



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
APRIL 12-13, 2018, IN-PERSON MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Committee chair, Sherika Montgomery, welcomed the following new members to their first in-person meeting: Hannah Hinton, Mountain East Conference and Samantha Kastner, Notre Dame of Maryland University.
2. **Review CWA purpose statement.** The committee reviewed its purpose statement.
3. **Approval of the February 23, 2018, teleconference report.** The committee reviewed and approved the February 23, 2018, teleconference report.
4. **Review of the February 6, 2018, NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee teleconference report and the April 12-13, 2018, MOIC meeting agenda.** The committee reviewed the February 6, 2018, MOIC teleconference report and the April 12-13, 2018, MOIC meeting agenda
5. **Discuss emerging sport proposals and conduct videoconferences.** In February 2018, the committee determined that the three applicant emerging sports had not met the requirements set forth in the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women Process Guide. Therefore, the committee did not recommend that any of the emerging sports applicants be accepted into the Emerging Sports for Women Program. Recognizing each sport's potential for continued growth and to offer further support with the emerging sport proposal process, the committee invited each sport's representatives to participate in a videoconference during this meeting. The committee participated in individual videoconferences with representatives of wrestling, acrobatics and tumbling, and STUNT. The committee offered feedback regarding the proposals to the representatives of each sport
 - a. **Wrestling.** The wrestling representatives presented updates on the growth of girls' and women's wrestling, noting that the high participation numbers of female wrestlers in high school and collegiate club teams show strong grass-roots support for the sport. The committee commended the wrestling representatives on the sport's potential for growth, the increasing number of female high school wrestlers, the prominence of USA women's wrestling in international competition and the implementation of a coaches' training program for women's wrestling. The

committee noted the strengths of the sport's proposal and provided feedback regarding how the sport of women's wrestling could best position itself to become an NCAA emerging sport for women.

- b. Acrobatics and tumbling.** The acrobatics and tumbling representatives updated the committee on the continued growth within the sport and explained how the sport is increasing the number and diversity of opportunities for women with a tumbling, acrobatic or gymnastics skillset, as well as a professional pathway into coaching. The committee commended the acrobatics and tumbling representatives on a well-written, organized and detailed proposal, as well as the sport's potential for growth, its organized governance structure, its legislation and playing rules that are compatible with NCAA legislation and playing rules, and its established national championship.
- c. STUNT.** The STUNT representatives provided collegiate sport sponsorship information and gave updates on topics such as the upcoming national collegiate STUNT championship as well as participation increases at the high school level. Citing their data on NCAA institutions sponsoring STUNT as club and varsity teams, the STUNT representatives requested reconsideration of the committee's decision not to recommend STUNT to be in the Emerging Sports for Women Program. The committee commended the STUNT representatives on the sport's potential for growth, its established and televised national championship, and support from other organizations/associations (e.g., state high school athletic associations). In discussion following the videoconference, the committee acknowledged STUNT's request for reconsideration, but maintained its position as stated in its March 14, 2018, letter to STUNT leadership.
- 6. Review NCAA Emerging Sports for Women Process Guide.** The committee reviewed the Emerging Sports for Women Process Guide and directed staff to amend the document to reflect the committee's and staff's suggested revisions. The process guide was used for the first time during the 2017-18 cycle. An updated version of the guide will be available on August 1, 2018, for prospective emerging sports that submit proposals for the 2019-20 cycle. Henceforth, the process guide will be reviewed at every spring meeting and an updated version will be posted online by the following August 1.
- 7. Office of inclusion updates.** Katrice Albert, executive vice-president of inclusion and human resources, welcomed the committee and thanked them for their service. Albert informed the committee that she would provide an in-depth update on IHR's strategic priorities at the CWA and MOIC joint meeting.
- 8. Review emerging sports updates.** The committee reviewed updates provided by the following emerging sports for women: equestrian; rugby, and triathlon. The committee discussed ways the committee and staff may provide support to sport representatives, institutions and conferences during the emerging sport process. Suggestions included

developing resources for the NCAA Emerging Sports for Women webpage and NCAA staff establishing a cross-departmental communication plan to effectively and efficiently address various emerging sport issues.

9. NCAA Gender Equity Task Force updates. The committee was informed that the Gender Equity Task Force will have a teleconference on May 25, 2018, during which it will continue to strategize about implementing the Task Force equity, diversity and inclusion recommendations that were approved by the NCAA Board of Governors in April 2017.

10. Review Senior Woman Administrator Research project. The committee received an update on the Senior Woman Administrator Research Project action plan and accompanying communications plan. NCAA communications staff explained key elements of the communications plan for the SWA Research Project that was developed in partnership with office of inclusion staff and 3Fold Consulting Group. These plans are intended to be living documents, including a series of appendices to catalog initiatives generated from the SWA Research Project and follow-up conversations with the SWA Subcommittee and NCAA staff. The committee suggested that short-term goals should focus on the following findings from the study, which highlight a gap of perceived understanding about the SWA designation:

- a. Fifty percent of SWAs report understanding their role on campus;
- b. Ninety-two percent of athletics directors report understanding the SWA designation, and
- c. Forty-five percent of SWAs report having an AD who understands the SWA role on campus.

The committee advised that long-term goals should be established after the membership's awareness and understanding of the SWA designation has increased. The committee supported strategies for increasing awareness, such as infographics, Q&A documents and best practice documents for SWAs, ADs and commissioners.

11. NCAA Woman of the Year Award. The committee discussed a new Woman of the Year Selection Subcommittee of the joint CWA and MOIC. The subcommittee is responsible for reviewing conference Woman of the Year nominations, identifying the Top 30 – 10 from each division – and selecting three finalists from each division. The following CWA members agreed to serve on the subcommittee for the 2018 Woman of the Year Award: Karen Baebler; John Kietzmann; Donna Ledwin, and Sherika Montgomery (subcommittee chair). MOIC will select three members to serve on the subcommittee following the joint CWA and MOIC meeting.

Staff invited subcommittee members to attend the Woman of the Year Award reception and dinner on Sunday, October 22, 2018, in Indianapolis.

12. Divisional Student-Athlete Advisory Committee updates.

- a. Division I.** The Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee continues discussions regarding the student-athlete experience, including the early recruiting process, camaraderie with teammates, using SAAC as a platform to enhance the student-athlete voice, the foreign tour experience and mental health initiatives. The Division I SAAC is also involved in discussions with the Transfer Working Group regarding proposed changes to legislation. Generally, student-athletes are excited about a potential deregulation of the transfer legislation, but acknowledged many coaches are apprehensive.
- b. Division II.** The Division II SAAC continues to focus on important issues and initiatives that impact student-athletes. The committee finalized goals for 2018 in the following areas: mental health awareness, CPR/AED certification, sexual assault prevention through the "Student-Athlete Day of Action," Team IMPACT, Make-A-Wish and a new initiative created to encourage children to play multiple sports and have fun, called "Love2Play." In addition to these goals, Division II SAAC will host its second SAAC Super Region Convention for South Region conferences and institutions April 12-14, 2019, in Champions Gate, Florida.
- c. Division III.** The Division III SAAC will have its April 15-16 in-person meeting in conjunction with the NCAA Inclusion Forum. During the meeting, the committee will identify goals and initiatives for the 2018-19 academic year.

13. Chair and vice chair selections. The committee held elections for chair and vice chair. Julie Cromer Peoples was elected as committee chair, and Denise Udelhofen was elected as committee vice chair. Both will assume their duties on September 1, 2018.

14. Other business. Chair Montgomery solicited feedback from the committee regarding the Division I Strategic Initiative Plan. The committee also was encouraged to complete an NCAA governance survey regarding members' experience on the CWA. Montgomery also remarked that this was the last in-person meeting for the following three committee members: Diana Kling (absent), Heather MacCulloch, Sherika Montgomery and Nicole Sherwin. The committee thanked them for their service and wished them well in future endeavors.

15. Future meetings.

- a.** September 5-6, 2018, Indianapolis.
- b.** April 24-25, 2019, Atlanta (in conjunction with the 2019 NCAA Inclusion Forum).

16. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. Friday, April 13, 2018.

Committee Chair: Sherika Montgomery, Winthrop University.
Staff Liaisons: Kristin Fasbender, Championships and Alliances
Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances
Karen Metzger, Academic and Membership Affairs
Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion

NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics April 12-13, 2018, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Karen Baebler, University of Washington.	
Vincent Baldemor, Hawaii Pacific University.	
Gabby Cabanero, Dixie State University.	
Julie Cromer Peoples, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.	
Jim Donovan, California State University, Fullerton.	
Samantha Kastner, Notre Dame of Maryland University.	
John Keitzmann, Metropolitan State University of Denver.	
Donna Ledwin, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College.	
Sherika Montgomery, Winthrop University.	
Nicole Sherwin, Northern Arizona University.	
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.	
Absentees:	
Katherine Conway-Turner, Buffalo State, State University of New York.	
Josh Hess, Mount St. Joseph University.	
Marc Johnson, University of Nevada, Reno.	
Diana Kling, Peach Belt Conference.	
Guests in Attendance:	
Garry Abbott, USA Wrestling.	
Renee Baumgartner, National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association.	
Rich Bender, USA Wrestling.	
Kyra Berry, USA Wrestling.	
Bill Boggs, USA Cheer.	
Janell Cook, National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association.	
Jim Giunta, National Collegiate Wrestling Association	
Melinda Grier, National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association.	
Lauri Harris, USA Cheer	
Terri Lakowski, Active Policy Solutions.	
Felicia Mulkey, National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association.	
Sally Roberts, Wrestle Like a Girl	
Bill Seely, USA Cheer.	

Terry Steiner, USA Wrestling.
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:
Kristin Fasbender, Jan Gentry, Karen Metzger and Amy Wilson.
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:
Katrice Albert, Gail Dent, Andrea Farmer, Jean Merrill and Rachel Stark.