



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA BOARD OF GOVERNORS COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE  
CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND EQUITY  
AUGUST 18, 2022, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS.**

- The committee elected President Katherine Conway-Turner, Buffalo State, State University of New York, as the new committee chair effective immediately.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome, announcements and review of charter and roster.** The primary liaison of the NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity convened the meeting at 2 p.m. Eastern time and welcomed committee members and staff to the videoconference, including new members Fayneese Miller and Kaiya Johnson. The committee reviewed its revised charter and roster.
2. **Review and approval of NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity May 4, 2022, videoconference report.** The committee approved its May 4, 2022, videoconference report.
3. **Selection of chair.** The committee elected President Katherine Conway-Turner, Buffalo State, State University of New York, as the new committee chair effective immediately. The committee also discussed the possibility of electing a vice chair in the future and agreed to continue exploring the idea at its next meeting.
4. **NCAA Transgender Student-Athlete Participation Policy.** NCAA staff from the Sport Science Institute and office of inclusion provided updates to the committee related to Phases II and III of the NCAA Transgender Student-Athlete Participation Policy. Staff shared that the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) continues to remain apprised of developments related to transgender athlete participation and considers student-athlete impact as it relates to policy implementation. Future efforts around the policy will center around providing education to the membership and identifying opportunities to provide support for trans, non-binary and gender expansive student-athletes. Following the meeting, staff will solicit an additional volunteer to join committee member Crystal Gibson in representing the committee in future engagements with CSMAS related to the policy.
5. **NCAA external gender equity review recommendations.** Staff provided an overview of the external assessment of progress on the Phase I recommendations from the external gender equity review of NCAA championships, which focus on the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. The committee posed several questions around when the next

assessment will take place, plans to track gender equity progress related to other championships, specifically within Division II and III, and the decision against hosting the Division I Men's and Women's Final Four in the same city. Staff shared that an additional assessment would take place in the near future that focuses on Phase II recommendations from the external gender equity review which encompass all other championships. The decision not to host the Division I Men's and Women's Final Four in the same city was thoroughly explored by the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Oversight Committees before they reached a consensus. Staff shared that Recommendation 1.8 from Phase I of the external gender equity review, which supports a gender equity evaluation process for the national office and the Association, is being operationalized. Staff are in the process of meeting with championship managers of NCAA championship sports to gather insights that will inform areas for improvement as it relates to gender equity.

**6. Updates from NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committees.**

- a. Division I.** The NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative shared an overview of the committee's recent meeting which focused on topics such as the transfer portal, student-athlete eligibility, civic engagement, enhancing the SAAC structure at the campus level and enhancing the student-athlete experience. The committee has also engaged in the discovery phase as part of the search process for the NCAA President.
  - b. Division II.** The NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative shared an overview of the committee's engagement in the discovery phase as part of the search process for the NCAA President, as well as an update on the Division II Dr. Dave Pariser Faculty Mentor Award, and efforts around civic engagement, the Life After the Game podcast series, and partnering with organizations such as Team Impact and Make A Wish. In addition, the committee recently selected two representatives to serve on the Division II President's Council and is currently finalizing its goals for the 2022-23 academic year.
  - c. Division III.** The NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative shared updates related to the fifth anniversary of the committee's engagement with Special Olympics, the decision to discontinue the annual social media campaign and efforts to improve communications from the committee to the Division III membership.
- 7. 2022-24 committee goals.** The committee continued discussion of its draft goals document, which was revised based on feedback from and following the May 4 meeting. Committee members emphasized the importance of brevity and intentionality around the goals and ensuring that the goals align with areas and efforts that fall within the scope and responsibility of the committee. Members offered suggestions to enhance the language around the goals such as incorporating benchmarks to track progress and elaborating wording to reflect multiple dimensions of identity. Staff will make revisions based on feedback and insights offered and circulate the goals document with the committee ahead of the winter meeting.

**8. Informational Items.**

- a. **Updates on Division I Transformation Committee, Board of Governors structure and presidential search process.** Staff shared an overview of the new Board of Governors structure which includes nine voting members and seven nonvoting ex-officio members. In the coming weeks, the executive committee will be established. Staff also provided an update on the discovery phase of the search process for the NCAA President, noting that a position description will be made public soon. In addition, an announcement about the new NCAA Chief Financial Officer is expected within the next week. Staff also conveyed key messages from recent Division I Transformation Committee meetings to members.
- b. **Update on USOPC/NCAA Para-College Inclusion Project.** Staff shared a brief update on the NCAA's partnership with the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee on the Para-College Inclusion Project. The Para-College Inclusion Project's objective is to engage schools offering para-sports to collectively increase Paralympic sport understanding, awareness and connection across the college landscape. The work has evolved into tactical teams for communications, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis and para track and field.
- c. **NCAA inclusion, education and community engagement updates.** Staff will provide a written update of NCAA leadership development and office of inclusion key initiatives and programs.

**9. Future meeting schedule.** Staff will communicate with committee members to schedule the winter and spring meetings.

**10. Adjournment.** The videoconference adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chair: Kate Conway-Turner, Buffalo State College.*  
*Staff Liaisons: Felicia Martin, Inclusion, Education & Community Engagement*  
*DeeDee Merritt, Leadership Development*  
*Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion*

NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity August 18, 2022, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Marco Barker, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.	
Kristy Bayer, Rockhurst University.	
Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University.	
Zachary Brown, University of North Georgia.	
Kate Conway-Turner, Buffalo State College.	

Paulette Dillard, Shaw University.
Crystal Gibson, St. Mary's College of Maryland.
Kaiya Johnson, San Jose State University.
Fayneese Miller, Hamline University.
Gary Olson, Daemen College.
Carlos Vargas-Aburto, Southern Missouri State University.
Talia Williams, Carleton College.
<b>Absentees:</b>
Joan Prince, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Felicia Martin, DeeDee Merritt and Amy Wilson.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Kina Davis, Abigail Edwards, Clint Hangebrauck, Jean Merrill, Anne Rohlman, Solomon Siskind and Cari Van Senus.