

**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2011, IN-PERSON MEETING**

Participants:

Laura Clayton, University of West Georgia
Kirsten Ford, Emporia State University
Bob Fortosis, Eckerd College
Denisha Hendricks, Kentucky State University
Katie McGann, University of California, San Diego
Jim Naumovich, Great Lakes Valley Conference
Chris Phenicie, Limestone College
Margaret Poitevint, North Georgia College & State University
Linda Van Drie-Andrzjewski, Wilmington University (Delaware), chair
Keith Vitense, Cameron University
Jennifer Fraser, NCAA
Alex Smith, NCAA
Jennifer Smith, NCAA
Stephanie Smith, NCAA
Terri Steeb-Gronau, NCAA
Gregg Summers, NCAA

Ernest McNealey, Stillman College, was unable to attend the meeting.

Stephanie Castera, NCAA; Steve Clar, NCAA; Greg Dana, NCAA; Gary DeCastro, NCAA Eligibility Center; Tom Paskus, NCAA; Susan Peal, NCAA Eligibility Center; Nick Sproull, NCAA Eligibility Center attended portions of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS.

- **Legislative Items.**
 - a. **2013 NCAA Convention Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6 – Requirement for Practice or Competition – Extension Courses.**
 - (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2013 NCAA Convention to amend NCAA Bylaw 14.1.8.1.6 (extension courses) to specify that enrollment in a nontraditional course or credit (i.e., course or credit that is not earned in a typical face-to-face classroom environment with regular contact hours between the instructor and the student, including Internet/virtual courses, distance learning, extension, correspondence or independent study) offered by the certifying institution may be used to satisfy the full-time enrollment requirement for competition, provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) The course is available to any student at the certifying institution;
- (b) The institution considers enrollment in the course as regular course enrollment for all students;
- (c) Enrollment in the course occurs within the institution's regular enrollment periods (preregistration or drop-add period) in accordance with the institution's academic calendar and applicable policies and procedures; and
- (d) The course is conducted during the institution's regular academic schedule (term time) in accordance with the institution's academic calendar and applicable policies and procedures.

(2) Effective Date. August 1, 2013.

(3) Rationale. In light of the prevalence and acceptance of nontraditional courses throughout postsecondary education, it is appropriate to modernize the guidelines regarding the various methods of course delivery. This proposal clarifies the opportunity for student-athletes to take legitimate nontraditional coursework, but also recognizes the potential for academic misconduct and provides safeguards against misuse to meet eligibility requirements. In general, student-athletes should be provided with similar access to nontraditional courses as all students at their respective institutions in order to fulfill the full-time enrollment requirements, provided the institution considers enrollment in such a course as regular course enrollment for all students. This proposal also includes baseline standards for nontraditional courses to minimize the potential for misuse. Finally, this proposal respects institutional discretion and authority in setting course content and curriculum and relies on institutional integrity and security with regard to the delivery of nontraditional courses.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. May allow flexibility in scheduling classes.

b. 2013 Convention Legislation – Bylaw 14.4.3.3.4 – Correspondence, Extension and Distance Learning Courses from Another Institution.

(1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2013 Convention to amend Bylaw 14.4.3.3.4 (correspondence, extension and distance learning courses from another institution) to specify that enrollment in a nontraditional course or credit

(i.e., course or credit that is not earned in a typical face-to-face classroom environment with regular contact hours between the instructor and the student, including Internet/virtual courses, distance learning, extension, correspondence or independent study) completed at an institution other than the certifying institution may be used to meet credit-hour requirements and percentage-of-degree requirements, provided the following conditions are met:

- (a) The course is available to any student at the certifying institution;
- (b) The institution considers enrollment in the course as regular course enrollment for all students; and
- (c) Enrollment in the course occurs within the institution's regular enrollment periods (preregistration or drop-add period) in accordance with the institution's academic calendar and applicable policies and procedures.

(2) Effective Date. August 1, 2013.

(3) Rationale. In light of the prevalence and acceptance of nontraditional courses throughout postsecondary education, it is appropriate to modernize the guidelines regarding the various methods of course delivery. This proposal clarifies the opportunity for student-athletes to take legitimate nontraditional coursework, but also recognizes the potential for academic misconduct and provides safeguards against misuse to meet eligibility requirements. In general, student-athletes should be provided with similar access to nontraditional courses from any institution, as is the case for all students at their respective institutions, in order to fulfill graduation requirements for all students. This proposal also includes baseline standards for nontraditional courses to minimize the potential for misuse. Finally, this proposal respects institutional discretion and authority in setting course content and curriculum, and relies on institutional integrity and security with regard to the delivery of nontraditional courses.

(4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.

(5) Student-Athlete Impact. May allow flexibility in scheduling classes.

c. **2013 Convention Legislation – Bylaw 13.9 – Letter-of-Intent Programs, Financial Aid Agreements – Six-Semester Transcript Requirement Prior to the Prospective Student-Athlete Signing.**

- (1) Recommendation. Sponsor legislation for the 2013 Convention to amend Bylaw 13.9 (letter-of-intent programs, financial aid agreements) to specify that a prospective student-athlete shall submit all official transcripts, representing the first six semesters of high school, to the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to a prospective student-athlete signing a National Letter of Intent (NLI) or an institution's written offer of financial aid. Violations would be considered de minimis and not affect a prospective student-athlete's eligibility. Further, prospective student-athletes from foreign countries and home schooled prospective student-athletes would be excluded from the requirement.
 - (2) Effective Date. August 1, 2013.
 - (3) Rationale. Previous proposals, including NCAA Division II Proposal Nos. 2007-6 and 2009-7, have been adopted with the intent of improving the academic information shared between prospective student-athletes and institutions, as well as with the NCAA Eligibility Center. This proposal is intended to continue this pattern of facilitating academic information sharing in a timely manner while minimizing overall administrative burden. Ensuring six semesters of transcripts are available for evaluation prior to signing of an NLI or an institution's written offer of financial aid will allow for identification of potential academic issues regarding NCAA initial-eligibility requirements and timely discussion of academically sound potential solutions. Additionally, prospective student-athletes who are able to take advantage of early academic certification will be identified and processed in a manner that will allow for campus and NCAA resources to be appropriately allocated in relation to final eligibility certifications. Delaying the effective date ensures enough time for notice to be provided to prospective student-athletes, high schools and member institutions.
 - (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
 - (5) Student-Athlete Impact. Allows for early identification of potential academic issues to assist prospective student-athletes with meeting initial-eligibility academic requirements.
- d. **Noncontroversial Legislation – Bylaws 14.1.8.1.8.2 – Practice or Competition – Nontraditional Academic Calendars or Cooperative-Educational Programs and 14.4.3.3.11 – Cooperative-Education and Study-Abroad Programs.**

- (1) Recommendation. Adopt noncontroversial legislation to expand the references to cooperative-educational programs to include cooperative-educational work experiences (e.g., co-op, internship, practicum, student teaching).
- (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
- (3) Rationale. This proposal seeks to clarify current legislation to further define a cooperative program to include work-experience programs. The committee agreed that there are many programs within higher education that function like cooperative-education programs but are not included in the existing legislation and interpretations.
- (4) Estimated Budget Impact. None.
- (5) Student-Athlete Impact. None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Discussion Regarding Legislative Concepts to Amend Division II Academic Requirements Legislation.** The committee continued its discussions regarding two-year college transfer and initial-eligibility requirements and was introduced to current progress-toward-degree legislation in preparation for future discussions.
 - a. **Two-Year College Transfer Requirements.** The committee agreed to the following, related to the discussion regarding the two-year college transfer requirements:
 - (1) That an increase in the two-year college transfer requirements is needed and would lead to transfer student-athletes enrolling at Division II institutions better prepared to succeed academically.
 - (2) That access to practice and financial aid for two-year college transfers and ease of burden for institutional staff members should remain at the forefront of all discussions.
 - (3) That feedback from the two-year college community is a critical component to the success of any legislative amendments due to the work that the community does in ensuring two-year college transfer student-athletes are aware of, and educated about, NCAA transfer legislation.

The committee is seeking feedback on the following concepts:

- (1) The addition of transferable degree credit in a natural/physical science.
- (2) Establishing a limit on the number of physical education courses that may be used to certify the transferable degree credit of a two-year college transfer.
- (3) Establishing a grade-point average for access to practice and athletically related financial aid and a separate grade-point average for access to practice, athletically related financial aid and competition. For example, a student-athlete who earned a 2.000 grade-point average would have access to practice and athletically related financial aid only, while a student-athlete who earned a 2.500 grade-point average and meets all other requirements would have access to practice, athletically related financial aid and competition.

b. Initial-Eligibility Requirements. The committee agreed to the following, related to the discussion regarding the initial-eligibility requirements:

- (1) That an increase in the initial-eligibility requirements is needed and would lead to student-athletes enrolling at Division II institutions better prepared to succeed academically.
- (2) That access to practice and financial aid for student-athletes and ease of burden for institutional staff members should remain at the forefront of all discussions.
- (3) That increased initial-eligibility requirements should predict an increase in graduation rates while considering the ineligibility rates resulting from the increased standards.

The committee is exploring the following options:

- (1) Establishing a sliding scale based on grade-point average and test score.
- (2) Establishing a grade-point average only requirement.
- (3) Establishing a conjunctive scale including a minimum grade-point average and minimum test score for a student-athlete to have access to practice and athletically related financial aid.

c. Progress-Toward-Degree Requirements. The committee received an overview of the current progress-toward-degree legislation. The staff will present the committee

with data at its February 2012 meeting, and the committee will develop concepts at that time.

The committee directed the staff to continue its research and modeling of several concepts for its February 2012 in-person meeting for initial concepts to be presented to the Division II membership for feedback.

2. **Discussion Regarding Cooperative-Educational Programs.** The committee recommended noncontroversial legislation be adopted to expand the references to cooperative-educational programs to include cooperative-educational work experiences, including internships, practicum and student teaching. The committee directed the staff to develop educational materials, including examples, to ensure the membership is clear on how to apply the legislation and interpretations.
3. **Review of Issues Related to Initial Eligibility.** The academic and membership affairs staff provided an update on the initial-eligibility waiver numbers for the 2010-11 academic year. The committee also received an update related to the prospective student-athlete review, early academic certification, core-course and high school review processes.
4. **Review of Initial-Eligibility Waiver Directive.** The committee approved an initial-eligibility waiver directive to guide the NCAA staff and NCAA Division II Academic Requirements Committee Subcommittee on Initial-Eligibility Waivers review of initial-eligibility waivers that centered on academic preparedness of student-athletes on enrollment at an NCAA member institution. The directive shifts the focus of all initial-eligibility waiver decisions to the academic preparedness of the prospective student-athlete rather than the mitigating circumstances that contributed to the prospective student-athlete's failure to satisfy initial-eligibility requirements. The directive includes guidelines to determine academic preparedness as well as supporting documentation necessary to support the initial-eligibility waiver request.
5. **Review of Legislative Proposals Sponsored for the 2012 NCAA Convention.** The committee reviewed three 2012 NCAA Convention proposals that impact student-athlete eligibility. In reference to one of the proposals, the committee determined that a student-athlete may use credits earned while enrolled as a high school student at any point during the student-athlete's academic career, and that the credits do not need to be applied in the initial year of collegiate enrollment.

6. **Review 2010 Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in College Study (GOALS) Survey Data.** The NCAA research staff provided the committee with an update on the GOALS survey. Staff noted that these data were collected before the “Life in the Balance” legislative package went into effect and will serve as a benchmark with which to gauge the effect of the legislation, particularly on student-athlete time demands. The GOALS survey will be administered again in 2014.
7. **Review of Nomination Criteria for College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA)/Capital One Division II Academic All-America Program.** The committee reviewed the criteria for the CoSIDA/Capital One Division II Academic All-America program and the schedule for 2011-12 nominations and selections. The committee directed staff to monitor the cumulative grade-point average of honorees to determine if the current requirement is appropriate or if it should increased.
8. **Review Issues Related to Progress-Toward-Degree Waivers.** The committee reviewed information related to progress-toward-degree waiver numbers and decisions for the 2010-11 academic year.
9. **Review of the NCAA International Student Records Committee Report.** The committee received a report from the International Student Records Committee meeting in March 2011.
10. **Review of the NCAA Student Records Review Committee Report.** The committee received a report from the Student Records Review Committee meeting in March 2011.
11. **Appointment of the NCAA Student Records Review Committee Representative.** The Academic Requirements Committee appointed Margaret Poitevint, faculty athletic representative, North Georgia State College & University, as a representative to the Student Records Review Committee, effective immediately.
12. **Update on Presidential Retreat.** The staff provided an update regarding the August 2011 Division I Presidential Retreat, including the timelines for review of several key topic areas. The committee noted that many of the areas under review in Division I could have an impact on Division II and directed staff to continue to provide updates.

- 13. Future Meeting Dates.** The committee agreed to conduct its spring in-person meeting February 23-24, 2012, and its fall in-person meeting September 13-14, 2012.

Committee Chair: Linda Van Drie-Andrzewski, Wilmington University (Delaware)

Staff Liaisons: Alex Smith, Academic and Membership Affairs
Jennifer Smith, Academic and Membership Affairs
Gregg Summers, Research