

**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA DIVISION III STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JULY 19-22, 2012, MEETING**

**ACTION ITEMS.**

- **None.**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Administrative Items.** The committee reviewed its roster, approved its March 2012 teleconference report, and discussed the committee's standard operating procedures.
2. **Enhanced communications strategy, increased involvement of student-athletes at Convention, continued development of the Division III - Special Olympics Partnership.**
  - a. The committee established three subcommittees (communications, student-athlete involvement at Convention and Special Olympics) to address key initiatives for the committee throughout the 2012-13 academic year.
  - b. The subcommittees continued to develop a comprehensive communications strategy for the committee, developed a plan for enhanced student-athlete involvement at the 2014 Convention and, with regard to the Division III-Special Olympics, discussed the creation of a presentation for the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Conference in November 2012 and the basic framework for an event with Special Olympics Texas at the 2013 Convention.
3. **SAAC Initiatives.**
  - a. Partnership College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA). The committee continues to pursue opportunities to partner with CoSIDA to promote the division. In that regard, Nafeesa Connolly, Simmons College, represented the committee at the June 2012 CoSIDA Convention and presented information regarding the Division III student-athlete experience.
  - b. 2012 NCAA Convention – Student-Athletes Attendance and Programming. The committee continued to discuss enhancing the professional development and mutual learning opportunities for student-athletes at the 2013 and 2014 NCAA Convention. The committee will again host Division III student-athletes in attendance at the 2013 NCAA Convention in order to share experiences, key



division initiatives and best practices for campus and conference SAACs. Further, the committee began developing a comprehensive program for the 2014 NCAA Convention.

- c. Communications. The committee reviewed the “Telling Our Story” initiative and the committee’s responsibility to formally provide their experiences and perspective as Division III student-athletes in order to better communicate the division’s message. Further, the committee continued its efforts to develop a comprehensive communications strategy to assist the committee with promoting the division and providing information to campuses and conferences regarding the committee’s key initiatives and best practices for SAAC.

#### **4. Division III Updates and Issues.**

- a. Identity Initiative. The committee received an update regarding participation in Division III Week and discussed ways to enhance student-athlete involvement in that annual event. The committee noted that simple activities such as hanging Division III banners foster a sense of Division III pride and community. The committee suggested incorporating the publication of statistics and stories demonstrating Division III student-athletes’ attributes during Division III Week. With regard to the Identity Initiative, the committee received an update regarding discussions about developing a mobile website for coaches. The committee noted that student-athletes would also be more inclined to receive and publicize division specific information using mobile applications.
- b. Academic Reporting. The committee received an update regarding the extension of the voluntary academic reporting pilot for an additional year. The committee discussed the benefits of academic reporting including confirming the division’s philosophy and the ability to utilize the information in order to attract student-athletes. The committee difficulties with uniform reporting and noted that a best practices guide regarding academic reporting and how to utilize that information may be beneficial.
- c. Recruiting Working Group. The committee received an update regarding the Recruiting Working Group that was established subsequent to discussions at the 2012 Convention regarding recruiting and the work life balance of Division III coaches. The committee is represented on the working group by Desirae Tongco, Mills College. The group is in the initial stages of its work. The committee discussed the balance between less restrictive regulations that provide flexibility for Division III coaches and the development of a recruiting calendar that emphasized evaluation during interscholastic competition.



- d. Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) Partnership for Alcohol and Other Drug Collaborative. The committee received an update regarding the partnership with NASPA to develop alcohol and drug education programs for all students. Ms. Connolly represents the committee on the partnership group tasked with developing models to deliver educational programming. The committee discussed tailoring the message for student-athletes in the form of providing tools to demonstrate the effects of alcohol on a student-athlete's athletics performance and training, information regarding blood alcohol content and options to pledge to abstain from alcohol for charitable causes. Further, the committee noted the necessity of the ability to distribute the information using a variety of media platforms.
  - e. Sickle Cell Trait. The committee received an update regarding the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport (CSMAS) review of sickle cell trait testing. CSMAS reaffirmed its position that every student-athlete should know their sickle cell trait status. Many Division III institutions already confirm the sickle cell trait status of their student-athletes. The committee discussed providing the necessary accommodations and education for student-athletes who are sickle cell trait positive. The committee noted that if the student-athlete needs the test, it is fast, affordable. Knowing one's status can ensure the health and safety of student-athletes.
5. **International University Sport Federations Forum.** Travis Misner, Loras College, provided the committee with an update regarding his participation at the International University Sports Forum with representatives from over 60 countries in Taipei, Taiwan. The forum discussed the sustainable development of university sports around the world. Mr. Misner presented his experience as a Division III student-athlete and was selected as one of two participants at the forum that will attend the World University Games in Russian in 2014.
6. **Special Olympics.** The committee discussed the implementation of the Division III - Special Olympics partnership during the 2011-12 academic year. Approximately 140 activities were reported by campus and conferences resulting in interactions between thousands of Division III student-athletes and Special Olympics athletes and fundraising of over \$118,000 for Special Olympics organizations around the country. The partnership was also activated at nearly all Division III championships. These activities included Special Olympics clinics, recognition of Special Olympics athletes at the events, Special Olympics athletes serving as honorary captains and the promotion of awareness for Special Olympics. The committee discussed continuing to build upon these successes during the 2012-13 academic year. The committee will participate in the Law



Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Convention in November 2012 and lead an event at the 2013 Convention with Special Olympics Texas. Further, the committee will develop a best practices guide, provide suggested enhancements to the Division III-Special Olympics website and continues to commit to leading the initiative at their campus and conferences.

7. **Establishing Relationships between Faculty, Student-Athletes and Athletics Departments.** The committee continues to discuss ways to foster relationships between the faculty and student-athletes, and also ensure that the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) has consistent communication with the committee to assist it with promoting enhanced relationships between student-athletes and faculty. The committee discussed strategies to engage faculty on campuses including inviting them to games, having faculty represent a particular sport and inviting faculty to SAAC meetings. The committee will continue to communicate with FARA and seek opportunities to collaborate.
8. **Legislation.** The committee reviewed the legislative process, the committee's legislative roles and responsibilities and discussed the committee's initial position
  - a. Permitting all forms of private electronic correspondence. The committee discussed allowing private communications through a social networking site. The committee continued to express concern regarding intrusion into a prospective student-athlete's personal life. The committee indicated that a prospective student-athlete may feel compelled to allow a coach additional access via social media, e.g. accepting a coach's "Friend" request via Facebook. However, it was noted that private messaging is the same as electronic messaging and does not require accepting a coach as a "Friend." The committee was in favor of the proposed legislation. The committee reasoned that the proposed legislation was consistent with the evolution of communication via social media.
  - b. Post graduate scholarship that takes into account athletics, academics and community service. The committee discussed the division's philosophy regarding aid based upon athletics ability, but noted that the proposed legislation would not affect the current philosophy. The committee was in favor of permitting postgraduate awards as proposed and reasoned that the legislation provided additional opportunities for former student-athletes, while not compromising the divisional philosophy because the student-athletes are required to have exhausted or forfeited their eligibility.



- c. To permit the use of hand shields during spring strength and conditioning. The committee discussed both the use of hand shields and a proposal that was sponsored by a member conference that would permit field equipment and helmets. The committee was concerned that by providing additional equipment, even hand shields, it would result in impermissible contact spring strength and conditioning. At the same time, the committee noted that if hand shields are utilized it may be more necessary for student-athletes to wear helmets for safety considerations. The committee noted that it will consult with its conferences to obtain a better understanding of the potential effects on football student-athletes.
- d. Sickle cell trait status testing. The committee supports sickle cell trait status and indicated that this is a student-athlete well-being issue. The committee discussed the need to educate their conferences and partner conferences regarding the recommendations from the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medial Aspects of Sport. The committee noted that the phased in approach to the legislation and mandatory education address potential concerns from the membership.

**9. Conference, Partner Conference and Independents Reports.** The committee provided updates regarding their campus, conference and partner conference activities.

**10. Future meetings and conference calls.**

- a. October 2012, legislative conference call.
- b. November 9-11, 2012, meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- c. January 16-19, 2013, NCAA Convention in Grapevine, Texas.

*Committee Chair:* Wesley Lambert; Maryville College (Tennessee)

*Staff Liaison(s):* Kat Krtnick; Communications

Jason Montgomery; Academic and Membership Affairs

Stephanie Thorburn; Student-Athlete Affairs



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July 2012 Meeting

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Meeting Date: July 19-22, 2012	
Attendees	Absentees
Steven Beradi, Ursinus College	Chelsea Shoemaker; Rochester Institute of Technology
Jacqueline Cohen; Roger Williams University;	
Curtis Coleman; University of Southern Maine	
Nafeesa Connolly; Simmons College	
Wildens Fils; Lyndon State College	
Kelvin Jordan Gibson; Lake Forest College	
Tucker Glass; Plattsburgh State University of New York	
Michelle Gulino; St. Joseph's College (Long Island)	
Brett Halvaks; California Lutheran University	
Kelli Hamilton; University of Minnesota, Morris	
Audrey Hester; Randolph-Macon College	
Bai Kabba; North Central College	
Wesley Lambert; Maryville College (Tennessee)	
Nathan Love; Hope College	
Daniel Lisch, Fontbonne University	
Alyssa Lubrino; Baruch College	
Travis Misner; Loras College	
Jenna Ortega; Ohio Wesleyan University	
Desirae Tongco; Mills College	
Dalaine Whitlock; Concordia University	
Katelyn Vannoy; Washington and Jefferson College	
Other Participants Kathryn (Kitty) Baldrige; Gallaudet University Kate Carrico; NCAA Governance Dan Dutcher; NCAA Division III Governance Brandy Hataway; NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs Steve Nelson; University of Wisconsin Superior Mike Miranda; NCAA Research Terry Rupert; Wilmington College	