



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS  
AND MINORITY OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERESTS COMMITTEE  
MAY 7, 2025, JOINT VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and introductions.** The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics chair welcomed members from both committees to the videoconference and noted that this was the final joint meeting for the committees before the new Association-wide committee, NCAA Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact, begins September 1.
2. **Review and approval of the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics and Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee September 27, 2024, videoconference report.** The committees approved their September 27, 2024, joint meeting report.
3. **Chair updates from April NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics and May Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee meetings.** The chairs from both committees provided key takeaways from the Committee on Women's Athletics' April meeting and the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee's May meeting.
  - a. **Committee on Women's Athletics.** The committee reviewed biannual updates from all five emerging sports: acrobatics and tumbling; equestrian; rugby; stunt; and triathlon. The committee also reviewed strategic plans from equestrian and rugby as part of the five-year review process. In addition, the committee received an update on its legislative recommendation to add women's flag football as an emerging sport for all three divisions for a vote by or during the 2026 NCAA Convention. The committee will convene one final time May 15 to discuss any emerging sports that meet the minimum sports-sponsorship requirements to consider recommending that the three divisions establish a national collegiate championship(s) in the sport(s). The committee also finalized its recommendations for the new Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact to consider as it begins its work this fall (attached).
  - b. **Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.** The committee finalized its recommendations for the new Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact (attached). Additionally, the committee discussed next steps for distributing a letter to the NCAA Board of Governors, divisional governance leadership and NCAA senior leadership highlighting the importance of supporting the new Association-wide committee's goals and initiatives. The committee also received updates regarding the Diversity and Inclusion Social Media Campaign, Senior Minority Administrator Working Group recommendations, the MOIC Champions of Diversity and Inclusion recognition, and the ongoing engagement for ADIDs and others who foster belonging and well-being within athletics.

4. **Remarks from NCAA President Charlie Baker.** NCAA President Baker updated the committees on issues relevant to their work and engaged with committee members on a variety of topics. President Baker thanked the committee members for their service, particularly in the last 18 months, during which the four inclusion committees and task force collaborated to recommend a transition to the new, centralized Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.
5. **Discussion of current intercollegiate athletics and higher education environment.** NCAA staff updated the committees on the evolving inclusion and government relations landscape within higher education and college sports. The committees shared the importance of the NCAA protecting the collegiate student-athlete experience and the need to counter proposals that would categorize student-athletes as employees of their schools.
6. **NCAA Legal updates.** Staff updated the committees on current litigation involving the Association.
7. **Feedback on Signify reporting and combatting harassment efforts.** As a follow-up to the September 2024 joint meeting, staff updated the committees on their current work with Signify to address online abuse and sports wagering, including the online abuse harm reduction strategy. The committees provided additional suggestions on ways to support student-athletes and athletics departments moving forward.
8. **Governance updates from divisional leaders.** Staff from the three divisional governance teams updated the committees on significant initiatives in each division that impact the committees' work.
9. **Recommendations to the new committee and update on communication to NCAA Board of Governors, divisional governance bodies, and senior leadership.** Both committees shared their recommendations for the new Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact. It was noted that the chairs of Minority Interests and Opportunities Committee, Committee on Women's Athletics and the Gender Equity Task Force are drafting a letter to the NCAA Board of Governors emphasizing the importance of supporting the new committee's initiatives and including recommendations to the new committee from all three groups. The letter also will be shared with divisional and NCAA senior leadership.
10. **NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committees engagement feedback.** Representatives from the Divisions I, II and III Student-Athlete Advisory Committees engaged the Minority Interests and Opportunities Committee and the Committee on Women's Athletics committee members on current initiatives and topics that are important to the SAACs, including topics they would like to see the new Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact address to advance student-athletes' best interests. The SAAC representatives

advocated for the new committee to have continued engagement with the new student-athlete representatives and welcomed additional opportunities for inclusion topics to be shared in SAAC meetings.

11. **Final remarks and thank you.** Staff thanked committee members for their dedication and advocacy throughout their service. Staff noted that both committees have helped champion significant progress in intercollegiate athletics in their tenure, as evidenced in their respective summary reports. The impact of these committees will last in the years to come and continue through the work of the new Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.
12. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chairs:* CWA: Ragean Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.  
MOIC: Adam Hutchinson, Earlham College.

*Staff Liaisons (CWA):* Maison Hubbard, Academic and Membership Affairs.  
Micaela Liddane, Championships and Alliances.  
Ashlesha Lokhande, Office of Inclusion.  
Gretchen Miron, Office of Inclusion.

*Staff Liaisons (MOIC):* Niya Blair Hackworth, Office of Inclusion.  
Dee Kennedy, Enforcement.

NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics and Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee May 7, 2025, Joint Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Greg Bamberger, Fairmont State University (CWA).	
Katherine Rowe Fell, University of Findlay (CWA).	
Sharief Hashim, Susquehanna University (CWA).	
Ragean Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (CWA).	
Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University (CWA).	
Gabriella Miller, Wisconsin Lutheran College (CWA).	
Quinton Ross, Alabama State University (CWA).	
Chuck Sack, Neumann University (CWA).	
Steve Stoute, Canisius College (CWA).	
Sean Sullivan, Salve Regina University (CWA).	
Betsey Walkowiak, University of Detroit Mercy (CWA).	
Femi Alao, Roberts Wesleyan University (MOIC).	

Kristie Bowers, Rochester Institute of Technology (MOIC).
Hamilton Cook, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MOIC).
Karla Mejia, New Jersey City University (MOIC).
Tommye Robinson, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith (MOIC).
Megan Sanger, South Atlantic Conference (MOIC).
Ashlee Williams, Eastern University (MOIC).
<b>Absentees:</b>
Katherine Loh, Florida Southern College (CWA).
Michael Perez, California State University, Fullerton (CWA).
Tracy Shoemake, Texas State University (CWA).
Marion Terenzio, State University of New York at Cobleskill (CWA).
Dawn Turner, Lander University (CWA).
Amanda Braun, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (MOIC).
DJ Guest, California State University, Dominguez Hills (MOIC).
Adam Hutchinson, Earlham College (MOIC).
Madison Matthews, Northern Illinois University (MOIC).
Christian Spears, Marshall University (MOIC).
Zulma Toro, Central Connecticut State University (MOIC).
Oliver Williams, Westfield State University (MOIC).
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
Gary Brown, NCAA Contractor.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Niya Blair Hackworth, Dee Kennedy, Ashlesha Lokhande and Gretchen Miron.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:</b>
Charlie Baker, Debbie Brown, Tim Buckley, Michael Cioroianu, Amanda Conklin, Gail Dent, Clint Hangebrauck, Saquandra Heath, Jordan Jones, Maritza Jones, Felicia Martin, Leilyn Miles, Stephanie Quigg, Bill Regan, Jennifer Roe, Jared Tidemann and Amy Wilson.