

OPERATING AREA: ACADEMICS

No. 1 – Maintain rules and policies that enable institutions to support student-athletes' academic achievement.

Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Review/modernize the Division II Life in the Balance definition to ensure student-athletes are provided with optimal educational experiences that allow them to pursue the academic curricula of their choice.	Appoint a representative working group to conduct the review in collaboration with select governance committees and submit initial recommendations to the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, with ultimate approval from the Management Council and Executive Board.	July 1, 2027.	Possible (to fund one to two in-person or virtual meetings).	The review should apply to all athletics department personnel in addition to student-athletes and incorporate mental wellness as a significant factor in the balance equation. A review of Bylaw 17 impacts should be considered and also apply to the athletics operating area.
			Budget Estimate – TBD.	
			Budget Source – Current committee expenses.	
b. Based on feedback and results of the Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in College Study, reevaluate student-athlete time demands (e.g., include	Legislation Committee; Championships Committee; Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	July 1, 2027.	No.	The expected completion date accommodates potential submission of Convention legislation.

community engagement and countable athletically related activities by sport) to ensure student-athletes are positioned to succeed academically.				
c. Review the division's academic eligibility rules and policies to determine whether more permissive and flexible legislation is necessary to accommodate nontraditional degree programs (i.e., partnerships, trade schools, associate degrees).	Academic Requirements Committee; Legislation Committee.	July 1, 2029.	No.	If the rules change regarding seasons of competition and period of eligibility, then those should be allowed to play out before making other substantive legislative changes.

No. 2 – Continue to achieve a student-athlete graduation rate above that of the general student body.

Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Assess the current Division II degree-completion program for student-athletes and determine whether changes are necessary, such as funding or initiatives to assist with academic counseling, or funding to assist student-	Academic Requirements Committee; Degree-Completion Committee.	March 1, 2027.	TBD.	

athletes in their first or second year of enrollment.				
b. Review graduation rates for student-athletes (Academic Success Rate and federal graduation rate), particularly for transfer student-athletes, and make policy and/or legislative changes, as needed.	Academic Requirements Committee	June 1, 2028	No.	The Academic Requirements Committee will also explore the Graduation Passport (tracking of transfer student-athletes) and determine how to use the data in Division II.

No. 3 – Provide resources and initiatives that help student-athletes enhance their community engagement experiences.

Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Recognize and celebrate community engagement at the school level, including promoting partnerships with local entities, including Make-A-Wish and Team IMPACT.	Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	Ongoing.	No.	
b. Recognize community engagement at the conference level; encourage conferences to develop	Student-Athlete Advisory Committee; Division II	Ongoing.	No.	

initiatives in which visiting teams engage with host communities during conference championships.	Conference Commissioners Association.			
No. 4 – Ensure that student-athletes are afforded opportunities to develop the skills they need to succeed in life after sport.				
Action	Oversight Group(s)	Expected Completion Date	Budget Impact?	Notes
a. Consider whether to create educational programming (e.g., modules, training workshops, webinars) that aid individuals in Division II athletics departments with helping student-athletes achieve proficiencies in resume creation, interview skills, management of finances, pursuit of internships, etc. This includes finding ways to partner with entities on campus that assist the general student body with this education.	Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.	July 1, 2028.	TBD pending program development. Budget Estimate – TBD. Budget Source – Current Division II University budget.	