governance oversight and presidential engagement.** Stakeholder tension ranking is 4.89.
- The working group discussed an option to extend the President Council chair term to two years, with a more defined vice chair progression.
 - The working group discussed options to increase presidential engagement at the NCAA Convention. Options may include moving key legislative debates earlier in the agenda and exploring virtual or hybrid formats for ongoing presidential education, with the understanding that format changes alone will not increase presidential engagement.
 - Athletic direct reports frequently serve as the primary conduit between the athletics department and the office of the president, but without a defined role, critical information gets lost. The working group explored options that would provide structural flexibility to allow for the leadership organizational differences at Division III institutions.
4. **Next steps.** The working group discussed next steps leading to its May 21 videoconference. The consultants will send a survey to the working group members to start the prioritization process of the options for each tension. It also will send an executive summary of the membership survey that sought feedback from commissioners and directors of athletics on the identified tensions. During its May 21 meeting, the working group will begin moving from a review of the options to the selection of options to address the identified tensions.
5. **Additional business.** There was no additional business.

6. **Future videoconferences and meetings.** A videoconference has been scheduled for May 21 and there will be an in-person meeting June 16 in Indianapolis. Staff also will send out an availability poll to schedule a videoconference in July or August.

7. **Adjournment.** The videoconference ended at 2:02 p.m. Eastern.

Working Group chair: Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus.

*Staff Liaisons: Louise McCleary, Division III Governance and Member Services
 Jeff Myers, Division III Governance and Member Services
 Bill Regan, Division III Governance and Member Services*

NCAA Division III Analysis Working Group May 11, 2026, Videoconference
Attendees:
Jonathan Accardi, Keuka College.
Eric Bitterbaum, State University of New York at Cortland.
Meg Nowak Borrego, Framingham State University.
Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College.
Jessica Chapin, Brandeis University.
Brad Duckworth, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.
G. Anthony Grant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Portia Hoeg, Centennial Conference.
Erica Perkins Jasper, Claremont Mudd Scripps.
Heidi Jaynes, Carleton College.
Paige Kluba, Piedmont University.
Alfred Lamptey, University of Mount Saint Vincent.
Rob Larson, Luther College.
Frank Merckx, Drew University.
Adam Puckett, George Fox University.
Andrea Talentino, Augustana College (Illinois).
Lori White, DePauw University.
Absentee:
Joe Onderko, Presidents' Athletic Conference. <i>(technology connection issue)</i>
Wayne Webster, Albion College.
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:
Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan and Lisa Rogers.
Additional Members in Attendance:
External consultants.