



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MINORITY OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERESTS COMMITTEE
MAY 9, 2023, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements and review of committee mission and duties.** In the absence of a committee chair and vice chair, NCAA staff welcomed members and noted that they will lead the committee through the agenda, including the selection of a new committee chair and vice chair. Staff noted that former committee chair, Marquette Dickens, resigned her position at William Peace University, and former committee vice chair, Brian Baptiste, accepted a new position at the University of Miami (Florida) and per Division I Nominating Committee policies could no longer remain on the committee. Committee members noted their appreciation for the leadership both Ms. Dickens and Mr. Baptiste provided during their terms and look forward to working with them in other capacities in the future. Staff also recognized the two newest members of the committee: Femi Alao, assistant director of athletics and senior woman administrator at Roberts Wesleyan University representing the Division II Management Council; and Myora Slaughter, a former softball student-athlete at Rosemont College representing the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Finally, the committee reviewed its mission and duties.
2. **Review of previous report.** The committee reviewed and approved its February 8, 2023, videoconference report.
3. **Selection of committee chair and vice chair.** Nominations were requested for the open chair and vice chair positions, after which committee members submitted their votes via electronic ballot. During other business, the committee formally welcomed Stuart Robinson, assistant vice president and director of athletics at New York University, as its next chair; and Marshall Fey, assistant commissioner at the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, as its next vice chair.
4. **Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designee (ADID) Summit recap and future opportunities discussion.** Staff recapped the successful day-and-a-half summit conducted at the NCAA Inclusion Forum in April, during which nearly 100 ADIDs participated. The MOIC and the NCAA office of inclusion have consistently supported professional development for ADIDs, and the summit was developed in response to ADID focus group findings in 2022 indicating a desire for this type of programming. The summit featured detailed educational sessions, networking opportunities and strategies specific to ADID leaders on campuses and in conference offices. Staff noted that additional educational opportunities will be provided in summer and fall 2023 focusing on how to support student-athlete relationships with the ADID.
5. **NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.**

- a. **Division I.** The Division I SAAC representative was not present to provide an update.
- b. **Division II.** The Division II SAAC representative summarized the SAAC's April meeting noting that the committee met with NCAA President Charlie Baker and discussed the legal challenges regarding student-athletes as employees of their institutions, a notion the Division II SAAC does not support. It was further noted that the Division II SAAC plans to release a statement regarding the student-athlete experience. The Division II SAAC also focused on its working group established to enhance student-athlete mental wellness and prepare student-athletes for life after the conclusion of their college athletics experience. Additionally, Division II SAAC began planning for its in-person meeting in July during which it will conduct its annual summit with the Division II Management Council.

Finally, it was noted that the Division II SAAC conducted its fifth super region convention in April in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which included approximately 125 participants from members in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. The next super region convention will be in Atlanta this fall.

- c. **Division III.** The Division III SAAC representative summarized the SAAC's April meeting noting that the committee met with new NCAA President Baker and discussed efforts to engage legislators regarding the value of intercollegiate athletics and the need to establish consistent standards in specified areas to ensure fairness and equity in college sports. The SAAC member also noted the committee's discussion on the need to further educate constituents about the unique attributes and characteristics of the Division III athletics experience to help mitigate perceptions from individuals not familiar with the breadth of NCAA membership. Finally, it was noted that the Division III SAAC continues to focus on its working groups devoted to enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion, and supporting student-athlete mental wellness.
6. **2023 Diversity and Inclusion Social Media Campaign.** The committee reviewed and approved the 2023 campaign that will be conducted October 17-19 and focus on the following themes: (1) Understanding and personalizing the "why" for supporting individuals who have different identities and experiences; (2) Further defining what "belonging" really means within the context of a team/athletics community; and (3) Identifying the shared responsibilities and action steps for fostering belonging and inclusive excellence. The purpose of the three-day campaign is to engage the membership via social media to promote more discussion about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. Committee members agreed this year's themes will help prompt participants to celebrate their stories about supporting inclusion, offer examples of how to support inclusion within the athletics department, and effectively demonstrate the value of diversity and inclusion within the entire campus community.

7. **2023 Champions of Diversity and Inclusion Honorees.** The committee was informed of the three honorees selected from nominations this spring who will be featured in a news release on ncaa.org later this month: Ashley Stone, associate director of athletics for student-athlete experience at Oakland University; Stevie Baker-Watson, associate vice president for student wellness and the Theodore Katula Director of Athletics and Recreational Sports at DePauw University; and Dr. Charvi Greer, deputy director of athletics for student services and senior woman administrator at Tulane University. The MOIC established the Champions of Diversity recognition in 2016 to honor individuals who support ethnic minorities and other under-represented populations in athletics in ways that go beyond their profession. Committee members who selected the recipients noted the increasing quantity and quality of candidates in recent years and agreed the award reflects the efforts in intercollegiate athletics to enhance diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging. Staff noted that two additional honorees were identified and will be announced later this summer.
8. **Discussion of current issues impacting intercollegiate athletics.** The committee discussed current issues that may have an impact on intercollegiate athletics, particularly as it relates to the effects on diversity and inclusion. Committee members noted the potential threats of bills moving through state legislatures with varying restrictions within the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging space. Committee members also discussed various challenges for conferences with members in states with opposing viewpoints. The committee also discussed challenges for faith-based institutions, particularly in the transgender policy space. Staff noted that the NCAA Common Ground initiative (established in 2014 to provide LGBTQ individuals, individuals of faith at public and private member institutions, LGBTQ organizations and faith-based organizations, an opportunity to discuss commonalities and differences and learn how to work more cohesively within athletics) will resume in person in October or November. Finally, the committee discussed the status of a Division I legislative concept to establish a senior minority administrator designation, and staff noted that the MOIC likely will be asked to re-engage on this issue.
9. **Other business.** The committee welcomed the new chair and vice chair of the committee. [See Information Item No. 3]
10. **Future meetings.** The committee will meet jointly via videoconference with the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics on Monday, May 15.
11. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m. Eastern time.

Committee Chair: Vacant.

Staff Liaisons: Niya Blair Hackworth, Office of Inclusion.
Dee Kennedy, Enforcement.

Sadé Sleet, Office of Inclusion.

NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee May 9, 2023, Videoconference	
Attendees:	
Femi Alao, Roberts Wesleyan University.	
Marshall Fey, Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.	
Lonnie Folks, Maryville University of St. Louis.	
Lisa Freeman, Northern Illinois University.	
Tony Gaskew, University of Pittsburgh, Bradford.	
Shani Idlette, Clark Atlanta University.	
William Kelly, U.S. Coast Guard Academy.	
Chaunte O'Neil, University of Miami (Florida).	
Stuart Robinson, New York University.	
Myora Slaughter, Rosemont College.	
Zulma Toro, Central Connecticut State University.	
Absentees:	
Cheryl Aaron, Wentworth Institute of Technology.	
Ahleasha McNeil, Lincoln Memorial University.	
Carrie Michaels, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.	
Olivia Summiel, Wake Forest University.	
Framrose Virjee, California State University, Fullerton.	
Dwaun Warmack, Claflin University.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Niya Blair Hackworth, Dee Kennedy and Sadé Sleet.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:	
Kina Davis, Gail Dent, Ash Lokhande, Gretchen Miron, Jean Merrill, Stephanie Quigg, Solomon Siskind, Jared Tidemann, Shay Wallach and Amy Wilson.	