



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
SEPTEMBER 5-6, 2018, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Committee Chair Julie Cromer Peoples welcomed everyone to the meeting. The roster was reviewed, and committee members and staff were acknowledged. The committee then welcomed the following new members to their first in-person meeting: Jason Doviak, Suzette McQueen and Millie Micho. The committee also welcomed President Marjorie Hass, who joined a portion of the meeting via teleconference. Katrice Albert, NCAA executive vice president of inclusion and human resources, joined the meeting to welcome the committee members and thank them for their work and commitment to increasing opportunities for women in intercollegiate athletics.
2. **Review CWA purpose statement.** A committee member read aloud the purpose statement.
3. **Review of meeting agenda and reports.** Cromer Peoples provided an overview of the agenda and its key items, including the NCAA Woman of the Year selection, the review of NCAA Emerging Sports for Women 2018 proposals and a discussion about the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women process guide.

The committee reviewed and approved its April 12-13, 2018, meeting report. The committee also reviewed the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee April 12-13, 2018, meeting report in addition to the CWA and MOIC April 13, 2018, joint meeting report.

4. **2018 NCAA Woman of the Year selection.** The committee acknowledged the 581 record-number of school nominees submitted by NCAA member schools, the 154 conference nominees selected by NCAA member conference offices, the Top 30 (10 honorees from each division) and Top 9 (three from each division) selections made by the Woman of the Year Selection Committee. The committee also thanked the four CWA members who served on the Woman of the Year selection committee alongside three Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee members.
 - a. **Review of preliminary rankings.** Prior to its September 5, 2018, meeting, the CWA members reviewed, evaluated and scored the Top 9 finalists for Woman of the Year using criteria and guidelines established by the CWA. Using the scores submitted, staff developed a cumulative score out of 100 for each Top 9 honoree and informed the committee of the preliminary rankings.

- b. Selection of 2018 NCAA Woman of the Year.** The committee deliberated on the preliminary rankings and engaged in multiple rounds of voting to select the 2018 NCAA Woman of the Year.
- c. Woman of the Year award dinner.** The award dinner will be held Sunday, October 28, 2018, in Indianapolis. Committee members who served on the Woman of the Year Selection Committee are invited to attend as guests of the office of inclusion.

5. Review reports from NCAA equity, diversity and inclusion membership committees.

- a. NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity April 15, 2018, meeting report.** The committee reviewed the April 15, 2018, meeting report of the BOG CPCDE, which is a direct conduit to the BOG. The CPCDE will present their goals to the BOG in October 2018. CWA will have an opportunity to review the goals during its February teleconference.
- b. NCAA Gender Equity Task Force May 25, 2018, meeting report. The committee reviewed the GETF May 25, 2018, meeting report.** Cromer Peoples and NCAA staff highlighted key items, including the Division I once-in-five-years equity, diversity and inclusion review, which will be voted on in April, and the equity, diversity and inclusion app developed by NCAA staff. In addition, the committee expressed support of the Task Force’s continued correspondence with the North American Society for Sport Management to develop curriculum resources, best practices and case studies to support education on equity, diversity and inclusion in intercollegiate athletics.

6. NCAA Emerging Sports for Women.

- a. NCAA Women’s Beach Volleyball update.** Staff provided updates on women’s beach volleyball, highlighting the sport’s successful 2017-2018 campaign and continued growth since transitioning from an NCAA Emerging Sport for Women to an NCAA-sanctioned championship sport in 2015. Women’s beach volleyball hosted its championship in Gulf Shores, Alabama for the third consecutive season and the tournament was telecast for the first time on ESPN this year as part of a multi-year agreement through 2022.

In addition, staff informed the committee of its efforts to develop resources, best practices and other educational materials for Association schools seeking to sponsor women’s beach volleyball programs.

- b. Updates on current NCAA Emerging Sports for Women. Staff provided updates on the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women.** Each sport’s national governing body, or designee of that body, prepared a two-page report that highlighted its respective strategic plans.

Staff reported that the NCAA office of inclusion will attend each NCAA Emerging Sports for Women's championship in 2017-2018 and will provide a \$5,000 grant to each sport to celebrate its respective student-athletes and the progress each sport has made.

(1) Equestrian. Staff provided updates submitted by the National Collegiate Equestrian Association as a representative of the United States Equestrian Federation. The updates centered on four major priorities — growth and expansion, financial stability, brand awareness, and enhanced athletic experience — as part of the strategic plan. Staff noted the sport's growth, citing a 2016-2017 report that highlighted opportunities for 1,334 female student-athletes across 34 schools with Equestrian on their campuses. In addition, the University of California, Davis has started a varsity Equestrian team. UC Davis will launch a full schedule and will be eligible for national seeding and invitation to the 2019 NCEA National Championship. Other key items included engagement with regional athletics directors to provide structure for local competitions and potential post-season opportunities and the development of local donor bases to support the addition of new collegiate teams.

At the request of NCEA leadership, the committee also discussed the concept of reducing the minimum sport sponsorship requirements for Divisions I and II equestrian for the purpose of aligning with minimum contest requirements to qualify for NCEA championships. Based on the information provided, the committee was not compelled to recommend to Division I or Division II governance, a legislative proposal to change the sport sponsorship requirements for equestrian without additional explanation of how a reduction of contests would support or enhance the athletics experience of participating student-athletes.

(2) Rugby. The report on Rugby reviewed by the committee at a later date.

(3) Triathlon. Staff provided updates submitted by USA Triathlon that highlighted targeted areas of support and recruitment and the strategic initiatives developed to support its plan. Other key items included the addition of three programs since April 2018 and six institutions who either have received approved grants or are currently in the grant-writing process, the procurement of additional grant funds and the identification and targeted recruitment of new, participatory audiences. Staff also noted USA Triathlon's engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the development of a comprehensive plan to build a recruitment pipeline and a \$225,000 grant offered to assist one HBCU in supporting a varsity triathlon program.

c. NCAA Emerging Sports for Women proposals. The committee discussed the purpose of the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women program, the program's proposal requirements and began the review process for proposals from acrobatics & tumbling, stunt and wrestling. The committee agreed that forming subcommittees to do an in-depth study of each proposal would be beneficial. Subcommittees were formed ensuring diversity of

participation by all three division, and the CWA chair and staff informed the committee of the review process and objectives. Each subcommittee's goal is to review its assigned sport proposal and report findings to the full committee during its February teleconference.

- d. NCAA Emerging Sports for Women Process Guide updates.** The committee reviewed the Emerging Sports for Women Process Guide and directed staff to amend the document to reflect suggested revisions. The updated process guide will be available on the NCAA Inclusion webpage in fall 2018.
- 7. Inquiry about sexual violence and NCAA legislation.** The committee engaged in dialogue with NCAA staff in enforcement, legal and communications with the goal of better understanding how the NCAA addresses sexual violence issues under the current system of bylaws. The committee expressed strong interest in continuing this important dialogue.
- 8. Update on action plan for the Optimization of the Senior Woman Administrator Designation Report.** Staff described key aspects of an action plan that has been developed based on the findings in the Optimizing the Senior Woman Administrator Research Report (2018). An initial step of the action plan is to disseminate educational resources to the membership in fall 2018 that clarify what exactly the designation is and why it's important. The resources also will provide discussion questions about the designation that include commentary on what success looks like for the designation to be used by athletics directors, conference commissioners, senior woman administrators and other relevant campus leaders. The committee expressed support for these resources as well as the development of best practices documents.
- 9. NCAA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association Award for Diversity and Inclusion selection committee appointments.** Staff provided an overview of the Award for Diversity and Inclusion, which represents a partnership formed by the NCAA and MOAA to recognize and celebrate the initiatives, policies and practices of schools and offices that embrace diversity and inclusion across the intercollegiate athletics community. In addition, staff called for two committee members to serve on the selection committee, which will consist of individuals from the MOAA membership, CWA and MOIC. Jason Doviak and Suzette McQueen volunteered to serve on the committee.
- 10. Future meeting dates.**

 - a. February 2019, committee teleconference.
 - b. April 24-25, 2019, Atlanta (in conjunction with the 2019 NCAA Inclusion Forum).
- 11. Other business.**

- a. Women Leaders in College Sports National Convention in Atlanta.** Staff informed the committee that Katrice Albert, NCAA executive vice president of inclusion and human resources, will serve as a keynote speaker at the National Convention. The office of inclusion is hosting a Presidents/Chancellors and Search Firms Roundtable for executive-level-ready female leaders. In addition, staff informed the committee of sessions that will feature topics related to the office of inclusion's core areas:
- Creating Opportunities to Elevate Women of Color in Athletics
 - Finding Common Ground: Religion & LGBTQ Inclusion in College Athletics
 - How to Elevate & Optimize the SWA Designation
 - Supporting Transgender & Gender-Expensive Student-Athletes
- b. 2019 NCAA Convention.** Staff informed the committee of its upcoming engagement with the membership and of the various presentations and sessions that will feature topics related to the office of inclusion's core areas. Convention sessions include:
- Hot Topics Related to International Student-Athletes
 - Presidential Pledge: From Commitment to Action
 - Unveiling Strategic Goals of the Committee to Promote Cultural Equity and Diversity
- c. eSports Discussion.** The committee requested that eSports be a topic for further discussion at its next meeting. Staff informed the committee that the NCAA is currently studying eSports and that an update can be provided about that study during the February 2019, teleconference.

12. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, September 6, 2018.

Committee Chair: Julie Cromer Peoples, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Staff Liaison(s): Kristin Fasbender, Championships and Alliances
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances
Karen Metzger, Academic and Membership Affairs
Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion

NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics September 5-6, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Karen Baebler, University of Washington.	
Gabby Cabanero, Dixie State University.	
Julie Cromer Peoples, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.	
Jim Donovan, California State University, Fullerton.	
Jason Doviak, Alfred State, the State University of New York College of Technology.	
Marjorie Hass, Rhodes College.	
Hannah Hinton, Mountain East Conference.	
Samantha Kastner, Notre Dame of Maryland University.	
John Kietzmann, Metropolitan State University of Denver.	
Donna Ledwin, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Suzette McQueen, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Conference.	
Millie Micho, Duquesne University.	
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.	
Absentees:	
Anne Blackhurst, Minnesota State University Moorhead.	
Josh Hess, Mount St. Joseph University.	
Marc Johnson, University of Nevada, Reno.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Kristin Fasbender, Jan Gentry, Jean Merrill and Amy Wilson.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Katrice, Albert, Jon Duncan, Meghan Durham, Jessie Faulk, Craig Malveaux, Stacey Osburn, Rachel Stark-Mason and Naima Stevenson.	