

**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE  
ADVISORY GROUP  
DECEMBER 12, 2019, TELECONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS**

- **Review of Division III convention proposal 2020-6.** Proposal 2020-6 is a membership sponsored proposal related to out-of-season, voluntary leadership programming for student-athletes within a team setting as opposed to a department-wide setting. Student-athletes serving in a team leadership capacity would be able to participate. The Division III FAR Advisory Group was asked to comment on the proposal. The NCAA staff liaison, Eric Hartung, provided a summary of the proposal noting the background, rationale, what the proposal, if adopted, would allow and the position statements of the Presidents Council, Management Council, and Interpretations and Legislation Committee. The group noted the fact that this is permissive legislation and did question the necessity of team-specific leadership training in lieu of department-wide training. The group listed potential benefits of the proposal while denoting potential challenges as well.

Potential benefits of team-specific leadership programming:

- It can be a highly impactful growth opportunity for student-athlete team leaders.
- The opportunity to receive this selective training can serve as an effective retention tool.
- It can provide a unique and meaningful way for coaches and student-athlete team leaders to connect beyond athletics and is an effective means of mentoring the next generation of leaders.
- The training could result in a better experience for all student-athletes on the team.
- This approach to leadership training allows for the application of team-specific knowledge and examples, which could have a greater impact on student-athletes.
- Typically, leadership training in small group and individualized settings are more effective and impactful than general, large-group programming.

Potential challenges of team-specific leadership programming:

- The legislation specifies the programming is for team leaders but does not define those leadership positions. Each institution identifies those individuals, which could include a full team roster. As such, this may put inherent pressure on student-athletes to attend even though the programming is voluntary.
- The potential for coaches to use the opportunity to conduct sport training.
- The potential for coaches to make the training mandatory or presenting the opportunity in such a way that makes it difficult for the student-athlete to decline.
- The risk of this becoming more of a coaching opportunity rather than a teaching opportunity.

- The potential for more commitments on a coach's schedule that is already overburdened.
- A significant number of opportunities (up to 10 in total, and no more than once per week), above and beyond the number of general leadership programming sessions that are already being offered on campus.

### **ACTION ITEMS.**

- None.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Approval of report from September 19, 2019 teleconference.** The report was approved.
2. **Review of the FARA Fall Meeting Division III Governance Update Breakout Session.** Chuck Brown, with the assistance of the other FARs on the teleconference, provided an overview of a roundtable breakout session that discussed suggested lines of communication to and from the Division III FAR Advisory Group. Utilizing the Faculty Athletics Representative Association (FARA) athletics conference liaison program was the most commonly cited channel for the Advisory Group to receive communication from the FAR membership. The liaison program establishes a FAR within each of the 44 athletics conferences. In this model, the FAR serving as liaison would communicate directly with the Chair of the Advisory Group concerning issues they would like to see considered. As for communication from the Advisory Group to the FAR community, the attendees cited the FARA Voice newsletter, the FARA website, and direct email to FARs as the most effective means. This topic will be revisited at future Advisory Group meetings to better formulate these lines of communication.
3. **Review of NCAA Division III Presidents and Management Councils Summary of Fall 2019 Quarterly Meetings.** Chuck Brown highlighted four items from the report for the Advisory Group: 1) He noted the relevance of the 2020 NCAA Convention Educational Session titled "Crisis Management: Being Your Best During Your Institution's Worst Days" for Faculty Athletics Representatives and encouraged attendance, 2) The Office of the Committees on Infractions announced the release of a report detailing a trend analysis of major infractions cases in Division III, 3) The councils received a report on the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the voluntary graduation rates data collection program; and 4) He noted the Division III Faculty Athletics Representatives Advisory Group's first reports that were shared with the Management Council.

**4. Other Business.**

- a. The Advisory Group will convene on a quarterly basis in 2020 with teleconferences scheduled for the second Tuesday of March, June, September and December at 2:00 p.m. Eastern.
- b. A teleconference will be scheduled for January 2020 to review a legislative concept at the request of the Division III Interpretation and Legislation Committee.
- c. Chuck Brown extended an invitation to all Advisory Group members to the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association reception at the NCAA convention on Friday January 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Anaheim Marriott Grand Ballroom E.

**5. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

*Staff Liaison: Eric Hartung, Research*

<b>NCAA DIVISION III FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY GROUP December 12, 2019</b>	
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Absentees</b>
Kurt Beron, University of Texas, Dallas	Wanda Rutledge, New Jersey City University
Hope Bussenius, Emory University	
Charles Brown, Penn State, Behrend	
Judy Hopp, University of Wisconsin, Stout	
Mike Litz, Penn State, Abington	
Mike Snyder, Illinois College	
Kim Wenger, Northwest Conference	
<b>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</b>	
Eric Hartung	