



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ATHLETICS
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2017, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- **None.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- 1. Welcome and announcements.** Committee Chair Sherika Montgomery welcomed everyone to the meeting. The roster was reviewed, and committee members and staff were acknowledged. The committee then welcomed the following new members to their first in-person meeting: President Katherine Conway-Turner, John Kietzmann and Nicole Sherwin. The committee acknowledged that Julie Beeman and Alaina Woo were completing their service on the committee and attending their last meeting.
- 2. Review CWA purpose statement.** A committee member read aloud the purpose statement.
- 3. Review of meeting agenda and reports.** Montgomery provided an overview of the agenda and its key items, including the NCAA Woman of the Year selection, the review of emerging sport proposals, and a discussion about research projects on the Senior Woman Administrator designation and on women coaches. The committee reviewed and approved its April 19-20, 2017, meeting report. The committee also reviewed the Minority Opportunity and Interests Committee April 19-20, 2017, meeting report and September 18-19, 2017, meeting agenda in addition to the CWA/MOIC April 20, 2017, meeting report.
- 4. Subcommittee appointments.** The committee appointed members to vacancies on the Disability, LGBTQ, and Women of Color subcommittees.
- 5. 2017 NCAA Woman of the Year selection.** The committee acknowledged the 543 record-number of school nominees submitted by NCAA member schools, the 145 conference nominees selected by NCAA member conference offices and the Top 30 (10 from each division) and Top 9 (three from each division) selections made by the Woman of the Year selection committee.
 - a. Review of preliminary rankings.** Prior to its September 18, 2017, meeting, the CWA members submitted their respective Top 5 selections for Woman of the Year. Staff informed the committee of the preliminary rankings.
 - b. Selection of 2017 Woman of the Year.** The committee deliberated on the preliminary rankings and engaged in multiple rounds of voting to select the 2017 Woman of the Year winner.

- c. **Review of non-core conference/associate/independent pool review.** Staff informed the committee that 39 nominations were in the non-core conference/associate/independent pool for 2017. This number of nominations was three times the number submitted in 2016. The committee discussed the increased number of nominations and approved a change to the process to permit one nominee per 15 in the non-core conference/associate/independent pool or two nominees per 15 if at least one nominee is a woman of color or international student-athlete.
- d. **Woman of the Year awards dinner.** Staff invited committee members to attend the Woman of the Year reception and dinner October 21-22 in Indianapolis.

6. Emerging sports proposals.

- a. **Proposal and governance structure processes and subcommittee formation.** The committee began the review process for proposals from acrobatics & tumbling, stunt, and wrestling. These three proposals were the first to be submitted under the guidance and structure of the new Emerging Sports for Women Process Guide that was released in fall 2016. The committee discussed the purpose of the Emerging Sport Program for Women and the program's proposal requirements. The committee agreed that forming subcommittees to do an in-depth study of each proposal would be beneficial. Subcommittees were formed ensuring diversity of participation by all three divisions and other relevant factors. The subcommittees will have their first teleconferences in late October or early November. Each subcommittee's goal is to review its assigned sport proposal and to report findings to the full committee during its February teleconference.
 - b. **Emerging Sport Process Guide updates.** Staff provided information about potential updates to the process guide, including the possibility of adding each division's respective governance timelines and clarifying requirements for budget submissions included with proposals. The committee will work with staff to note any needed revisions to the process guide, and these revisions will be discussed and decided upon at the committee's April meeting.
 - c. **Sponsorship of equestrian, rugby and triathlon in 2017-18.** Staff informed committee members of sport sponsorship numbers for the three current emerging sports. Staff also shared updates about the sports, with an emphasis on initiatives to increase sport sponsorship.
7. **Title IX at 45 updates.** Staff provided an overview of the *45 Years of Title IX: The Status of Women in Intercollegiate Athletics* report, which was released on June 23, 2017, to coincide with Title IX's 45th anniversary. Staff summarized the key sections of the report, which focus on student-athlete participation, allocation of resources and leadership demographics in intercollegiate athletics. The report emphasizes a call to action to increase the number of

minority women in leadership positions, and it features sections on key findings and on NCAA initiatives to support diversity and inclusion.

- a. University of Minnesota Tucker Center research project.** Staff described the office of inclusion's partnership with the Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport on a research project that will determine best practices of NCAA membership institutions that are successfully hiring and retaining female coaches. The committee reviewed a first draft of the research project and offered feedback. The committee will review another version of the report during its February teleconference.
 - b. Gender equity manual revision.** Staff explained that the resource *Gender Equity in Intercollegiate Athletics: A Practical Guide for Colleges and Universities (2012)* was under consideration for revision. The new version will address current, relevant issues on campus and be in a more accessible format for the membership. The committee supported this project.
 - c. Sexual violence prevention efforts.** Staff provided a summary of the NCAA Board of Governor's recent actions to support the membership's sexual violence prevention efforts, including the requirements of the new Policy on Campus Sexual Violence.
- 8. Senior Woman Administrator research project.** Consultants Leah Kareti and Julie Muller from 3 Fold Group joined staff to lead the committee's discussion about the Senior Woman Administrator research project. The committee analyzed the research report findings and discussed ways to use the data to develop initiatives that will optimize the senior woman administrator designation. The committee decided to form a subcommittee and directed it to develop recommendations for initiatives that will be presented during the committee's February teleconference.
- 9. Presidential Pledge platform and think tank update.** Staff informed the committee on the office of inclusion's work to develop a platform on the NCAA website that will feature the Presidential Pledge. The platform will include information such as a list of schools and conferences that have signed the pledge, examples of membership initiatives that support the pledge, resources on the talent management lifecycle, membership demographics and NCAA national office demographics. Staff also informed the committee that the office of inclusion hosted a Diverse and Inclusive Hiring Practices Think Tank in June 2017.
- 10. Gender Equity Task Force update.** Staff provided an overview of the Task Force's recommendations to support gender equity and inclusion that were approved by the NCAA Board of Governors in April 2017. Staff is creating an action plan document for the recommendations and will inform the committee of completed recommendations as well as engage the committee to offer guidance and support for the recommendations.

11. Women's Sports Foundation. Staff noted that representatives from the Women's Sports Foundation attended the committee's April meeting and offered a preview of the Title IX app that was in development. The app will educate and create awareness about Title IX's application to athletics for student-athletes, parents, coaches and administrators. The Women's Sports Foundation will pilot the Title IX app at a sampling of NCAA institutions this fall and plans to release the app nationally early in 2018.

12. Divisional SAAC updates.

- a. **Division I.** The Division I SAAC continues discussions regarding early recruiting (e.g. educating prospective student-athletes, official visits, verbal commitments), education on the voice and presence of student-athletes in the NCAA structure, sexual assault prevention and mental health awareness, as well as education on differences between undergraduate and graduate transfers as they pertain to process and eligibility.
- b. **Division II.** The Division II SAAC continues discussions on CPR/AED certifications, mental health awareness, sexual assault prevention, social justice programs, team impact and Make-A-Wish and the SAAC Super Region Convention. The next meeting of the Division II SAAC is Thursday, November 16, in conjunction with the inaugural Division II SAAC Super Region Convention, which runs from November 17-19 in Washington, D.C.
- c. **Division III.** Division III SAAC working groups met in July to discuss improving the Division III game environment, emphasizing good sportsmanship from parents and fans. They also discussed creating a mental health resource document and accompanying video, updating best practice guides for conference and campus SAACs, cultivating its relationship with special Olympics and planning the special Olympics event at the 2018 NCAA Convention.

13. Other business.

- A committee member recommended two books for the committee to read for discussion at the next meeting. *What Made Maddy Run* by ESPN writer Kate Fagan focuses on mental health issues for female student-athletes. *Chasing Grace* by Sanya Richards-Ross discusses the lack of support and resources for post-abortive student-athletes.
- Staff provided updates on the CWA membership guide, which is in development.
- The committee thanked Julie Beeman and Alaina Woo for their service and presented them with gifts.

14. Future meetings.

- October and November 2018, emerging sports and Senior Woman Administrator subcommittee teleconferences.
- February 2018, committee teleconference.
- April 12-13, 2018, Indianapolis, Indiana (in conjunction with the 2018 NCAA Inclusion Forum).

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September 18-19, 2017, Meeting

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Committee Chair: Sherika Montgomery, Winthrop University, Big South Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Kristen Fasbender, Championships and Alliances

Jan Gentry, Championships and Alliances

Amy Wilson, Office of Inclusion

NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics September 18-19, 2017, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Karen Baebler, University of Washington.	
Vincent Baldemor, Hawaii Pacific University.	
Julie Beeman, Belmont Abbey College.	
Gabby Cabanero, Dixie State University.	
Katherine Conway-Turner, Buffalo State, State University of New York.	
Julie Cromer Peoples, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.	
Jim Donovan, California State University, Fullerton.	
Marc Johnson, University of Nevada, Reno.	
John Kietzmann, Metropolitan State University of Denver.	
Diana Kling, Peach Belt Conference.	
Donna Ledwin, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.	
Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College.	
Sherika Montgomery, Winthrop University.	
Nicole Sherwin, Northern Arizona University.	
Denise Udelhofen, Loras College.	
Alaina Woo, Pomona-Pitzer College.	
Absentees:	
Anne Blackhurst, Minnesota State University Moorhead.	
Josh Hess, Mount St. Joseph University.	
Guests in Attendance:	
None.	
NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:	
Craig Malveaux	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jackie Campbell, Meghan Durham, Kristin Fasbender, Jan Gentry, Alexandra Ingram, Jori Jasper, Leah Kareti and Rachel Stark.	