REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016, MEETING

ACTION ITEMS.

1. Legislative Items.

   a. Noncontroversial Legislation - NCAA Bylaw 14.5.4.3– Eligibility – Transfer Regulations - Two-Year College Transfers - Eligibility for Competition, Practice and Athletics Aid – All Others Qualifiers, Partial Qualifiers and Nonqualifiers – English, Math and Science Credit Hours – Credit Hours Earned While Enrolled Part Time at a Previous Institution.

      (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to permit a student-athlete who earned transferable English, math, or science credits while enrolled part time at a previous two-year or four-year institution to use those credit hours to satisfy the two-year college transfer English, math and science credit-hour requirements.

      (2) Effective Date. Immediate.

      (3) Rationale. Current legislation does not permit a two-year college transfer student to use credits earned while enrolled part time at a previous two-year or four-year institution to meet the English, math and science credit-hour requirements at the certifying institution. This change would prevent student-athletes from having to retake courses they have already successfully completed while part time at a previous two-year or four-year institution to satisfy the two-year college transfer requirements.

      (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

      (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Prospective student-athletes will have additional flexibility to use credits earned while enrolled part time at a previous two-year or four-year institution to satisfy the two-year college transfer requirements for English, math and science.

   b. Incorporation of Interpretation into the NCAA Division II Manual.

      (1) Recommendation. To incorporate the following official interpretation into the NCAA Division II Manual:

         Application of Admissions Requirement for Graduate Students.
The NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that a nonmatriculating graduate student-athlete is eligible for competition while enrolled full time as a nondegree seeking graduate student provided all other eligibility requirements are satisfied (e.g. enrolled full time, in good academic standing).

[References: NCAA Bylaws 14.1.6.1 (admission requirement), 14.1.8 (graduate student/postbaccalaureate/second baccalaureate participation), 14.1.8.1 (transfer exception)]

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Incorporating the September 8, 2016, official interpretation into the Manual will clarify the application of the legislation regarding admissions requirements for graduate student-athletes.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Estimated Student-Athlete Impact. None.

c. Incorporation of Interpretation into the NCAA Division II Manual.

(1) Recommendation. To incorporate the following official interpretation into the NCAA Division II Manual:

Application of Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements When Certifying Designation of Degree Program.

The Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that an institution would not incur a violation if a student-athlete did not designate a degree program prior to the fifth semester or seventh quarter, provided the student-athlete designates a degree prior to competing.

[Reference: Bylaw 14.4.3.6 (designation of degree program)]

(2) Effective Date. Immediate.

(3) Rationale. Incorporating the September 8, 2016, official interpretation into the Manual will clarify the application of the legislation regarding the timing of the required designation of a degree.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
(5) Estimated Student-Athlete Impact. None.

2. Nonlegislative Items.
   
   • None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. Discussion of the Academic Portal. The committee received an update regarding the new academic portal. Staff noted that while the portal is designed to replace the NCAA Division II Academic Tracking System, the launch has been delayed until late September in an effort to resolve technical concerns. Staff recommended that a deadline extension be granted to institutions to give institutional staff enough time to familiarize themselves with the new system and accurately complete the data-submission process. The committee approved extending the Academic Performance Census data-submission deadline to February 1, 2017, for all institutions noting that the extension only applies to the 2016-17 academic year.

2. Update on 2017 NCAA Convention Proposals. The committee reviewed two 2017 NCAA Convention proposals that impact student-athlete eligibility. Specifically, the committee reviewed the academic misconduct proposal that it recommended for sponsorship in June 2016 (see Division II SPOPL No. 2-2). Additionally, the committee reviewed a proposal that would permit a student-athlete to miss class for competition during the nonchampionship segment once every four years, providing institutions flexibility to pursue competitive opportunities in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Canada during the nonchampionship segment. It would also permit institutions located in those states, territory or country with the flexibility to travel to the United States for competition during the nonchampionship segment. (See Division II SPOPL No. 2-16)

3. Discussion of Enforcement Issues and Penalty Structure Related to Academic Misconduct Proposal. The committee was provided an update on the projected enforcement issues and penalty structure that will result with the proposed academic misconduct legislation that will be voted on at the 2017 NCAA Convention. Staff noted that among other things, consideration will be given to each case in regard to the nature of institutional staff member involvement and their proximity to the athletics department.

4. Review of the Q&A Document Related to Academic Misconduct. The committee reviewed the current 2017 NCAA Convention Question and Answer document related to the proposed academic misconduct legislation. The document will be made available to the membership as a resource leading up to the 2017 NCAA Convention.
5. **Update on Impact of Redesigned SAT.** The committee received an update on the operational changes that took effect this summer in response to the redesigned SAT. Staff noted that the concordance established by the College Board in May was used by the NCAA Eligibility Center for operational purposes this summer with only a small percentage of student-athletes impacted. The committee will revisit the issue to determine the appropriate operational process for the 2017-18 academic year at a future meeting.

6. **Review of Four-Year College Transfer Requirements.** The committee began a comprehensive review and discussion regarding the current four-year college transfer legislation. At its March 2016 meeting, the NCAA Division II Legislation Committee requested that a detailed review of the four-year college transfer legislation be referred to the committee. The committee requested that staff identify available research data on four-year college transfer student-athletes. In addition, the committee directed staff to seek feedback on the current legislation from the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Council. The committee will review the requested information and continue its discussion during its February 2017 meeting.

7. **Issuance of Official Interpretation.** The committee issued the following official interpretation [See Legislative Action No. 1-b]:

   **Application of Admissions Requirement for Graduate Students.**

   The Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that a nonmatriculating graduate student-athlete would be eligible for competition while enrolled full time as a nondegree seeking graduate student provided all other eligibility requirements are satisfied (e.g. enrolled full time, in good academic standing).

   [References: Bylaws 14.1.6.1 (admission requirement), 14.1.8 (graduate student/postbaccalaureate/second baccalaureate participation), 14.1.8.1 (transfer exception)]

8. **Issuance of Official Interpretation.** The committee issued the following official interpretation [See Legislative Action No. 1-c]:

   **Application of Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements When Certifying Designation of Degree Program.**

   The Division II Academic Requirements Committee determined that an institution would not incur a violation if a student-athlete did not designate a degree program prior to the fifth semester or seventh quarter, provided the student-athlete designates a degree prior to competing.
9. **Update on Academic Research Data.** The committee received a preview of the Federal Graduation Rate and Academic Success Rate for the upcoming year. Staff projected no significant changes. The general expectation is for the rolling four-year rates to increase moving forward as the 2006 cohort, which contributed to an artificially low rate, will drop out of the calculation.

10. **Discussion of NCAA Division II Degree-Completion Award Criteria and Process.** The committee received an update about the Division II Degree-Completion Award Program. Staff noted that while the NCAA Division II Planning and Finance Committee has approved additional funds to be used for the upcoming year, there have been unused funds for this program in the previous three fiscal years. Therefore, the committee asked that a comprehensive review of the program occur over the 2016-17 academic year to ensure the program is meeting the original intent and is benefiting as many student-athletes as possible. The committee will review final recommendations of possible changes to the program during its June 2017 teleconference.

11. **Review of Waiver Volume Related to Path to Graduation Legislation.** The committee received an update on the number of progress-toward-degree and two-year college transfer waivers filed as a result of the NCAA Division II Path to Graduation legislation taking effect August 1, 2016. Staff noted the numbers were minimal with no significant increases in the number of waivers typically filed by institutions. More specific data will be provided at a future in-person meeting.

12. **Professional Development Session on Unconscious Bias.** The committee engaged in a professional development session on unconscious bias provided by representatives from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

13. **Update on Foundation for the Future Funding Requests.** The committee received an update on the progress of requests that were granted funding through the NCAA Division II Foundation for the Future Initiatives. Additional updates will be provided at future meetings.

14. **Review of the NCAA Division II Strategic Plan.** The committee reviewed a progress report on the implementation of the 2015-21 Division II Strategic Plan.

15. **Update on NCAA Division II Priorities.** The committee received an update on the 2016-17 Division II priorities.

16. **Demonstration of Division II Pages on NCAA.org.** The committee received a demonstration of the updated pages dedicated to Division II on the ncaa.org website.
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17. **Demonstration of the NCAA Division II Institutional Performance Program.** The committee received a demonstration of the Division II Institutional Performance Program portal.

18. **Update on NCAA Division I Topics.** The committee received an update on current academic topics being discussed by the NCAA Division I Committee on Academics.

19. **Update on Path to Graduation Toolkit.** The committee reviewed data about usage of the educational materials on ncaa.org related to the Path to Graduation legislative changes.

20. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee Report.** The committee reviewed and approved its June 2016 committee report.

21. **Review of the Academic Requirements Committee Roster.** The committee welcomed two new members: Paul Leidig, faculty athletics representative at Grand Valley State University and Patrick Wempe, faculty athletics representative at Henderson State University.

22. **Review of the July and August 2016 NCAA Division II Presidents Council and NCAA Division II Management Council Summary of Actions.** The committee reviewed the summary of actions from the July and August 2016 meetings of the Management Council and the Presidents Council.

23. **Future Meeting Schedule.** The committee agreed to conduct its winter in-person meeting February 23-24, 2017, its summer teleconference in June or July 2017 (date to be determined) and its fall in-person meeting September 16-17, 2017.

*Committee Chair: Brenda Cates, University of Mount Olive*

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

*Gregg Summers, Research*

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<tr>
<th>NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee</th>
<th>September 8, 2016, In-Person Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Cates, University of Mount Olive.</td>
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<td>Corbin Greening, Henderson State University.</td>
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<td>Jennifer Heimstead, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.</td>
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<td>Paul Leidig, Grand Valley State University.</td>
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<td>Perry Massey, Fayetteville State University.</td>
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Lindsay Reeves, University of North Georgia.
Dene Thomas, Fort Lewis College.
Shawn Ward, Le Moyne College (by teleconference).
Patrick Wempe, Henderson State University.
Christina Whetsel, Angelo State University.

**Absentees:**
Joseph Kissell, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.

**Guests in Attendance:**
Amanda Bonilla, Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis.
Gary Brown, Division II Governance Contractor.
Alice Jones, Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis.

**NCAA Liaisons in Attendance:**
Susan Britsch and Gregg Summers.

**Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:**