



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA GENDER EQUITY TASK FORCE  
OCTOBER 30, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and introductions.** Gender Equity Task Force co-chairs Noreen Morris and Judy Sweet welcomed the group to the videoconference and previewed the agenda.
2. **Review of previous report.** The task force approved the report from its June 7, 2024, videoconference as presented.
3. **Committee on Women's Athletics report.** The task force reviewed the report from the committee's September 26 meeting, noting that the committee endorsed the letter the task force drafted and sent to the NCAA Board of Governors, Division I governance committees, and NCAA national office senior leadership (with copies to other relevant groups within the NCAA governance structure and other athletics stakeholders) outlining its concerns about gender equity and advocating for the protection of programs and initiatives within the NCAA structure that advance opportunities for underrepresented student-athletes and athletics leaders. The committee appreciated the task force's diligence in drafting the letter and agreed with its message given the uncertainty within intercollegiate athletics at this time, particularly as it relates to women's sports in the wake of the settlement.
4. **Legal update.** The task force received an update from NCAA legal counsel regarding legal matters and litigation impacting the NCAA.
5. **Progress on NCAA equity work and next steps.**
  - a. **Equity evaluation process to fulfill gender-equity review, Phase I, recommendation 1.8.** NCAA staff noted that an internal equity evaluation process that the task force had a significant role in creating is being formalized for use within the national office. The task force reviewed a flow chart demonstrating how the process works. The process is expected to be formally implemented in 2025.
  - b. **Equity education modules.** To accompany the evaluation process, educational modules focused on equity are being developed by the NCAA office of inclusion and will be available for staff in 2025.
6. **DEIB Committees Review Working Group status and proposal.** Staff informed the task force that in August 2024, the Board of Governors approved the recommendation from the DEI Committees Review Working Group to consolidate the existing DEI committees and task force into one centralized Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB). The new committee will require approval from all three divisions during their

January 2025 legislative voting sessions. Assuming adoption of the proposals, the new committee would begin its work in the fall of 2025. Nominations are being accepted for the composition of the new committee with the goal of some members currently serving on existing DEIB committees and the task force applying to join the new committee. This will allow for continuity and leadership experience in this vital work. The existing DEI bodies will continue to meet as scheduled through spring 2025.

7. **Review of task force goals and progress.** The task force reviewed a document listing the history of its recommendations and acknowledged key successes. The task force discussed the remaining goals in progress and areas of emphasis, including continuing to monitor the implementation of the settlement to ensure equitable outcomes. The task force identified equity as a key consideration for NCAA legislation and policy as an area for staff to re-engage and to report back to the task force at its spring 2025 meeting. Task force members emphasized that the new committee should strive to develop a culture across the Association in which equity is normalized as an integral component of everyday operations rather than being considered as an afterthought once legislation, policies, and processes have been put in place.
8. **Emerging Sports for Women Program updates.** Staff summarized the status of sports currently in the emerging sports pipeline, including the pathway for conducting the first National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championship in the winter of 2026, pending legislative approval from all three divisions in January 2025. Staff also noted the progress other sports currently in the program are making to achieve the 40-institution sponsorship threshold for transitioning from an emerging sport to a National Collegiate championship sport. It also was noted that women's flag football formally applied to become an emerging sport and is currently being reviewed by the Committee on Women's Athletics.
9. **Title IX 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration.** The task force reviewed a report summarizing how the NCAA celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX.
10. **Future meetings/videoconferences.** The task force will conduct its final meeting in spring 2025. Staff will notify the task force regarding potential meeting dates in the next few weeks.
11. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m. Eastern time.

*Committee Chairs:* Noreen Morris, Northeast Conference  
Judy Sweet, Gender Equity Consultant

*Staff Liaisons:* Ashlesha Lokhande, Office of Inclusion  
Gretchen Miron, Office of Inclusion  
Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion

NCAA Gender Equity Task Force October 30, 2024, Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Chuck Ambrose, Higher Education Consultant.	
Renee Bostic, State University of New York at New Paltz.	
Joan McDermott, Colorado Mesa University.	
Jacqie McWilliams, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Noreen Morris, Northeast Conference.	
Bernard Muir, Stanford University.	
Sarah Otey, Ohio Athletic Conference.	
Judy Sweet, Gender Equity Consultant.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
None.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Ashlesha Lokhande, Gretchen Miron and Amy Wilson.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance for Portions of the Meeting:</b>	
Debbie Brown, Gary Brown, Gail Dent, Felicia Martin, Kevin McColaugh, Jean Merrill, Joshua Perez, Jen Roe and Jared Tidemann.	