



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 15, 2018, MEETING

**ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Legislative Items.**

**a. 2019 NCAA Convention Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 14.1.2.1 – Eligibility – General Eligibility Requirements – Validity of Academic Credentials – Pre-Enrollment Academic Misconduct.**

- (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2019 NCAA Convention to amend Bylaw 14.1.2.1 (pre-enrollment academic misconduct) to define and clarify pre-enrollment academic misconduct activities, the individuals to whom the activities apply and violations of such activities, as specified.
- (2) Effective Date. August 1, 2019, for student-athletes enrolling in an NCAA Division II institution on or after August 1, 2019.
- (3) Rationale. Following a review of post-enrollment academic misconduct, the committee reviewed pre-enrollment academic misconduct. Current process permits reviewing high schools, programs and courses (NCAA High School Review Committee), as well as the validity of academic credentials (NCAA Student Records Review Committee). In addition, current process permits investigating potential institutional involvement in violations of NCAA legislation. This proposal extends the application of pre-enrollment academic misconduct to representatives of athletics interests, similar to post-enrollment academic misconduct, emphasizing institutional accountability and the importance of academic integrity in intercollegiate athletics. Further, it clarifies which academic credentials are subject to the pre-enrollment academic misconduct analysis, recognizing that misconduct may involve any component of a prospective student-athlete's academic record (e.g., courses, grades, credits, transcripts, test scores).
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

**b. Noncontroversial Legislation – Bylaw 21.8.5.1 – Committees – Division II Committees – Division II General Committees – Academic Requirements Committee – Duties – Final Waiver Authority.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to amend Bylaw 21.8.5.1 (Academic Requirements Committee) to clarify that the committee's determination on an academic waiver shall be final, binding and conclusive and shall not be subject to further review.
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. Per the NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Subcommittee on Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers policies and procedures, the "subcommittee's determination shall be final, binding and conclusive and shall not be subject to further review by any other authority." However, this authority is not outlined in the committee's legislated duties. Other Division II committees with waiver authority (e.g., NCAA Division II Committee for Legislative Relief, NCAA Division II Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement) have specific legislation indicating the respective committee's final authority. This change would legislate the Academic Requirements Committee's final waiver authority for academic waivers.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

**2. Nonlegislative Items.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- 1. Review of Forward Progress Athletics Consulting Report Regarding Academic Data Review.** The committee received an update regarding the second phase of an academic data review conducted by Forward Progress Athletics Consulting (Forward Progress). The review focused on preliminary data from surveys sent to the following individuals: (1) Institutional staff members who submit data in the NCAA Academic Portal, (2) Current and former members of Division II governance committees; and (3) Institutional and conference administrators, including directors of athletics, presidents and chancellors, and commissioners. Next steps for Forward Progress include analyzing results from the three surveys, conducting focus groups and completing the final report. The committee will review the final report and discuss next steps at its September 2018 in-person meeting.

- 2. Review of Federal Graduation Rate and NCAA Division II Academic Success Rate Data.** The committee received a report on the Federal Graduation Rate and Academic Success Rate (ASR) data released in November 2017. NCAA research staff presented data on trends in the federal rate and ASR.
- 3. Review of Data Regarding the Impact of Changes in Progress-Toward-Degree and Two-Year College Transfer Legislation.** The committee discussed the impact of the NCAA Division II Path to Graduation legislative changes adopted by the membership at the 2014 Convention regarding progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer requirements. Due to the changes in progress-toward-degree legislation, the eligibility rate for Division II student-athletes decreased slightly in the fall 2016 term. Student-athletes meeting the increased requirements earned more credits and posted higher grade-point averages during their first year at the Division II institution, but this is consistent with trends throughout the division for the past several years. With the changes in two-year college transfer requirements, incoming two-year transfers were better academically prepared in 2016-17 than in 2015-16. The transfers had higher high school Grade-point averages and college-entrance exam scores, transferred more credits from the two-year institution, had higher grade-point averages in transferable credits and were more likely to have earned an associate's degree. In addition, the first-year academic performance of two-year college transfers at Division II institutions improved in 2016-17, with increases in first-year eligibility, retention, credits earned and grade-point average.
- 4. Update on NCAA Division II Academic Performance Census (APC) Data Submission.** The committee reviewed a list of institutions that requested extensions and/or failed to submit data by the APC deadline for the 2017-18 academic year. The number of institutions requesting extensions doubled from the 2016-17 submission cycle, and staff informed the committee that this could be related to the fact that the Academic Portal's automated reminder system was not operational in the fall. The committee agreed that the reminders should be sent monthly to institutions starting in mid-September, then weekly starting one month before an institution's deadline.
- 5. Review of Institutions Failing to Submit Data by the Academic Performance Census Deadline in the 2017-18 Academic Year.** The committee reviewed requests from six institutions for waivers of the penalty for failing to submit APC data by the original deadline of 15 weeks after the institution's first day of classes of the fall term, or by the extended deadline, if granted to the institution. The committee denied a waiver request from Fairmont State University due to a lack of extenuating circumstances. The committee approved waiver requests from the following institutions based on the totality of the mitigating circumstances: Henderson State University; Metropolitan State University of Denver; Texas A&M International University; Thomas Jefferson University; and Western State Colorado University.

[Note: Patrick Wempe, Henderson State University, recused himself from discussion and voting on the request from his institution.]

- 6. Discussion Regarding Academic Requirements for Institutions Located in Puerto Rico Following Hurricane Maria.** The committee discussed whether to temporarily waive all or some academic and reporting requirements for the three member institutions located in Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria. The committee agreed to waive the following academic reporting requirements for a period of five years, effective August 1, 2017: (1) NCAA Constitution 3.3.4.14 (academic success rate); and (2) Constitution 3.3.4.15 (academic performance census). The committee noted that the five-year period will expire August 31, 2022. In addition, the committee agreed to waive the following progress-toward-degree requirements through the 2017-18 academic year: (1) Bylaw 14.4.3.2 (term-by-term credit hour requirement); (2) Bylaw 14.4.3.3 (credit hours earned during the regular academic year); (3) Bylaw 14.4.3.4 (annual credit hour requirement); (4) Bylaw 14.4.3.5 (fulfillment of minimum grade-point average requirements); and (5) Bylaw 14.4.3.6 (designation of degree program). Further, the committee agreed to waive Bylaw 14.3 (freshman academic requirements) and Bylaw 14.5 (transfer regulations) through the 2017-18 academic year. The committee noted that student-athletes must remain in good academic standing per Bylaw 14.4.3.1. Following the period of relief noted above, institutions in Puerto Rico must be in compliance with all Division II academic legislative requirements.
- 7. Discussion Regarding Academic Requirements for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Transfers.** The committee discussed establishing specific academic requirements (e.g., grade-point average, transferrable credit hours) for a student-athlete transferring from an NAIA institution in order to use the one-time transfer exception for immediate eligibility. Specifically, the committee recommended that a student-athlete transferring from an NAIA institution shall have completed an average of 12-semester or 12-quarter hours of transferable degree credit acceptable to any baccalaureate degree program at the certifying institution for each term of full-time attendance with a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.000 in transferable degree credits. This recommendation will be considered by the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee during its March 6-7 in-person meeting.
- 8. Discussion of SAT Certification Procedure.** The committee reviewed the operational approach approved by the NCAA Division II Management Council in October 2016 for using test scores from the redesigned SAT to certify initial eligibility for the 2017-18 academic year. The committee agreed to continue with this operational process for certifications of enrolling prospective student-athletes through the 2019-20 academic year.
- 9. Discussion Regarding Application of the 2018 Initial-Eligibility Standards.** The committee received an update regarding its educational approach for preparing Division II member institutions for the upcoming changes in initial-eligibility standards.

10. **Review of 2018-19 Initial-Eligibility Waiver Policy.** The committee reviewed options for how to evaluate initial-eligibility waivers during the 2018-19 academic year and approved using a data-based model that predicts first-year grade-point average. During its June 2018 teleconference, the committee will review data gathered by the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine the appropriate first-year grade-point average threshold for waiver consideration.
11. **Discussion with Felicia Martin, Vice President of the Eligibility Center.** Felicia Martin, vice president of the Eligibility Center, provided the committee an overview of her vision for the Eligibility Center and gave the committee an opportunity to provide feedback on current operations and potential enhancements to the academic and amateurism certification processes.
12. **Review of 2017-18 Division II Priorities.** Staff provided an update on the 2017-18 Division II priorities.
13. **Update on Division II Educational Initiatives.** The committee received an update on the planning and development of educational programs and materials for the Division II membership, specifically Division II University, the online coaches' education program.
14. **Review of the NCAA International Student Records Committee Report.** The committee received a report from the October 2017 International Student Records Committee meeting.
15. **Review of the September 14, 2017, Academic Requirements Committee Report.** The committee reviewed and approved its September 2017 committee report.
16. **Review of the October 2017 and January 2018 NCAA Division II Management Council and NCAA Division II Presidents Council Summary of Actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the October 2017 and January 2018 meetings of the Management Council and the Presidents Council.
17. **Future Meeting Schedule.** The committee affirmed September 13-14, 2018, as the dates for its fall in-person meeting. The committee agreed to conduct its spring 2019 in-person meeting February 11-12, 2019. Staff will coordinate with the committee to schedule its June 2018 teleconference.

*Committee Chair: Paul Leidig, Grand Valley State University*

*Staff Liaisons: Susan Britsch, Academic and Membership Affairs*

*Gregg Summers, Research*

*Angela Tressel, Academic and Membership Affairs*

<b>NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee February 15, 2018, In-Person Meeting</b>	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
Brenda Cates, University of Mount Olive; Conference Carolinas.	
Jennifer Heimstead, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; California Collegiate Athletic Association.	
Felicia Johnson, Virginia Union University; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Philip Kertstetter, University of Mount Olive; Conference Carolinas.	
Joseph Kissell, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.	
Paul Leidig, Grand Valley State University; Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.	
Perry Massey, Fayetteville State University; Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Pennie Parker, Rollins College; Sunshine State Conference.	
Shawn Ward, Le Moyne College; Northeast-10 Conference.	
Patrick Wempe, Henderson State University; Great American Conference.	
Christina Whetsel, Angelo State University; Lone Star Conference.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
Jeff Yasalonis, University of Mount Olive; Conference Carolinas.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Aja Grant, Winston-Salem State University.	
John Shukie, Forward Progress Athletics Consulting.	
<b>NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:</b>	
Susan Britsch, Gregg Summers and Angela Tressel.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Amanda Conklin, Alyson Grady, Terri Steeb Gronau, Madison Haesy, Maritza Jones, Felicia Martin, Jane McGill, Stephanie Quigg Smith, Matt Ward and Karen Wolf.	