



REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION III ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2023, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

- None.

2. Nonlegislative items.

- NCAA governance committee appointments.
 - a. Recommendation. The Management and Presidents Councils ratify the Administrative Committee's action to approve the following governance committee appointments effective immediately, unless noted:
 - (1) NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports – **Jami Clinton**, head strength and conditioning coach, University of Texas at Dallas, American Southwest Conference. Effective date: September 1, 2023.
 - (2) NCAA Division III Management Council – immediate replacement for Maria Buckel – **Keiko Price**, associate vice president/director of athletics, Emory University, University Athletic Association.
 - (3) NCAA Division III Membership Committee – immediate replacement for Elliott Strickland – **Amy Carlton**, commissioner, American Southwest Conference.
 - (4) NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee –immediate replacement for KryJuan Roberson – **Myora Slaughter**, Rosemount College, Colonial States Athletic Conference.
 - b. Effective date. Immediate.
 - c. Rationale. The Division III Nominating Committee reviewed the slate of nominees for each committee and forwarded these individuals for appointment. The Administrative Committee was asked to approve due to the immediate effective date.
 - d. Estimated budget impact. None.
 - e. Student-athlete impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome.** Chancellor Schmidt welcomed the Administrative Committee. The meeting, held at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, convened at 7:03 a.m. Central. The committee reviewed primary functions which include: (1) To identify the primary issues of

interest to the governance structure during the upcoming year; (2) To act on any emergency issues that arise between council meetings; and (3) To decide issues best acted on between the regular quarterly meetings of the councils.

2. **Leadership expectations.** The committee reviewed the leadership expectations, the policies and procedures documents for both Management and the Presidents Councils, the meeting schedule for 2023-24, and committee responsibilities. The committee noted that with the passage of Proposal 2023-7 (council composition), the Nominating Committee will oversee the Presidents Council nomination and selection process effective Aug. 1, 2024. The Presidents Council Nominations Subcommittee will continue to select new council members until the proposal's effective date.

3. **Division III key discussion topics.**

- a. Financial and Risk Management Working Group. During its January meeting, the Division III Presidents Council approved the creation of the Financial and Risk Management Working Group that will report to the Presidents Council, collaborate with the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, and be responsible for reviewing the landscape of intercollegiate athletics, the division's financial standing and the risks, threats and opportunities that confront the division. The committee reviewed the working group's charge and scope of work, identified potential working group members, and established a meeting timeline. The committee will finalize the working group roster by early April and anticipates the working group will begin its work in May after the spring meetings of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, Management Council and Presidents Council.

The committee determined that one of the working group's first priorities should be an assessment of the division. Assessment areas may include evaluating the division's overall financial value; assessing the value proposition of the national office for Division III conference offices, institutions, and student-athletes; and evaluating the organizational effectiveness of the Division III governance structure.

- b. Board of Governors Subcommittee on Congressional Engagement. The committee discussed the subcommittee's work, the ask of Congress, potential NCAA commitments, and educational and mobilization strategies. At the request of the subcommittee, the governance staff has asked a group of "Congressional Advocates" to help advance the subcommittee's legislative priorities, educate the Division III membership about this work, and create a message that will allow the Association to speak with one voice about the future of intercollegiate athletics.
- c. Enhance communications, engagement, and accountability. The committee reviewed an internal Division III staff document outlining areas of focus to support the division's strategic priorities and work within the governance structure. An overarching theme is enhancing communications, engagement, and accountability through the established governance structure.

- d. Division III Strategic Plan. The committee reviewed the current Division III Strategic Plan. The plan provides details for year two of the current three-year budget cycle that aligns with the 2021-24 budget triennium. The plan is updated annually to reflect funds associated with championship and Enrichment Fund initiatives. While there are minimal budget enhancements for the FY24 budget cycle, the governance structure has started to identify strategic priorities for the FY25 budget cycle when the division will receive an 11% revenue increase.

4. Key Division III issues and initiatives for 2023-24.

- a. Division III Philosophy Statement Review Working Group. The committee reviewed the Issues Forum roundtable discussion feedback from the January Convention. The timeline to complete the review includes the councils providing feedback on a revised draft with the goal of a final version being submitted for the councils to consider sponsoring a 2024 legislative proposal at their summer meetings.
- b. Division III championships and enhancing the student-athlete experience. The committee reviewed funding enhancements being considered that would improve the student-athlete experience at championships. Enhancement concepts include exploring bracket expansion with a consistent access ratio applied to Pool C berths and providing sport committees the flexibility to add one or two flights during the selection process to protect higher-seeded teams within regions to avoid matchups in the preliminary rounds. The Championships Committee also is exploring ways to enhance the student-athlete experience (e.g., increased travel party size, increased per diem, additional branding at first and second round sites, better preparation and support of site representatives and host institutions).
- c. Federated playing rules process. The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel – the current governing authority for playing rules – is recommending that each division’s governance structure approve legislation this spring to eliminate the current requirement that playing rules be common among divisions, as doing so would align with the provisions in the new NCAA Constitution. In January, the Management Council approved the creation of an advisory group to help the staff develop a process to establish federated playing rules. The entire process is expected to be completed no later than the council’s July 2023 meeting.
- d. Mental health hardship waiver. With the adoption of the resolution at the 2023 Convention, the staff is working with the respective governing bodies and the Sport Science Institute to develop/clarify a process to permit hardship/season-of-competition waivers based on mental health issues. A proposed process is expected for the Management Council to consider approving by its summer meeting. Staff also noted that the Division III Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee will play a significant role in administering this process moving forward.
- e. Potential legislative proposals for 2024. The committee discussed potential 2024 legislative proposals. It anticipates the Committee on Women’s Athletics will ask

the Management Council to sponsor stunt as an emerging sport, and the Presidents Council to propose an updated Philosophy Statement. The membership may submit a proposal to increase the size of select championship brackets (e.g., football championship bracket). It also noted that the Division III Commissioners Association is meeting in mid-April to discuss potential 2024 legislative proposals.

5. Division III Strategic Planning and Finance.

a. Division III budget.

- (1) Budget-to-actual. The committee reviewed the budget-to-actual document noting that as of February 2023, the fall championships were at budget, and all Enrichment Fund initiatives were within budget.
- (2) Future budget projections. The committee reviewed the future budget projection through 2032. Staff provided an update on the NCAA's new accounting process that now separates gross revenues from expenses for championships game operations only. Prior accounting practices combined the revenues and expenses. The new process will allow for greater transparency with expenses and a better process to manage these expenses. Division III will use this new accounting practice with the FY24 budget. It also will use a new revenue forecasting model. These changes will allow for greater budget flexibility for the FY25 budget cycle and beyond.

b. Strategic Planning and Finance Committee in-person meeting. The committee reviewed the draft agenda for the March in-person meeting.

6. Key Association-wide issues for 2023.

a. New NCAA President. The committee noted the importance of membership engagement with the new president and discussed ways for the committee to be proactive in influencing his relationship building with the division.

b. Board of Governors.

- (1) Board of Governors consultative process. At the January Presidents Council meeting, the council agreed to have the Administrative Committee participate in this consultative process on behalf of the Presidents Council. The committee reviewed the timeline for the consultative process leading up to the April board meeting. Staff will schedule a 30-minute videoconference for the end of April.
- (2) Transgender student-athlete participation. In January, the NCAA Board of Governors delayed the implementation of phase three of the current transgender student-athlete policy. The NCAA will continue to implement phase two while the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical

Aspects of Sports evaluates the current policy, and in particular, the impact of Phase III.

c. Sport Science Institute strategic initiatives.

- (1) Updated strategic priorities and evidence and consensus-based guidance. In January, the NCAA Board of Governors approved new policies and procedures for the identification of evidence- and consensus-based guidance to support student-athlete mental and physical health, safety, and performance to replace the current Uniform Standards of Care Process. The board also endorsed revising the Association's nine strategic health, safety, and performance priorities to strategic priorities of mental and physical health, sport-related illness and injury, training and performance, and education and policy. There are no expected changes to the current resources and policies to be made soon.
- (2) Cannabinoid Summit. In late spring, the Sport Science Institute will socialize the outcomes and provide foundational statements from the Cannabinoid Summit held in December 2022. It is anticipated that any proposals to change the championships drug testing policy, and subsequent penalties, will occur by this summer to have in place for the 2023-24 championship seasons.
- (3) Mental Health Advisory Group. The newly created Association-wide Mental Health Advisory Group continues to meet and develop educational resources. The committee discussed the value of researching the creation of a corporate sponsorship with a national on-line mental health company to provide virtual assistance to all NCAA student-athletes.

7. **Communication and feedback initiatives.**

- a. Presidents Council communication plan. The committee reviewed the rationale for the establishment of Presidents Advisory Group (PAG) and discussed ways to better utilize this group within the governance structure. The committee stressed the importance of finding new ways to engage the PAG. It recommended an orientation videoconference for new members and an established engagement schedule beyond the October and January meetings.
- b. Management Council conference assignments. Each Management Council member is assigned two to three conferences for the year. Staff provides an updated governance PowerPoint and an introduction regarding the program and guidelines for attending conference meetings. Council members complete an on-line meeting

recap summary form following the meeting. These recaps are then discussed at the next scheduled Management Council meeting.

- c. Governance scorecard. The Governance Scorecard is a formal process to allow governance and sport committee members to provide feedback on the work of the committee and the committee liaisons. While the scorecard was not distributed last year, staff will distribute the governance committee scorecard this spring and the sport committee scorecard this summer. Feedback will be shared with the councils.
8. **Additional business.** Staff noted that starting with the spring governance meetings, meeting agendas will be posted on ncaa.org in advance of the meetings. After the conclusion of the meeting, the committee report will be posted to ncaa.org.
9. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m. Central.

Committee Chair: Jim Schmidt, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire

*Staff Liaisons: Louise McCleary, Division III Governance
Jeff Myers, Academic and Membership Affairs
Bill Regan, Division III Governance*

NCAA Division III Administrative Committee March 7, 2023, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Lamont Repollet, Kean University.	
Jim Schmidt, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.	
Holly Sheilley, Transylvania University.	
Jim Troha, Juniata College.	
Michelle Walsh, Vassar College.	
Absentee:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Louise McCleary, Jeff Myers, Bill Regan, and Lisa Rogers.	