

**America East Conference  
Board of Presidents  
June 17, 2019  
10 to 4 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

Princeton Club of New York  
McCosh/Dickinson

1. Welcome and roster. (Supplement 1)
2. Review 2018-19 key objectives and priorities. (Supplement 2)

***Background:*** The Board will receive an update on the key objectives set forth at the start of the academic year and progress made to date.

3. Report from the June 5-7 Annual Meetings. (Supplement 3)
  - a. Proposed bylaw modifications. (Supplement 4)

***Anticipated Action:*** A report of key items from the recent Administration Group (AD, SWA) meetings will be provided, including an expected vote by the Board on the proposed bylaw modifications in Supplement 4.

4. Academic Unit Working Group. (Supplement 5)

***Anticipated Action:*** The Board will be expected to vote on a recommendation from the working group on a conference distribution policy for the forthcoming NCAA Academic Unit Distribution Fund.

5. Men's Basketball Working Group report. (Supplement 6)

***Anticipated Action:*** The Board will receive a report and be expected to vote on several recommendations related to the enhancement of men's basketball.

6. Sports wagering discussion.

**Background:** An update on the NCAA Board of Governors Ad Hoc Committee on Sports Wagering will be provided along with a presentation of current issues and trends by Andy Cunningham, Director of Global Integrity Services, Sportradar AG.

**LUNCH AVAILABLE AT 12:30 PM FOR BOARD AND ADS**

**BOARD-ONLY MEETING BEGINS AT 1:15 PM**

7. NCAA financial overview. (Supplement 7)

**Background:** An overview of the NCAA financial structure and policies will be presented by Kathleen McNeely, CFO at the NCAA.

8. Coordinating Committee report. (Supplements – Distributed at the meeting)

**Anticipated Action:** The FY20 budget will be presented for Board approval.

9. Health & Safety Committee report.

- a. Proposed policies. (Supplement 8)
- b. Two-year roadmap. (Supplement 9)

**Anticipated Action:** The Board will be expected to vote on two recommendations from the Administration Group regarding health & safety policies.

10. AE Academic Consortium report. (Supplement 10)

**Background:** Marsha Florio, Executive Director of the AE Academic Consortium, will present a report for the Board's consideration.

11. NCAA and national issues update and discussion.

- a. Academic misconduct concept. (Supplement 11)
- b. Division I general updates.

**Background:** Key national items affecting the conference will be discussed. Jennifer Fraser, Director of Division I Governance at the NCAA, will be present for this agenda item.

12. Broadcast media and content report.

**Background:** The Board will receive an annual report on ESPN and content (e.g., social media) metrics for the year.

13. 2019-20 meeting schedule.

- a. Fall, 2019 – Conference call.
- b. Winter, 2019/20 – Conference call.
- c. June 12, 2020 – Boston, MA.

14. Other business.

- Board-only executive session will occur once all other business has concluded.

15. Adjournment.

#####

**2019 America East Conference  
Board of Presidents Meeting  
-ROSTER-**

**SUPPLEMENT 1**

Meeting Location
<b>Princeton Club of New York</b> 15 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036

First	Last	Institution	Title
Havidan	Rodriguez	Albany	President
Mark	Benson	Albany	Director of Athletics
Harvey	Stenger	Binghamton	President
Patrick	Elliott	Binghamton	Director of Athletics
Greg	Woodward	Hartford	President
Mary Ellen	Gillespie	Hartford	Director of Athletics
Joan	Ferrini-Mundy	Maine	President
Ken	Ralph	Maine	Director of Athletics
Freeman	Hrabowski	UMBC	President
Tim	Hall	UMBC	Director of Athletics
Jacquie	Moloney	UMass Lowell	Chancellor
Peter	Casey	UMass Lowell	Director of Athletics
Jim	Dean	New Hampshire	President
Marty	Scarano	New Hampshire	Director of Athletics
Sam	Stanley	Stony Brook	President
Shawn	Heilbron	Stony Brook	Director of Athletics
Tom	Sullivan	Vermont	President
Jeff	Schulman	Vermont	Director of Athletics

***Guests***

Andy	Cunningham	Sportradar AG	Director, Global Strategy Integrity Services
Jennifer	Fraser	NCAA	Director, Division I Governance
Kathleen	McNeely	NCAA	Chief Financial Officer

***AE Staff***

Amy	Huchthausen	America East	Commissioner
Kate	Bergstrom	America East	Associate Commissioner
Marsha	Florio	America East	Academic Consortium, Executive Director

**2018-19 Key Objectives**

- 1. Adopt recommendations from the Men's Basketball Working Group.**
  - Create reasonable yet progressive recommendations to enhance and improve men's basketball across a variety of variables.
- 2. Adopt recommendations from the Academic Unit Working Group.**
  - Develop a strategy, guidance and/or policy recommendations for the forthcoming NCAA Academic Unit distribution set to be released in 2019-20.
- 3. Adopt recommendations for the conference governance structure.**
  - Evaluate and revise recommendations to enhance and improve the workflow, communication and efficacy of the conference's governance structure.
- 4. Develop and start implementation of a robust #3Pillars Academy strategy and two-year roadmap.**
  - Identify and develop a more complete strategy to improve the delivery of service to our members and grow the conference's brand.
- 5. Develop and start implementation of a robust Alumni Network two-year roadmap.**
  - Identify and develop a more complete strategy to improve the recruitment, delivery of service and grow the conference's brand.
- 6. Develop and start implementation of a comprehensive Health and Safety initiative two-year roadmap.**
  - Identify a longer-term outlook for prioritizing the activities and deliverables of the Health and Safety Committee, mental health initiative and other related issues.
- 7. Implement at least two new Academic Consortium initiatives.**
  - Identify and start implementation of at least two new AEAC initiatives that will add breadth to the consortium's offerings.
- 8. Improve communication and documentation of business policies, procedures and practices.**
  - Review, identify and implement recommendations to improve business operations with our membership.
- 9. Strengthen the conference's position.**
  - Evaluate and identify areas and strategies to ensure the conference's position remains strong, collaborative and cohesive.
- 10. Strengthen and expand the #3Pillars and conference brand.**
  - Continue to push forward with the identification and implementation of strategies and tactics to ensure the conference's brand remains relevant and dynamic.
- 11. Ongoing awareness of priorities on each campus and connection of those priorities to AE.**
  - Balance of highly successful sports not sponsored by AE and resulting impact on AE-sponsored sports and the integration of non-AE sports into AE platform.

America East Conference  
Administration Group  
June 7, 2019  
8:30 to 3 p.m.

AGENDA

Saratoga Hilton  
Broadway 3 & 4 Room

<b>Welcome and Logistics</b>
------------------------------

1. Welcome.
2. Future meeting schedule.
3. Commissioner year in review.

<b>AE Governance Committees and Working Groups</b>
--

4. Review April Administration Group Call Minutes. (Supplement 1)  
  
***Anticipated action:** Review and approve the minutes, as presented.*
5. Executive Committee report. (Supplement 2)  
  
***Background:** Receive report from the in-person Executive Committee meeting.*
6. Proposed bylaw modifications.
  - a. AE governance structure review. (Supplement 3)
  - b. Bylaw modification – staffing and scholarship requirements. (Supplement 4)
  - c. Bylaw modification – editorial revisions. (Supplement 5)

***Anticipated action:** Approve recommendations from the governance structure along with other incorporations and editorial revisions that are non-substantive in nature.*

7. AD meeting report. (Supplement 6)

**Background:** *Receive an update from the in-person AD meeting.*

8. SWA Committee report. (Supplement 7)

**Background:** *Receive an update from the in-person SWA meeting.*

9. FAR Committee report. (Supplement 8)

**Background:** *Receive a report from the FAR Committee's activities from the past year.*

10. Academic Unit Working Group report. (Supplement 9)

**Anticipated action:** *Review the working group's report and approve the recommendation, as presented, for Board of Presidents review.*

11. Men's Basketball Working Group report. (Supplement 10)

**Anticipated action:** *Review the working group's report and approve any recommendations that may be raised during the meeting.*

<b>Championships and Sport Policy</b>
---------------------------------------

12. CCC report.

- a. 2020 softball and baseball championship site. (Supplement 11)
- b. 2019-20 championships calendar. (Supplement 12)

**Anticipated action:** *Review items for discussion regarding the 2020 softball and baseball championship site determination and formally approve the 2019-20 championships calendar.*

13. Basketball playoffs facilities – sites other than normal home facility. (Supplement 13)

**Anticipated action:** *Consider proposed process for approving sites other than an institution's normal home facility to host a playoff game(s).*

14. Championship banquets review. (Supplement 14)

**Anticipated action:** Discuss and consider any items that may be raised for action during the meeting.

<b>NCAA Governance and National Issues</b>
--

15. Sports wagering discussion. (Supplement 15)

**Background:** The group will be joined by Andy Cunningham, Sportradar, and Joni Comstock, NCAA, to discuss current trends and issues regarding sports wagering, including a request for feedback on the concept of player availability reporting.

16. NCAA governance and national issues update.

- a. Championships.
- b. DI governance update.
- c. NCAA Council report.
- d. Feedback on enforcement penalty matrix concepts. (Supplement 16)
- e. Committee on Academics update.
- f. Academic misconduct. (Supplement 17)
- g. Coaches credentialing.

**Background:** Review key NCAA governance issues with presentation by Joni Comstock and Jenn Fraser, NCAA.

17. NCAA academic data reports. (Supplement 18)

**Background:** Review published APR and GSR highlights from the past year.

<b>Broadcast Media and Content Strategy</b>
---

18. Broadcast media report.

- a. 2018-19 production and viewership report. (Supplement 19)

**Background:** Receive a report summarizing the past year of broadcast media productions.



19. Content strategy report.
  - a. 2018-19 social and digital media report.
  - b. Two-year roadmap. (Supplement 20)

**Background:** *Receive a report from the past year of social and digital media efforts and preview plans for 2019-20.*

<b>Leadership, Engagement and Health &amp; Safety</b>
---

20. Student-Athlete Engagement Committee report. (Supplement 21)
  - a. Spread Respect Forum event roadmap. (Supplement 22)

**Background:** *Review the committee's report and plans for the inaugural Spread Respect Forum.*

21. SAAC report. (Supplement 23)

**Background:** *Review the committee's report.*

22. Health and Safety Committee report. (Supplement 24)

- a. Policy recommendations.
- b. Mental Health Standard Practices Needs Assessment update.
- c. Two-year roadmap. (Supplement 25)

**Anticipated action:** *Review the committee's report and be prepared for an expected vote on two recommendations, as presented.*

23. Alumni Network two-year roadmap. (Supplement 26)

**Background:** *Review the two-year roadmap for the Alumni Network.*

24. #3Pillars Academy two-year roadmap. (Supplement 27)

a. 2018-19 #3Pillars Academy episode summary. (Supplement 28)

**Background:** Review the two-year roadmap for the #3Pillars Academy and highlights from the past year's slate of episodes.

25. <b>Closing and Adjournment</b>
------------------------------------

26. Other business.

27. Adjournment.

#####

**Proposal for Voting Action by  
America East Board of Presidents  
-Bylaw Modifications-**

The America East Administration Group recommends the following voting action for consideration by the Board of Presidents. The supporting rationale for these action items are included in this supplement as background information.

**Bylaw Modifications – Governance Structure (See Supplement 4-a)**

1. Retirement of all references to the “Athletic Director Council” or “ADC” to be replaced with “Administration Group”.
  2. Exchanging the labels of the Coordinating Committee and Executive Committee for each other (i.e., Coordinating Committee becomes Executive Committee and vice versa).
  3. Adding the SAAC chair to the composition of the Administration Group as a non-voting member.
  4. Adding the CCC chair to the current Executive Committee composition.
  5. Prohibiting re-appointment of chairs, except through waiver by the current Executive Committee, for all standing committees.
- This requires **adoption** by the Board of Presidents.

**Bylaw Modifications – Editorial Revisions (See Supplement 4-b)**

The Administration Group approved several editorial revisions to the bylaws that would grammatically improve, update and/or clarify wording in various areas. None of the editorial revisions are substantive in nature, meaning they do not change the intended meaning of the existing wording, but rather, would ease the plain reading of the wording.

- These require only a **ratification** of the Board of Directors.

**Bylaw Modifications – Incorporation (See Supplement 4-b)**

The Administration Group approved an incorporation of policies into the bylaws for greater visibility of the staffing and scholarship requirements that exist in the sports of men’s and women’s soccer, basketball and lacrosse.

- This requires only a **ratification** of the Board of Directors.

## Summary of Potential Key Governance Modifications

### **Background**

The conference staff has conducted an initial sweep of the conference's constitution and bylaws to identify potential areas for change, per prior discussion of the Executive Committee. In its review, the staff identified several editorial revisions that are not listed in this document but will be presented for approval in June. For purposes of the Board of Presidents discussion, we have identified only those items that are substantive in nature and warrant discussion and review by the membership. During the Administration Group's June 7, 2019 meeting, it approved each of these items.

### **Items for Discussion**

#### **1. References to Athletic Director Council (ADC).**

- a. Administration Group recommendation. The Administration Group recommends retirement of all references to the "Athletic Director Council" or "ADC" to be replaced with "Administration Group".
- b. Rationale. The ADC has not met in a formal or official capacity in several years. The Administration Group now functions as the primary governing and voting entity below the Board of Presidents. Further, when the ADs meet as an AD-only body, it does not satisfy the current ADC composition because the bylaws indicate that the AD includes the chairs of the FARs, SWAs and CCC. The current practice and operation of the Administration Group, which includes the FAR chair and SWA chair, has replaced the former ADC; therefore, references to ADC should be retired and replaced with Administration Group.

#### **2. Coordinating Committee and Executive Committee labels.**

- a. Administration Group recommendation. The Administration Group recommends exchanging the labels of the Coordinating Committee and Executive Committee for each other (i.e., Coordinating Committee becomes Executive Committee and vice versa).
- b. Rationale. The use of the two labels has caused confusion over the years since the term "Executive" usually refers to the highest level of an organization; however, the current use of "Executive Committee" in our structure falls below the presidential level. Instead, we use the term "Coordinating Committee" to reference the subset that includes presidents. To eliminate the confusion, it is appropriate to switch the use of these terms.

### **3. SAAC leadership with Administration Group.**

- a. Administration Group recommendation. The Administration Group recommends adding the SAAC chair to the composition of the Administration Group as a non-voting member.
- b. Rationale. With the changes in the NCAA governance structure in recent years, specifically, inclusion of student-athletes at every level from standing committees to the Board of Directors and Governors, many conferences have modified their governance structures to include student-athletes in a variety of ways. Our SAAC chair currently serves as a non-voting member of our Student-Athlete Engagement Committee, but nothing else. Several years ago, the America East began a practice to invite the SAAC chair to the then ADC meetings once per year. The practice ceased when the particular SAAC chair was unable to attend and since it was not codified in the bylaws, it never resumed. The Administration Group also noted that inclusion of students on leadership bodies such as Board of Trustees or Board of Regents is common in higher education.

### **4. CCC chair role with the current Executive Committee.**

- a. Administration Group recommendation. The Administration Group recommends adding the CCC chair to the current Executive Committee composition.
- b. Rationale. The SWA and FAR chairs are both included as members of the current Executive Committee, but the CCC is not. Given the role CCC has in oversight of our championships, which directly impacts the student-athlete experience, it seems appropriate to include the chair on the Executive Committee to facilitate improved communication on championship and other sport administration issues.

### **5. Re-appointment of chairs for all standing committees (e.g., SWA, FAR, CCC).**

- a. Administration Group recommendation. The Administration Group recommends prohibiting re-appointment of chairs, except through waiver by the current Executive Committee, for all standing committees.
- b. Rationale. While in most cases, there is sufficient interest from individuals of each group (e.g., SWA, CCC, FAR), there are instances when other individuals do not step forward or express interest in serving in this leadership role. While there are certainly qualified chairs, the re-appointment of a chair who has already served a two-year term does not promote growth, involvement or leadership across the league. As we

look to continue developing individuals who serve as SWAs, FARs or CCC representatives, we should encourage a rotation in this role. Furthermore, neither the Board of Presidents nor ADs are permitted to be re-appointed, as they are governed by a rotation that loosely follows alphabetical order by institution. Thus, it does not seem appropriate to have inconsistent practices in this regard.

## Bylaw Modifications – Editorial Revisions and Incorporation

### **Background**

In the course of reviewing the Conference's Constitution and Bylaws as part of the Executive Committee's review of the governance structure, the conference staff noted several editorial revisions that would grammatically improve, update and/or clarify wording in various areas. None of the editorial revisions are substantive in nature, meaning they do not change the intended meaning of the existing wording, but rather, would ease the plain reading of the wording. Additionally, the Administration Group recommends incorporation of the staffing and scholarship requirements in six sports from the sport policy manuals to the bylaws.

### **EDITORIAL REVISIONS**

**1. Constitution 3.5 (Termination)**

- Clarify that "forfeiture of monies in the Conference treasury" means any current or future distributions. The term "treasury" is outdated and does not contemplate revenue distributions that currently (ESPN distribution) exist or could in the future. Thus, clarifying this will minimize confusion.

**2. Bylaw 2.4.11 (Coaches Committees)**

- Clarify that men's and women's basketball coaches' groups work directly with Administration Group instead of CCC, unless items are delegated or assigned to the CCC by the Administration Group. This is different than all other sports which work directly with the CCC.

**3. Bylaw 5.3 (Distribution of Basketball Revenue)**

- Adjust the bylaw structure for basketball revenue distribution based on the NCAA's renamed funds (i.e., Equal Conference Fund, Basketball Performance Fund).

**4. Bylaw 9.4.2 (Penalties and Disciplinary Action – Sports Policies)**

- Eliminate the designation of "low exposure" sports and "conference emphasized" sports for potential penalties for policies intended to enhance exposure for the conference. This appears to be an overlooked item that should have been modified when the "sports of emphasis" designation was retired.

### **INCORPORATION**

In 2015, the designation "sport of emphasis" was retired; however, the minimum requirements for staffing and scholarships in these sports (soccer, basketball, lacrosse) were maintained and placed in each respective sport's policy manual. However, a few questions arose this year from some in the membership because it was unclear whether any requirements existed and, if so, where they were

housed. For example, compliance administrators who do not have sport oversight and, therefore, do not have easy access to the soccer sport policy manual were unclear. Staffing turnover on campus is another reason some individuals may not be aware of these former standards that transitioned to sport policies.

**1. Incorporate requirements into conference bylaws.**

- Based on the lack of clarity, the Administration Group approved the incorporation of these sport policies into the conference's bylaws to give these minimum requirements a centralized home. Additionally, the conference staff will implement a process whereby institutions will be required to annually submit notification that it is meeting the requirements.



**Proposal for Voting Action by  
America East Board of Presidents  
-Academic Unit Distribution Policy-**

The America East Academic Unit Working Group presents the following proposed recommendation for voting consideration by the America East Board of Presidents regarding the forthcoming NCAA Academic Unit Distribution that will begin in the 2019-20 academic year. The supporting material is included in Supplement 5-a.

America East Conference NCAA Academic Unit Distribution Policy

1. Each earning institution shall receive 100% of the earned unit value for the applicable year.
  2. Annually, at the Board of Presidents meeting each June, the Board shall formally approve that specific year's actual distribution plan.
  3. Immediately following the annual Board of President's meeting in June of each year, the conference office shall forward the approved funds to the membership.
- This requires **adoption** by the Board of Presidents.

### NCAA Academic Unit Distribution Framework

The following policy framework is considered the final recommendation of the conference's Academic Unit Working Group over the past two years.

The Working Group identified two phases as a backdrop for its discussions:

- **Phase 1** – Intended to be a three-year time horizon (FY20 through FY22).
- **Phase 2** – Intended to cover the next three-year period (FY23 through FY25).

There are three critical known financial events during the period of FY20 through FY25:

1. APR unit distribution begins in FY20 (spring 2020).
2. Loss of one of two extra MBB units after FY20 (revenue loss in FY21).
3. Loss of remaining extra MBB unit after FY24 (revenue loss in FY25).

Finally, the current balance of the conference's reserve fund is approximately \$100k.

<b>Policy Framework</b>
-------------------------

1. Establish a **baseline policy** that an earning institution shall receive 100% of the unit value for the applicable year (Exhibit 1). This shall be considered the **earned unit**.
  - *Given institutional budget constraints and challenges along with creating appropriate motivation, the Working Group discussed the importance for institutions to retain the full value of the earned unit, as opposed to establishing a predetermined portion for the conference's reserve fund or operating budget or non-earning institutions.*
  - *The Working Group sought feedback from the ADs regarding whether non-earning institutions should receive any portion of the earned unit. The consensus feedback from the ADs was not supportive of this concept based on the positive history of qualification (Exhibit 2) by most institutions.*
2. Annually, at the Board of Presidents meeting each June, the Board shall formally approve that year's distribution plan.
  - *The ADs supported the concept of the baseline policy with Board discretion to approve a final distribution plan each year to afford flexibility for unexpected financial events that may occur.*
3. Immediately following the annual Board meeting in June of each year, the conference office shall forward the approved funds to the membership (Exhibit 3).
4. Board shall annually monitor and evaluate the policy and outcomes.

**Exhibit 1**

NCAA Academic Unit Value (2020 through 2025)						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Unit Value (Baseline)	\$ 55,000	\$ 111,356	\$ 159,772	\$ 222,954	\$ 288,032	\$ 462,370
Unit Value (FY17-E)	\$ 48,000	\$ 96,880	\$ 139,002	\$ 193,970	\$ 250,588	\$ 402,262

**Exhibit 2**

Actual Qualify Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Since 2010 (9 Years)	
										# Earned	% Earned
Albany							Y		Y	2	22%
Binghamton				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6	67%
Hartford			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7	78%
Maine	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		7	78%
UMBC	Y									1	11%
UMass Lowell								Y	Y	2	100%
UNH		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8	89%
Stony Brook				Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	5	56%
Vermont	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	7	78%
<b>Total AE Qualified</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>		

NOTE: UMass Lowell did not have an APR from 2010 through 2016 due to its transition to Division I; therefore, its percentage earned is based off the two years it was reporting an APR.

**Exhibit 3****Mock FY19 Distribution Timeline**

Timeline	Process
June 12-14, 2019	NCAA distributes earned funds to America East
June 17, 2019	Board of Presidents meets to discuss distribution plan
June 18, 2019	Upon board approval of America East distribution plan, America East office initiates distribution to each earning institution
June 19, 2019	Earning institutions receive distribution*
June 30, 2019	Fiscal year end

\*Eight of nine institutions are currently enrolled in America East's ACH system which allows for electronic fund transfer by next day. One institution currently receives funds via check which can take up to a week to arrive.

**Exhibit 4****Academic Unit Criteria (must meet at least one of the following):**

1. Institution's single-year APR for the previous year is equal to or greater than 985.
2. Institution's GSR for the most recently available year is equal to or greater than 90%.
3. The difference between the student-athlete and student-body rates for most recently published FGR is equal to or greater than 13 percentage points.

**Proposal for Voting Action by  
America East Board of Presidents  
-Men's Basketball Enhancements-**

The America East Administration Group presents the following recommendations for approval (or adoption, as specified) by the Board of Presidents. These are the result of a year-long effort by the Men's Basketball Working Group to identify objectives and strategies to enhance and improve men's basketball in the conference. Supporting materials reviewed by the MBB WG and Athletics Directors are outlined in Supplements 6-a through 6-f.

**Recommendations for Approval**

1. Endorse the Men's Basketball Strategic Objectives. (See Supplement 6-c)
2. Codify in the bylaws that requires summer financial aid be available in men's basketball. Each institution shall award summer financial aid at its discretion (e.g., academic status, amount provided, basis for receipt).
  - Requires **adoption** by the Board of Presidents.
3. Establish a bylaw requirement that cost of attendance be available in men's basketball no later than the 2020-21 academic year. Each institution shall distribute cost of attendance at its discretion (e.g., amount provided, basis for receipt).
  - Requires **adoption** by the Board of Presidents.
4. Create a basketball technology committee to study and research potential tools for coaching and player development, with a report provided no later than June 2020.
5. Create and implement a non-conference scheduling pod framework. (See Supplement 6-e)
  - Details to be finalized by October 2019.
  - Clarify that the framework will offer guidelines and best practices for a program's scheduling strategy and evaluation (will not be punitive).
  - Begin to apply the framework for assessment of 2020-21 schedules.
6. Require institutions to submit a 2-3 year "Program Plan" for discussion with the AD, head coach and conference staff. Such program plans should include but not be limited to scheduling, investment and projected level of competitiveness.
7. Create a plan to enhance the branding efforts specific for men's basketball.

<b>Briefing Summary on Recommendations</b>
--

1. **Strategic objectives.** These were developed by the MBB WG and endorsed by the ADs as progressive yet realistic to achieve.
2. **Summer school financial aid.** For several years, all nine institutions have been awarding summer school financial aid; therefore, this would simply codify existing practice. Both the MBB WG, ADs and Head Coaches believe, however, that codifying this would cement a commitment to men's basketball.
3. **Cost of attendance.** While this has been discussed since its inception several years ago, the league now has seven of nine members making available cost of attendance in some manner. The Head Coaches continue to stress the importance of this in the recruiting process and as one element illustrating an institution's – and a conference's – commitment to the sport. Therefore, the ADs unanimously agreed to require this based on several years of monitoring the landscape and the progress made within the league to have only two outliers.
4. **Basketball technology committee.** As technology and analytics continue to play an important role in sport, it is probable that the use of technology (e.g., shot tracking, video, player analysis) in-game is likely only two years away. Therefore, the MBB WG, Head Coaches and ADs shared a consensus view that it is important to be proactive rather than reactive so that as the playing rules evolve, the America East is prepared to compete.
5. **Non-conference scheduling pod framework.** The non-conference portion of a team's schedule is critical in determining a team's NET ranking. It also has an important impact on other teams within the conference. Therefore, it is important for teams to schedule appropriately based on their level of competitiveness such that teams in our league do not harm our top teams and that successful teams properly challenge themselves and be positioned for quality wins. While winning is ultimately the most important variable, non-league scheduling can be improved at nearly every institution. This framework is intended to be a guideline to provide more transparency in the scheduling strategy and encourage teams to schedule more appropriately, without carrying any punitive measures.
6. **Program plans.** These plans would serve as a forcing function to require each AD and Head Coach to submit a plan that addresses each two to three-year period. The conference staff would act in a confidential advisory or consultancy role to help programs as appropriate. For example, non-conference scheduling strategy would be an area to assess, along with a program's investment and personnel strategy.
7. **Branding plan.** The conference office agreed to work with each campus on a more MBB-specific branding plan through social media and traditional media in the upcoming season.

## Men's Basketball Working Group Background Supplements

### Background

The Men's Basketball Working Group (MBB WG), Head Coaches and Athletics Directors (ADs) were provided with extensive historical conference and team NET/RPI rankings, historical NCAA seeding and other postseason bids (e.g., NIT, CBI, CIT), peer conference comparisons and other data and information throughout the process. Below is a summary of select material reviewed by each group for your information and review.

- **Supplement 6-a** – Initial MBB WG Roadmap
- **Supplement 6-b** – Discussion document on men's basketball that frames and highlights certain issues and challenges.
- **Supplement 6-c** – Strategic Objectives developed by the MBB WG and endorsed by the ADs
- **Supplement 6-d** – Priority concepts developed by the MBB WG and endorsed by the ADs
- **Supplement 6-e** – This includes: (1) Records of each America East team vs. NCAA Quadrants, and (2) Pod framework for non-conference scheduling
- **Supplement 6-f** – Peer Conference Comparison, a 5-year and 10-comparison of RPI\*, winning percentage, strength of schedule, NCAA bids and seed, other postseason bids, etc.
- **Supplement 6-g** – Geographic Peers by NET\*, a list of the NET\* of each school on Selection Sunday from geographic peer conferences (America East, CAA, Ivy League, MAAC, NEC, Patriot League)

*\*RPI (Ratings Percentage Index) and NET (NCAA Evaluation Tool) are the national ranking systems used to compare teams on a variety of variables. The 2018-19 season was the first year of the transition from RPI to NET.*

**America East Men's Basketball Working Group  
-Roadmap-  
September 24, 2018**

**Members**

- Mark Benson, Director of Athletics, UAlbany
- Tommy Dempsey, Head Men's Basketball Coach, Binghamton
- Mary Ellen Gillespie, Director of Athletics, Hartford
- Ryan Odom, Head Men's Basketball Coach, UMBC
- Shawn Heilbron, Director of Athletics, Stony Brook
- Jeff Schulman, Director of Athletics, Vermont

**Staff Liaisons**

Matt Bourque, Senior Associate Commissioner, Broadcast Media and Partnerships  
Amy Huchthausen, Commissioner

**Purpose**

1. Identify desired outcomes and/or objectives for men's basketball.
2. Identify areas of potential improvement or modification for the Conference's men's basketball programs and/or conference operations.
3. Recommend a plan for improving or modifying the identified areas.

**Key Tasks and Activities**

1. Conduct 4-5 conference calls.
2. Compile comprehensive data and information across a variety of areas regarding men's basketball operations and support at the institutional and conference level.
3. Assess the data and information collected and focus on key areas of potential improvement or modification that align with the desired outcomes and objectives.
4. Solicit feedback from athletic directors, head coaches and other constituents, as appropriate.
5. Recommend a plan for potential improvement for the identified areas of importance for approval by the Athletics Director Council and Board of Presidents.

**Timeline**

1. Week of September 24.
  - a. Confirm working group committee members.
2. October 9-10.
  - a. Solicit input from Directors of Athletics.
  - b. Schedule conference calls.

3. February 2018.
  - a. Develop draft recommendation for AD review in February 2018.
  - b. Finalize recommendation for Administration Group vote no later than June 2018.

### **Resources/Data**

1. Historical conference and school RPI rankings (example areas):
  - a. Overall.
  - b. Nonconference.
  - c. Strength of schedule.
  - d. Location of game.
  - e. Win/loss percentage.
2. Historical NCAA seeding and postseason bids.
3. Peer conference comparisons (e.g., RPI, SOS, NCAA and postseason opportunities).
4. Historical attendance (regular-season and postseason).
5. Historical ticket information (example areas):
  - a. Number of season tickets.
  - b. Price of season tickets, single-game tickets.
6. Historical television/streaming productions.
7. Local/regional media coverage (e.g., print, radio, TV).
8. Nonconference scheduling (example areas):
  - a. Philosophy.
  - b. Person primarily responsible.
  - c. Guarantee games.
9. Operational support (example areas):
  - a. Recruiting.
  - b. Head coach salary.
  - c. Assistant coach salary pool.
  - d. Number and positions of basketball staff.
  - e. Number and role of other support staff (e.g., academics, strength and conditioning, athletic training, nutrition, sports psychologist).
10. Facility information (example areas):
  - a. Capacity of game arena.
  - b. Practice facility.
  - c. Team locker room.
  - d. Video/LED signage.
11. Student-athlete experience (example areas):
  - a. Number of scholarships.
  - b. Number of student-athletes receiving SAF/SAOF.
  - c. Number of student-athletes receiving cost of attendance.
  - d. Transfer rates.
  - e. APR rates.
  - f. GSR rates.
  - g. Post-college professional playing opportunities.



**Men's Basketball Working Group  
-Discussion Document-  
November 20, 2018**

**Background**

During its June 2018 meeting, the America East Athletic Directors voted to establish a working group to examine men's basketball with the broad objective of intending to strengthen the league in this sport. The ADs acknowledge that each institution has varying priorities, objectives and resources across its athletics department, but all recognize that for the America East, the sport of men's basketball is the league's highest profile sport and provides the league and members the greatest opportunity for regional and national exposure and recognition.

It is understood that the challenges facing the America East are no different than those in other mid-major leagues and that lessons can be learned from efforts made by other leagues. It is understood that some of these challenges are perpetual challenges that have and/or will only increase in the future. It is also understood that the responsibility and authority for most decisions that impact any sport fall at the institutional level, rather than with the conference. A critical aspect of this is understanding and acknowledging the relational dynamics on each campus between a president, athletics director and head basketball coach, both in the interests – shared and competing – of each party along with the decision-making process and authority. Of course, this extends to the overall conference as well, as the conference may have both common and competing interests with any particular campus or its sub-parties on a given matter.

That said, it is possible for league decision-makers (i.e., athletics directors, presidents) to collaborate and reach consensus on decisions at the conference level that can drive campus decisions and the conference has made such decisions in the past. Specifically, over the past approximately 15 years, the conference has made several efforts to affect change in men's basketball, whether through scheduling standards, scholarship requirements, facility requirements, media (television) distribution, and postseason formats. Some of these efforts have had a positive impact on the league, while others have not and were reversed.

As the Working Group considers both the history, current state and future desired state of men's basketball for the America East, it will need to be comprehensive, realistic, proactive and innovative in its thinking in order to develop meaningful recommendations that can receive broad support and that can actually be implemented. Further, there must be mechanisms by which to measure progress at the campus and conference level on a regular basis, but also over a specified time horizon, understanding that change does not happen overnight.

Below lists a section of Key Initial Discussion Questions to prompt a high-level discussion during the Working Group's first call about objectives and outcomes. Additionally, five Categories of Focus are listed to guide the Working Group's discussion about potential areas to explore along with supporting data that may be useful. This is not an exhaustive list of categories nor data but is intended to be an initial working framework.

### **Key Initial Discussion Questions**

1. What are the desired outcomes for America East men's basketball?
2. What are the areas of potential improvement for the Conference's men's basketball programs and/or the conference operations?
3. What data and information from the categories below are needed to focus on the key areas of potential improvement?

### **Categories of Focus**

#### **Performance**

1. Historical conference and team RPI rankings (example areas):
  - a. Overall.
  - b. Nonconference.
  - c. Strength of schedule.
  - d. Location of game.
  - e. Win/loss percentage.
2. Historical NCAA seeding and other postseason bids (e.g., NIT, CBI, CIT).
3. Peer conference comparisons (e.g., RPI, SOS, NCAA and postseason opportunities).

#### **Scheduling**

1. Nonconference scheduling philosophy.
2. Person primarily responsible.
3. Guarantee games.
4. Impact on attendance, TV/media exposure.

#### **Resources**

1. Operational support (example areas):
  - a. Recruiting.
  - b. In-season travel (e.g., charter plane).
  - c. Technology and data information systems (e.g., ShotTracker, Keemotion).
  - d. Head coach salary.
  - e. Assistant coach salary pool.
  - f. Number and positions of basketball staff (e.g., director of operations, video staff, analytics).

- g. Number and role of other support staff (e.g., academics, strength and conditioning, athletic training, nutrition, sports psychologist).
- 2. Facility information (example areas):
  - a. Capacity of game arena.
  - b. Practice facility.
  - c. Team locker room.
  - d. Video/LED signage.

### **Student-Athlete Experience**

- 1. Number of scholarships available.
- 2. Number of student-athletes receiving SAF/SAOF.
- 3. Number of student-athletes receiving cost of attendance.
- 4. Transfer rates.
- 5. APR rates.
- 6. GSR rates.
- 7. Post-college professional playing opportunities.

### **Media, Exposure and Fan Interest**

- 1. Historical television/streaming productions.
- 2. Local/regional media coverage (e.g., print, radio, TV).
- 3. Historical attendance (regular-season and postseason).
- 4. Historical ticket information (example areas):
  - a. Number of season tickets.
  - b. Price of season tickets, single-game tickets.

**America East Men's Basketball  
Strategic Objectives and Roadmap  
-FINAL-**

<b>Strategic Objectives</b>
-----------------------------

1. Ensure programs are **committed to excellence** in men's basketball. It is the conference's highest profile sport and, importantly, is the program that presents the highest potential to generate exposure for an institution across the entire university.
2. Increase **exposure** and **promotion** of the conference's top teams, coaches and student-athletes locally, regionally and nationally.
3. Ensure programs have the necessary and appropriate **resources** to:
  - a. **Recruit, retain and graduate** student-athletes who can compete and perform on the court and in classroom.
  - b. **Attract and retain** coaches and staff who are measurably successful in recruiting, coaching and developing student-athletes.
  - c. **Invest** in technology and tools to stay current and relevant in a competitive and changing sport environment.
4. Increase the conference's aggregate performance in men's basketball to be in the Top 2 among **geographic** peers.
5. Consistently achieve an **NCAA** seed of 13 or better for our AQ team.
6. Consistently receive an **NIT** at-large bid at least once every three years (under current format).
7. **Geographic** Target Outcomes – RPI/NET/Quads.
  - a. At least two teams in the top 10% each year.
  - b. At least five teams in the Top 50% each year.
  - c. Zero teams in the bottom 10% each year.
8. **National** Target Outcomes – RPI/NET/Quads.
  - a. Establish "pod" structure, similar to the Horizon League.

<b>Roadmap to Achieve Objectives</b>
--------------------------------------

**1. Non-conference scheduling pod structure.**

- a. Develop, implement and enforce scheduling objectives per pod with parameters that include:
  - i. Quadrant boundaries.
  - ii. Number of non-DI games.
  - iii. Team-by-team objectives and strategy.
- b. Implement Chief Scheduling Officer (CSO) role.
  - i. Identify the AD as the CSO for men's basketball.
  - ii. Require annual meetings between the CSO and conference office staff to discuss non-conference schedule development for season ahead and assessment of season most recently completed.
  - iii. Conference office shall create a checklist of questions and provide relevant data for institutions to consider in evaluating potential non-conference opponents.
  - iv. Conference office shall share preseason and postseason scheduling reports with ADs.

**2. Exposure and media.**

- a. Conference office to develop a best practices document for securing linear TV appearances for non-conference games, including a detailed post-season report on opportunities secured and declined.

**3. Program tools and support.**

- a. Require institutions to provide financial aid for summer school in men's basketball.
- b. Require institutions to provide cost of attendance in men's basketball.
- c. Require technology investments to enhance and improve the tools available for the conference and teams by 2021-22 season.
  - i. Analytics tracking – Implement technology tools to aid programs in skill development, training and game analysis/prep.
  - ii. Staffing – Add staff member (e.g., FT, PT, GA, volunteer) to assist with analytics tracking.

**Men's Basketball Working Group  
Priority Concepts for Discussion**

**Group #1 – No Formal Vote Needed (Conference office to start doing)**

**Scheduling**

- Conference office shall share preseason and postseason scheduling reports with ADs.
- Conference office shall create a checklist of questions and provide relevant data for institutions to consider in evaluating potential non-conference opponents.

**Exposure**

- Conference office to create a best practices document for securing linear TV appearances for non-conference games.

**Group #2 – Discuss at Summer Meetings (MBB coaches, ADs, joint meeting)**

**Student-athlete support**

- Require all institutions to pay for summer school.
- Require all institutions to provide cost of attendance.

**Scheduling**

- Establish a pod system for non-conference scheduling. (Supplement 3-a)
- Limit the number of non-Division I opponents.
- Mandate that schools identify the athletics director as the chief scheduling officer. (Supplement 3-b)
- Require annual meetings with the men's basketball chief scheduling officer and conference staff to discuss non-conference schedule development and assessment.

**Technology**

- Mandate that all institutions invest in an analytics product (e.g., Keemotion, ShotTracker, Noah Basketball) by the start of the 2021-22 season. (Supplement 3-c)
- Require that schools add a position (e.g., FT, PT, GA, volunteer) dedicated to analytics by the start of the 2021-22 season.

**Group #3 – Do Nothing (hold, eliminate or refer elsewhere for now)**

**Postseason**

- Re-visit the playoffs.

**Scheduling**

- Require that schools play a minimum number of home non-conference games against Division I opponents.

**Technology**

- Mandate that schools implement DVSPORT for use of official replay by start of 2020-21 season.

**AMERICA EAST MEN'S BASKETBALL  
2018-19 NON-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**SUPPLEMENT 6-e**

**QUADRANT GROUPING**

**DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**

QUAD	NET	ALB	BIN	HART	Maine	UMBC	UML	UNH	SBU	UVM	Overall AE Record
Q1	1-30 H	1	1	3	2	2	0	1	0	3	0-13
	1-50 N										
	1-75 A										
Q2	31-75 H	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1-10
	51-100 N										
	76-135 A										
Q3	76-160 H	2	1	2	4	1	4	3	4	7	11-17
	101-200 N										
	136-240 A										
Q4	161+ H	10	8	8	6	8	8	6	9	3	32-34
	201+ N										
	241+ A										
<b>NET</b>		271	325	183	335	226	257	345	156	71	
<b>DI W-L Record</b>		4-10	2-11	6-8	1-13	5-7	6-7	0-11	11-3	9-4	

*Indicates number of non-conference games vs. each Quadrant as of Selection Sunday*

**POTENTIAL POD MODELS**

QUAD	NET	Pod A	Pod B	Pod C
Q1	1-30 H	Minimum of ____	Minimum of ____	Maximum of ____
	1-50 N			
	1-75 A			
Q2	31-75 H	Minimum of ____	Minimum of ____	Maximum of ____
	51-100 N			
	76-135 A			
Q3	76-160 H	Minimum of ____	Minimum of ____	Maximum of ____
	101-200 N			
	136-240 A			
Q4	161+ H	Maximum of ____	Maximum of ____	Minimum of ____
	201+ N			
	241+ A			



## Peer Conferences\*

### Five-Year Postseason Summary

\*Excludes Power 5, American, Atlantic 10, Big East, Missouri Valley, Mountain West, West Coast



2



## Key NCAA Outcomes (2014-18)

- **Average NCAA seed = 14.3**
- **Number of NCAA at-large teams = 0**  
Most recent at-large = Sun Belt, 2013 (Middle Tennessee St.)
- **Number of NCAA wins = 26 (5.2/year)**
- **Number of NCAA wins (excluding First Four) = 15 (3.0/year)**  
Wins from 10 of 21 peer conferences (11 conferences have zero wins)
- **No teams advanced to Sweet 16**

\*Excludes Power 5, American, Atlantic 10, Big East, Missouri Valley, Mountain West, West Coast



3





## Non-First Four NCAA Wins (2014-18)

Conference	No. of Wins	Seeds
C-USA	3	13, 12, 14
Ivy League	2	12, 12
Southland	2	14, 12
Sun Belt	2	12, 14
America East	1	16
Atlantic Sun	1	14
Big West	1	13
Horizon	1	14
Mid-American	1	13
Summit	1	12
	<b>Avg. Seed</b>	<b>13.1</b>

Seed	Wins	Win %
12	6	30%
13	3	23%
14	5	36%
15	--	0%
16	1	6.25%

\*Excludes Power 5, American, Atlantic 10, Big East, Missouri Valley, Mountain West, West Coast

4



## Non-Group of 21 Conferences At-Large (2014-18)

Conference	No. of Teams	Comments
American	10	
Atlantic-10	13	5 in 2014, 2 in 2015-18
Missouri Valley	2	Both were Wichita St. (now in AAC)
Mountain West	4	
West Coast	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	

- 5 of the 32 at-large berths from these leagues were sent to the First Four (16%)
  - 5 of 20 First Four at-large spots = 25%
- 27 of the 32 at-large berths in the Round of 64 (84%)

5



## Key NIT Outcomes (2014-18)

- Number of NIT at-large teams = 11

Conference	Number	Seeds
C-USA	5	4, 1, 6, 3, 3
Horizon	2	7, 5
Big West	1	6
Colonial	1	5
Ivy League	1	6
Mid-American	1	6
	<b>Avg. Seed</b>	<b>4.7</b>

\*Excludes Power 5, American, Atlantic 10, Big East, Missouri Valley, Mountain West, West Coast



6



## Peer Conferences\* Five-Year Outcomes

\*Excludes Power 5, American, Atlantic 10, Big East, Missouri Valley, Mountain West, West Coast



7



## AE vs. 21 Peer Conferences (2014-18)

- Conference RPI = 13<sup>th</sup> best
- Win percentage = 8<sup>th</sup> best
- Non-conference SOS = T20<sup>th</sup> (last)
- Top RPI Team<sup>^</sup> = 7<sup>th</sup> (11 conferences higher)
- AQ Team<sup>^</sup> = 12<sup>th</sup> highest
- NCAA seed = 7<sup>th</sup> highest (11 conferences higher)
- NCAA wins = T3<sup>rd</sup> (Tied w/8 conferences, 3 have more)
- NIT teams = T6<sup>th</sup> (2 in 5 years)

\*Excludes Power 5, American, Atlantic 10, Big East, Missouri Valley, Mountain West, West Coast  
<sup>^</sup>RPI/AQ at time of NCAA selections



8



## Five and 10-Year Team RPI vs. Geographic Peers

CAA, Ivy, MAAC, Patriot, NEC



9



## High/Low Teams – Geographic Peers

5-Year	High Team	Low Team
CAA	W&M, 2	Drexel, 38
MAAC	Iona, 1	Marist, 55
Ivy	Yale, 4	Brown, 52
Patriot	Bucknell, 7	Lafayette, 49
AE	Vermont, 3	Maine, 58
NEC	MSM, 23	CCSU, 56

10-Year	High Team	Low Team
CAA	Northeastern, 5	Elon, 35
MAAC	Iona, 1	Marist, 56
Ivy	Harvard, 2	Dartmouth, 58
Patriot	Bucknell, 7	Colgate, 45
AE	Vermont, 3	Binghamton, 57
NEC	Robert Morris, 10	FDU, 55



10



## America East vs. Geographic Peers

Rank	Team	5-Year
1	Vermont	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2	Albany	9 <sup>th</sup>
3	Stony Brook	10 <sup>th</sup>
4	UNH	33 <sup>rd</sup>
5	UMBC	43 <sup>rd</sup>
6	Hartford	44 <sup>th</sup>
7	UMass Lowell	53 <sup>rd</sup>
8	Binghamton	57 <sup>th</sup>
9	Maine	58 <sup>th</sup>

Rank	Team	10-Year
1	Vermont	3 <sup>rd</sup>
2	Stony Brook	9 <sup>th</sup>
3	Albany	16 <sup>th</sup>
4	UNH	41 <sup>st</sup>
5	Hartford	47 <sup>th</sup>
6	UMBC	51 <sup>st</sup>
7	UMass Lowell	53 <sup>rd</sup>
8	Maine	54 <sup>th</sup>
9	Binghamton	57 <sup>th</sup>

Geographic Peers: CAA, Ivy, MAAC, Patriot, NEC (58 teams)



11



## Distribution of Teams – Geographic Peers

	Top 10%	Top 25%	Top 50%	Top 75%	Bottom 10%
	1-6	1-15	1-29	1-44	53-58
CAA	2	5	8	10	0
MAAC	1	3	7	9	1
Ivy	2	3	4	5	0
Patriot	0	1	4	8	0
AE	1	3	3	6	3
NEC	0	0	3	6	2

Note: Distribution is same for last 10 years and 5 years



12



13

**AMERICA EAST MEN'S BASKETBALL  
GEOGRAPHIC PEERS BY NET (2018-19)  
AS OF SELECTION SUNDAY**

**SUPPLEMENT 6-g**

	Rank	School	NET	Conf		Rank	School	NET	Conf	
	1	Vermont	71	AE		30	Quinnipiac	244	MAAC	
	2	Hofstra	76	CAA		31	LIU-Brooklyn	250	NEC	
	3	Northeastern	78	CAA		32	James Madison	252	CAA	
	4	Yale	86	Ivy		33	Siena	253	MAAC	
	5	Charleston	107	CAA		34	St. Francis Brooklyn	254	NEC	
10%	6	Penn	110	Ivy		35	Towson	255	CAA	
	7	Harvard	129	Ivy		36	UMass Lowell	257	AE	
	8	Colgate	132	Patriot		37	UNC Wilmington	263	CAA	
	9	Brown	145	Ivy		38	St. Francis (PA)	265	NEC	
	10	Bucknell	152	Patriot		39	Robert Morris	267	NEC	
	11	Stony Brook	156	AE		40	UAlbany	271	AE	
	12	Lehigh	159	Patriot		41	Elon	277	CAA	
	13	American	177	Patriot		42	Marist	278	MAAC	
	14	Princeton	180	Ivy		43	Navy	279	Patriot	
	15	Hartford	183	AE		44	Lafayette	280	Patriot	
	16	William & Mary	193	CAA		45	Loyola (MD)	281	Patriot	
	17	Cornell	195	Ivy		46	Canisius	282	MAAC	
	18	Columbia	196	Ivy		47	Monmouth	287	MAAC	
	19	Rider	201	MAAC		48	Fairfield	292	MAAC	
	20	Iona	202	MAAC		49	Wagner	300	NEC	
	21	Fairleigh Dickinson	203	NEC		50	Niagara	301	MAAC	
	22	Dartmouth	217	Ivy		51	CCSU	312	NEC	
	23	UMBC	226	AE		52	St. Peter's	317	MAAC	
	24	Boston U.	228	Patriot		53	Manhattan	318	MAAC	10%
	25	Holy Cross	232	Patriot		54	Mount St. Mary's	319	NEC	
	26	Drexel	233	CAA		55	Bryant	322	NEC	
	27	Delaware	238	CAA		56	Binghamton	325	AE	
	28	Army	239	Patriot		57	Maine	335	AE	
50%	29	Sacred Heart	241	NEC		58	New Hampshire	345	AE	

**Geographic Target Outcomes**

At least two teams in top 10%: Not met (Vermont, 1)

At least five teams in top 50%: Not met (Vermont, 1; Stony Brook, 11; Hartford, 15; UMBC, 23)

Zero teams in bottom 10%: Not met (Binghamton, 56; Maine, 57; New Hampshire, 58)

**2019  
DIVISION I  
REVENUE  
DISTRIBUTION  
PLAN**

academic enhancement fund  
academic performance fund  
basketball performance fund  
broad-based distributions

- sports sponsorship
- grants-in-aid

conference grants  
equal conference fund  
special assistance fund  
student-athlete opportunity  
fund



# SCHEDULE, AMOUNTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

2019 REVENUE DISTRIBUTION		
FUND:	DATE:	AMOUNT:
Equal Conference Fund	April 17	\$53,550,181
Basketball Performance Fund	April 17	\$168,500,833
Sports Sponsorship Fund	May 8	\$75,118,234
Grants-in-Aid Fund	May 22	\$146,932,780
Academic Enhancement Fund	June 12	\$49,219,502
Conference Grants	June 12	\$9,965,217
Special Assistance Fund (SAF)	June 12	\$18,630,621
Student Athlete Opportunity Fund (SAOF)	June 12	\$67,958,441
2019 Revenue Distribution Total		\$589,875,809

## Disbursements:

- Distributions are paid to either individual institutions or conferences. In the case of the Sports Sponsorship and Grants-in-Aid, the NCAA will defer to conference bylaws when processing the distributions. By the end of February, conferences are required annually to confirm in writing to the national office if it desires to have its conference distribution(s) sent directly to the conference office, substantiated by its bylaws. If a conference does not confirm in writing, with a copy of its relevant bylaw, the national office will disburse the funds directly to the respective institutions. All other distributions are paid to the conference.
- A memorandum detailing the distribution(s) will be addressed to the conference commissioner, president or chancellor, director of athletics, institutional and athletic chief financial officer, senior compliance administrator and senior woman administrator. Email addresses for the above-mentioned individuals will be captured using the NCAA directory. Please update your membership contact information to ensure proper delivery.
- Funds will be sent to the conference of which the institution is a member at the time of the distribution. The conference is responsible for disbursing the funds appropriately.
- An institution that falls in the one-year membership probation period is eligible for revenue distribution. An institution that is beyond the one-year membership probation period and/or has been placed in restricted membership is not eligible for revenue distribution.

## Report of Uses:

The following funds continue to require an annual report of uses, to be submitted through the NCAA Revenue Distribution application by August 31st. The Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee will conduct an annual compliance review of the report of uses, regarding both completion of timely reporting and actual expenses consistent with the allowable uses.

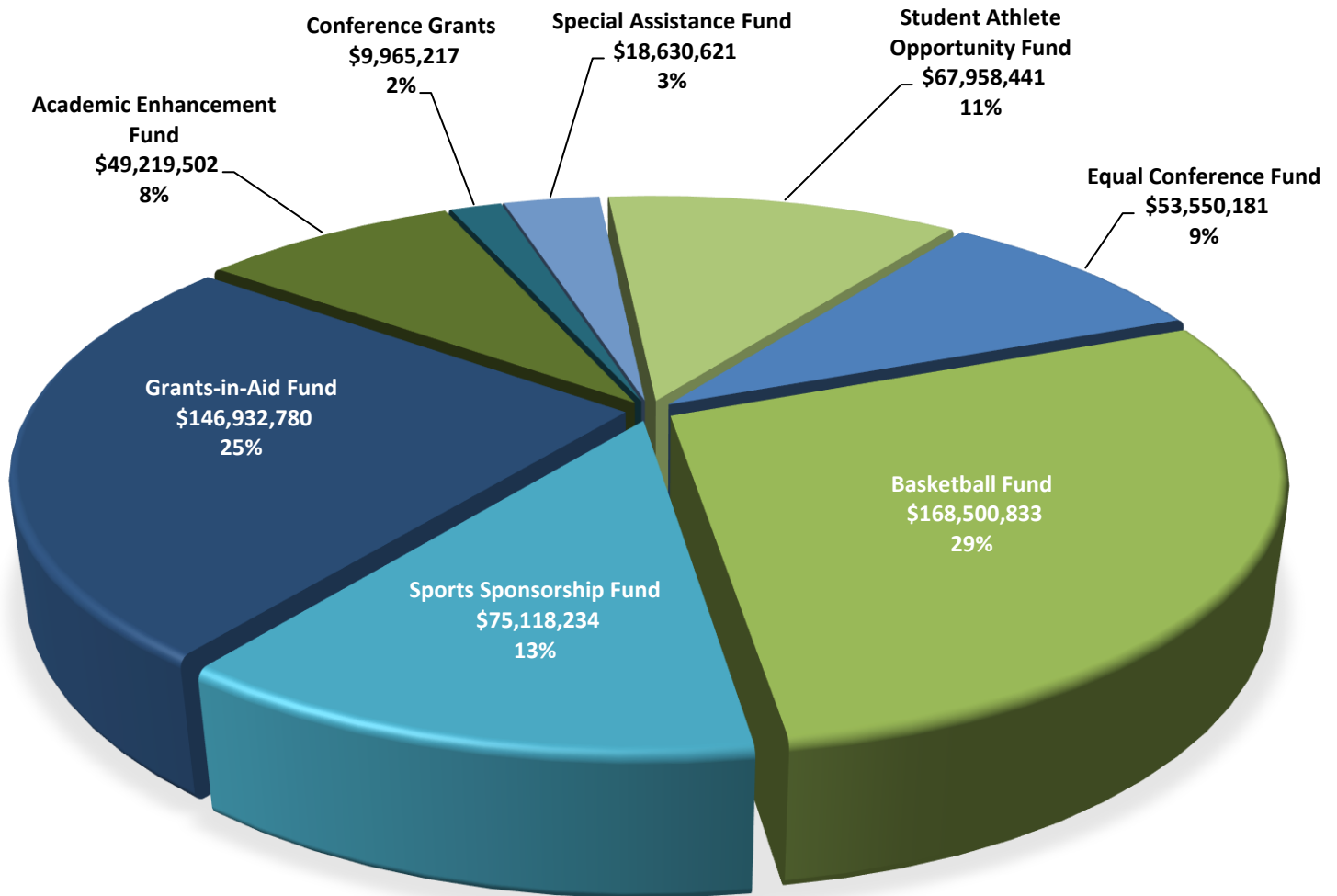
- Academic Enhancement
- Conference Grants; and
- Student Assistance Fund (SAF/SAOF)

## Budgeting:

Annual increases of revenue distribution funds are nominal and will not necessarily result in an increase to an individual institution's distributions. Consideration should also be given to changes that have occurred within the athletic department that would impact revenue distributions (e.g. adding or discontinuing a sport/scholarship).



**2019 Revenue Distribution Plan**  
**TOTAL: \$589,875,809**



# ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT FUND | distribution

---

The Academic Enhancement Fund is distributed equally among active Division I institutions. The fund is intended for the enhancement of academic-support programs for Division I student-athletes. In June of 2018, each active Division I institution received approximately \$136,800. The Academic Enhancement Fund will continue to allow spending on academic support salaries and benefits and capital improvements that enhance the academic services. The institution is encouraged to consider using this fund for the provision of other direct benefits to student-athletes that enhance student-athlete welfare. Common uses are listed below.



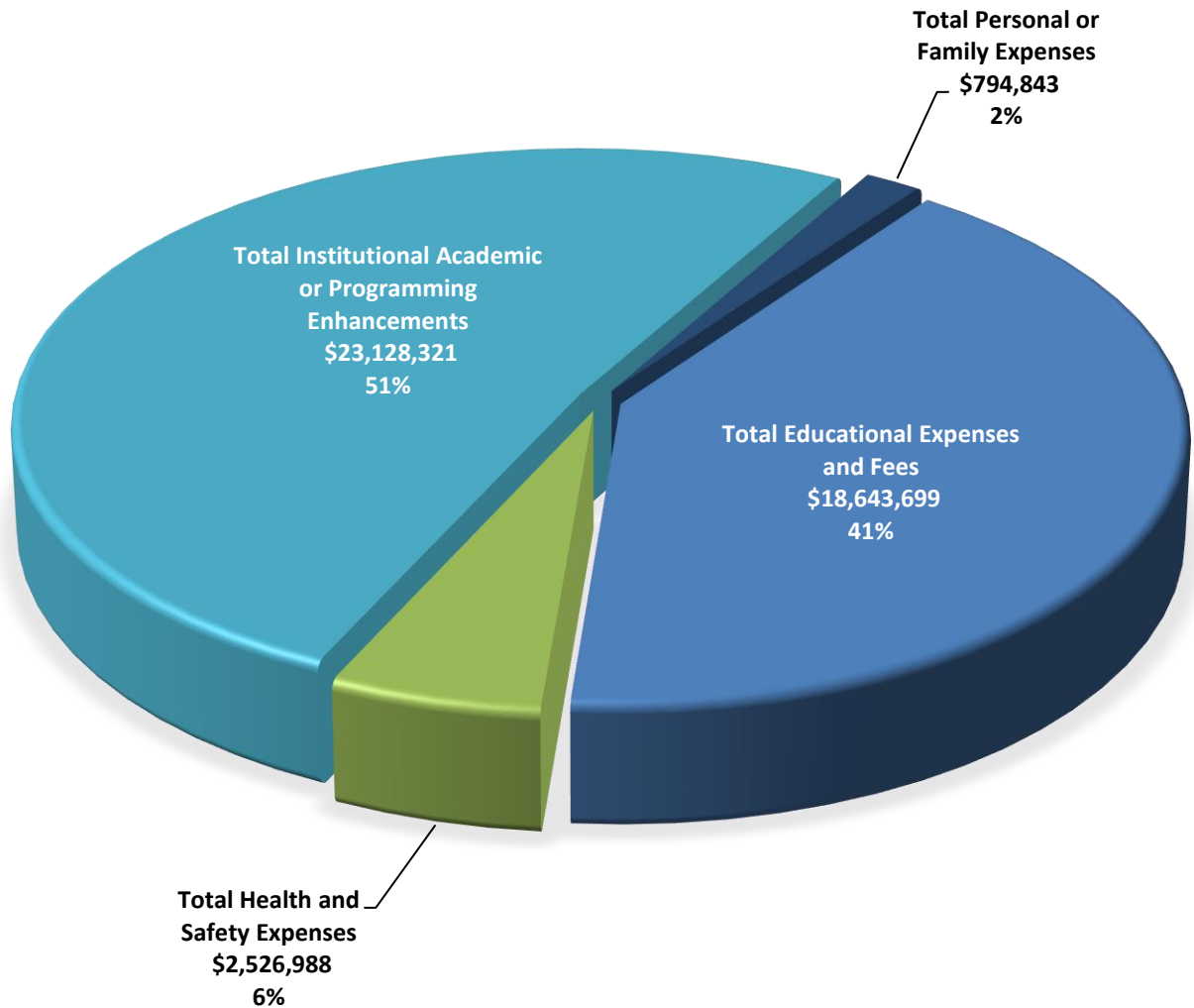
Newly active Division I institutions will receive the Academic Enhancement Fund within their first year. For example, if an institution becomes an active Division I member as of September 1, 2018, they will receive a distribution in June 2019.

The Academic Enhancement Fund will be sent to the conference to then distribute to their respective institutions. Conferences are required to submit a report of uses annually, based on information provided by their respective institutions, using the NCAA Revenue Distribution application. Independent institutions are eligible to receive the academic enhancement fund and are responsible to submit a report of uses annually to the national office.

- Allowable Uses for Academic Enhancement:
  - Summer school.
  - Fifth or sixth year aid.
  - Tutoring.
  - International student fees and taxes.
  - Professional program testing.
  - Supplies (expendable or educational).
  - Champs/Life skills/Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
  - Other educational expenses.
  - Insurance premiums for student-athletes.
  - Medical, dental or vision expenses for student-athletes (not covered by another insurance program for student-athletes).
  - Other health and safety expenses.
  - Clothing.
  - Travel.
  - Other personal or family expenses.
  - Other expenses related to attendance (e.g., cost of attendance).
  - Academic achievement or graduation award.
  - Academic support services.
  - Academic personnel salaries and benefits.
  - Capital improvements/equipment.
  - Other academic or programming expenses.

## ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT FUND | 2017-18 reported uses

---



## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE FUND | distribution

---

The academic performance fund will begin in June of 2020. The fund will be distributed to conferences based on the academic performance of active and qualifying Division I institutions. Independent institutions will receive the funds directly.

The Division I Committee on Academics will manage the academic metrics and benchmarks pertaining to eligibility requirements. An institution must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for a distribution.

- Institution's NCAA Division I APR for the previous year is equal to or greater than 985;
- Institution's GSR for the most recently available year is equal to or greater than 90 percent; or
- Difference between the institution's student-athlete and student-body rates for the most recently published FGR is greater than or equal to 13 percentage points.



# BASKETBALL PERFORMANCE FUND | description

---

The basketball performance fund is distributed to active Division I conferences based on their performance in the Division I Men's Basketball Championship over a six-year rolling period. Independent institutions earn unit(s) based on their championship participation within a six-year rolling period. In 2018, each basketball performance unit was approximately \$273,500 based on units earned from 2012 to 2017. The 2019 basketball fund will be sent in mid-April based on units earned from 2013 to 2018. There are no reporting requirements for the basketball performance fund.

If a newly active Division I member participates in the Division I Men's Basketball Championship in March-April 2018, the units for participants will be included in the 2019 basketball performance distribution.

One unit is awarded to each institution participating in each game, except the first game played by automatic qualifiers and the championship game. Units are retained by the conference in which they are earned. All units earned by each conference or independent within a six-year rolling period are included in the distribution calculation.



A multisport conference is defined as an entity that is comprised of at least seven-member institutions that are classified as active Division I for eight preceding academic years.

Conferences are encouraged, but not required, to distribute the basketball performance fund equally among all member institutions.

Conference realignment:

- a. If an institution leaves a conference to join another conference or becomes independent, while the former conference remains in operation, the units previously earned by the institution remain with the former conference.
- b. If an independent institution joins a conference, it retains the units it earned as an independent prior to the date it elected to join the conference; any units the institution earns after that date accrue to the conference.
- c. If a conference notifies the NCAA that it has ceased operations each institution retains the units it earned in the basketball performance fund.
- d. Impact of Division I multi-sport conference status (Bylaw 20.02.5):
  - i. During the two-year grace period, a conference will still accrue units and receive revenue distribution.
  - ii. By the end of the two-year grace period, if the conference meets the active Division I multi-sport conference requirements, it will maintain all the unit(s) earned by its member institutions over the six-year rolling period.
  - iii. After the two-year grace period, if the conference still does not meet the active Division I multi-sport conference requirements, the remaining member institutions will retain the unit(s) they have earned. Unit(s) earned by an institution which had previously left the conference will revert to that institution, if it is an independent, or its new conference.
    - a. In the rare case that such a conference subsequently reconstitutes and meets the Division I multi-sport conference requirements, sometime after the two-year grace period, it will be treated as a new conference, for the purposes of unit accrual and revenue distribution.



The broad-based distribution is sent to all active Division I institutions based on the number of varsity sports sponsored (weighted one-third) and athletic grants-in-aid awarded (weighted two-thirds).

The Sports Sponsorship Fund is sent in early-May; the Grants-in-Aid Fund is sent in late-May. Newly active Division I institutions shall qualify to begin receiving revenue distributions related to sports sponsorship and grants-in-aid within its third academic year as an active Division I member (Bylaw 20.5.3). The broad-based calculations are based on prior year information which, in this case, would be the institution's second active year as a Division I institution. For example, the June 2019 grants-in-aid distribution will be based on the 2017-18 academic year information that will be submitted to the NCAA national office via the Membership Financial Reporting System (FRS) in January 2019. Division I institutions which are newly active in 2018-19 will not be eligible for these distributions until June 2021.

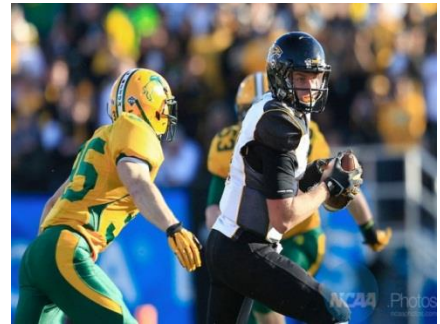
## **SPORTS SPONSORSHIP FUND**

An institution receives a unit for each sport sponsored beginning with the 14th sport. (The minimum requirement for Division I membership is 14.) Only sports in which the NCAA conducts championship competition (which meet the minimum contests and participants' requirements of Bylaw 20.9.6.3) and emerging sports for women are counted. In the 2018 distribution, for sports sponsored beginning with the 14th, an institution received approximately \$36,500 per sport (i.e., an institution sponsoring 16 total sports received approximately \$109,500; an institution sponsoring 23 total sports received approximately \$365,000).

## **GRANTS-IN-AID FUND**

The Grants-in-Aid Fund distribution is based on the number of athletic grants awarded in the prior academic year by each institution (based on full-time equivalencies), with an escalating multiplier which rewards schools that provide more athletic grants. The unit value is determined by the total number of athletic grants awarded by all active Division I institutions. Last year, the "unit value" or "point amount" was \$299.58.

Institutions are responsible to submit accurate data to ensure the integrity of the grants-in-aid revenue distribution. Using Compliance Assistant will contribute to data integrity.



**EXAMPLE**

Grant Multiplier		Grant Equivalents	Total Pt. Value	Pt. Amount	Grants-in-Aid Distribution
1-50	1	50	50	\$299.58	\$14,979
51-100	2	50	100	\$299.58	\$29,958
101-150	10	50	500	\$299.58	\$149,790
150+	20	29.45	589	\$299.58	\$176,453
		179.45	1,239		\$371,180

- The grants-in-aid data is based on prior academic year and drawn from the Membership Financial Reporting System (FRS) submitted by each institution. Grants-in-aid is calculated by using the revenue distribution equivalencies by sport and in aggregate. (Athletic grant amount divided by the full grant amount).
- Other expenses related to attendance (also known as gap money or cost of attendance) should not be included in the grants-in-aid revenue distribution equivalencies. Only tuition, fees, room, board and required course related books are countable for grants-in-aid revenue distribution per Bylaw 20.02.7.
- Full grant amount should be entered as a full year of tuition, not a semester or quarter.
- Student-athletes are to be counted once and should not receive a revenue distribution equivalency greater than 1.00.
- Athletic grants are valid for revenue distribution purposes only in sports in which the NCAA conducts championships competition, emerging sports for women and bowl subdivision football.
- Grants-in-aid are valid for revenue distribution purposes in NCAA sports that do not meet the minimum contests and participants' requirements of Bylaw 20.9.6.3.
- Institutions providing grants to student-athletes listed on the squad list as "Exhausted Eligibility (fifth-year)" or "Medical" receive credit in the grants-in-aid component.
- The athletics aid equivalency cannot exceed maximum equivalency limits. However, the total revenue distribution equivalency can exceed maximum equivalency limits due to the additional exhausted eligibility and medical equivalencies (Bylaw 15.5.3.1).
- If a sport is discontinued and the athletic grant(s) are still being honored by the institution, the grant(s) are included in student-athlete aid for revenue distribution purposes.

Please reference the 2018-19 Division I Manual, Article 15, Financial Aid for additional information.

## CONFERENCE GRANTS | description

---

The Conference Grant Fund is distributed to Division I men's and women's basketball-playing conferences that employ a full-time administrator and are eligible for automatic qualification into the Division I men's and women's basketball championships. The fund is intended for enhancement of conference programs as detailed below. The Conference Commissioners Association approved to have \$260,000 of the Conference Grant to be remitted to the regional officiating advisors program, regardless of whether the conference is granted automatic qualification. In 2018, each active Division I conference received approximately \$296,900 of the Conference Grant. Independent institutions are not eligible for distributions from the Conference Grant fund.

These grant funds must be used to maintain, enhance or implement programs and services in each of the following areas:

- a. Improvement of men's and women's officiating programs in all sports;
- b. Enhancement of conference compliance and enforcement programs;
- c. Heightening the awareness of athletics staff and student-athletes to programs associated with drug use, and assisting coaches, athletics administrators and student-athletes in this regard;
- d. Enhancement of opportunities: employment, professional development, career advancement and leadership/management training in intercollegiate athletics for ethnic minorities and women;
- e. Development of conference sports wagering education programs;
- f. Enhance diversity and inclusion efforts; and
- g. Enhance health and safety of student-athletes, coaches and administrators (including mental health).

The administration of the grant will take into consideration the diverse nature of conference structures and allow conferences a reasonable degree of flexibility in constructing their programs. At the same time, adherence to specific criteria and restrictions is required to ensure that the grant funds are used according to the principles below and provide for responsible financial accountability. General principles guiding the grant are as follows:

- a. A conference has the authority to determine the amount to allocate to the seven areas. However, the conference must spend a portion of the grant in all seven.
- b. The funds must be used to enhance existing programs, to maintain programs initiated by the NCAA grant funds or to implement new programs.
- c. Conferences may establish a "consortium" with one another in one or more of the seven areas by pooling grant funds and conducting joint programs, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.
- d. A conference may allocate a portion of its grant in the form of sub-grants to one or more of its member institutions for specific programs approved by the conference in the areas of drug education and the enhancement of opportunities for ethnic minorities and women.
- e. It is assumed that programs provided by the conference in the areas of compliance, sports wagering and drug education will serve both men's and women's athletics programs. However, it is possible that in the area of officiating improvement, separate programs and services for men and women may be implemented. If separate officiating programs are implemented, at a minimum, the amounts allocated to the men's and women's programs must be in proportion to the total grant. [For example, Conference A receives \$150,000, of which \$112,500 is by virtue of its men's automatic qualification and \$37,500 for the women's. If the conference determines that it will spend \$60,000 of the conference grant funds on basketball officiating improvement then at least \$15,000 must be allocated to women's basketball officiating (one-fourth, in proportion to the \$37,500/ \$150,000 split).]



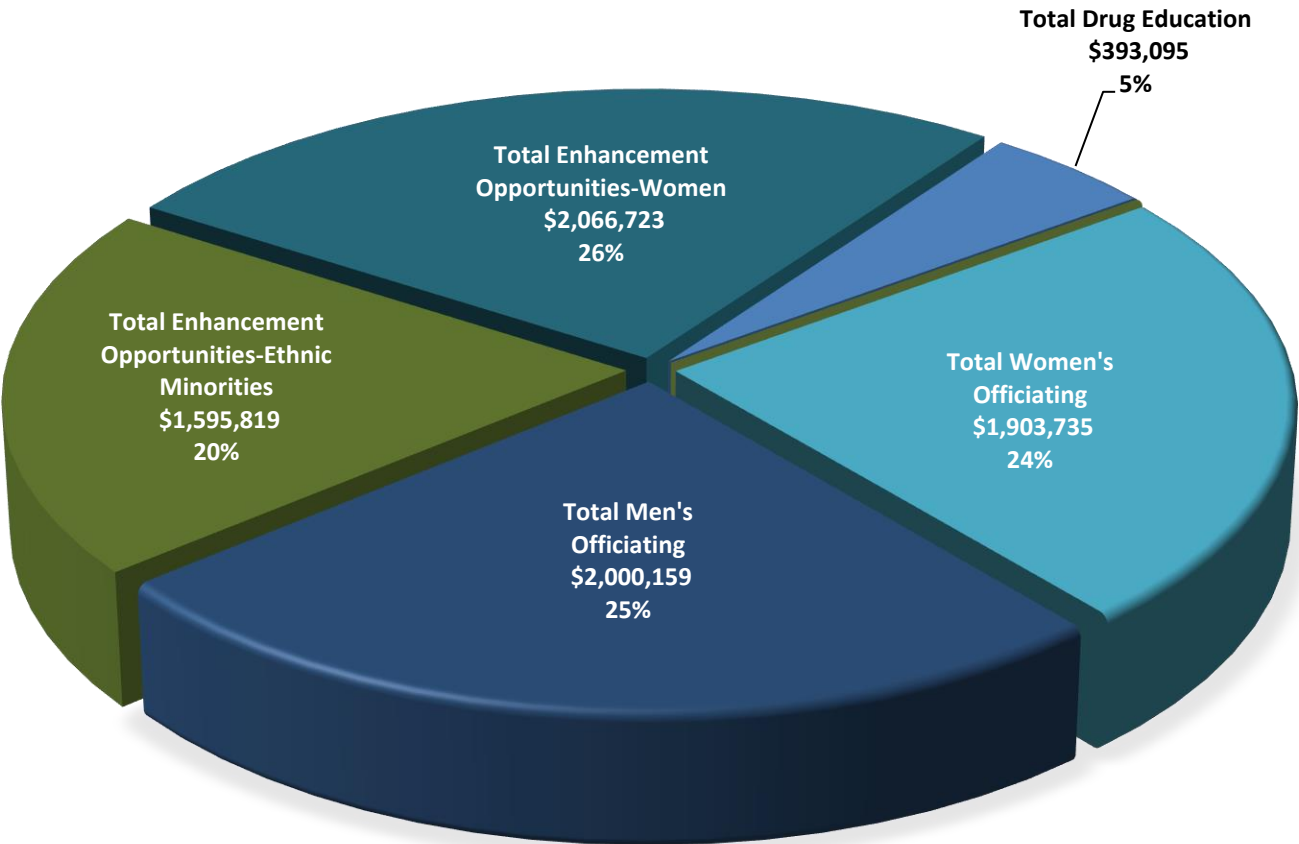
Conferences will complete an annual report of uses form. This form outlines the Conference Grant fund's uses within the approved stated areas.

- Men's officiating.
- Women's officiating.
- Sports wagering and compliance.
- Drug education.
- Enhancement opportunities – women.
- Enhancement opportunities – ethnic minorities.
- Enhance diversity and inclusion efforts.
- Enhance health and safety of student-athletes, coaches and administrators (including mental health).

This information is utilized by membership as well as NCAA officiating, health and safety, and inclusion groups to increase awareness of membership initiatives.

CONFERENCE GRANTS | 2017-18 reported uses

---



## EQUAL CONFERENCE FUND | description

---

The equal conference fund is distributed to active Division I basketball playing conferences. In 2018, each automatic qualifying unit was approximately \$273,500 based on units earned from 2012 to 2017. The 2019 Equal Conference Fund will be sent in mid-April based on units earned from 2013 to 2018. There are no reporting requirements for the equal conference fund. Conferences are encouraged, but not required, to distribute the fund equally among all member institutions.

A multisport conference is defined as an entity that is comprised of at least seven-member institutions that are classified as active Division I for eight preceding academic years.

Automatic qualifier status for basketball is determined by Bylaws 31.3.4.1 and 31.3.4.5.

Independent institutions are not eligible for distributions from the Equal Conference Distribution fund.

Conference realignment:

- a. A new Division I multi-sport conference in year one would receive one-sixth of the amount of the distribution; in year two: one third; in year three: half, and so forth until the full value of the conference distribution is provided in year six and beyond.
- b. If a conference notifies the NCAA that it has ceased operations no revenue will be distributed to that entity.
- c. Impact of Division I multi-sport conference status (Bylaw 20.02.5):
  - i. During the two-year grace period, a conference will still accrue units and receive revenue distribution.
  - ii. By the end of the two-year grace period, if the conference meets the active Division I multi-sport conference requirements, it will maintain all the unit(s) earned by its member institutions over the six-year rolling period.
  - iii. After the two-year grace period, if the conference still does not meet the active Division I multi-sport conference requirements, units previously earned over the six-year rolling period by the automatic qualifier(s) for conference will be transferred to the Basketball Performance Fund as at-large units and be distributed to the institution that earned the unit(s).
    - a. In the rare case that such a conference subsequently reconstitutes and meets the Division I multi-sport conference requirements, sometime after the two-year grace period, it will be treated as a new conference, for the purposes of unit accrual and revenue distribution.

# STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND | description

(Special Assistance Fund and Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund)

---

The Student Assistance Fund (SAF) is distributed to conference offices in mid-June and is segregated into two funds; the Special Assistance Fund and the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund. The only distinction between these funds is the calculation methodology. Data used in the calculation for the Student Assistance Fund was captured within the Membership Financial Reporting System. As a guiding principle, the SAF shall be used to assist student-athletes in meeting financial needs that arise in conjunction with participation in intercollegiate athletics, enrollment in an academic curriculum or to recognize academic achievement as determined by conference offices. Accordingly, direct receipt of SAF funds shall not be included in determining the permissible amount of financial aid that a member institution may award to a student-athlete. The fund should not be used to replace existing budget items.

Division I student-athletes are eligible to receive SAF benefits, including international, regardless of whether they are grants-in-aid recipients, have demonstrated need, have either exhausted eligibility or no longer participate due to medical reasons. However, no prospective student-athlete shall be eligible to receive SAF funds.

Pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 15.01.6.1, member institutions and conferences shall not use SAF for the following:

- a. Salaries and Benefits.
- b. Tuition and fees, room and board, and required course-related books during a regular term (other than summer school) for student-athletes with remaining eligibility.
- c. Capital improvements.
- d. Stipends.
- e. Competition related travel expenses for an ineligible student-athlete.
- f. Development opportunities, such as:
  - i. Fees and other expenses associated with participation in a sports camp or clinic.
  - ii. Fees and other expenses associated with private sports-related instruction.
  - iii. Fees for other athletic development experiences (e.g., greens fees, batting cage rental).
  - iv. Expenses associated participation in a foreign tour.

The responsibility for oversight and administration of the fund, including interpretations, rests solely with the conferences. The Division I Board of Directors establishes the guiding principles of the fund.

Conferences will be required to report annually, to the NCAA national office, the amount of funds used in each category.

Newly active Division I institutions will receive the student-athlete Pell grant portion within its first academic year. Newly active Division I institutions shall qualify to begin receiving revenue distributions related to Grants-in-Aid and Sports Sponsorship within its third academic year as an active Division I member (Bylaw 20.5.3). The broad-based calculations are based on prior year information which in this case would be the institution's second active year as a Division I institution.

An institution that does not meet legislated (Bylaw 20.9.3.3.8) NCAA Division I sports-sponsorship minimum requirements will not receive Student Assistance Fund (SAF/SAOF) attributable to the Sports Sponsorship component of the distribution, even if the institution received a waiver of the sports-sponsorship requirements. Regardless of the number of sports sponsored, an institution will receive a value of zero when minimum sports sponsorship requirements are not met. This exclusion does not impact the Grants-in-Aid portion of the SAF.

Independent institutions are eligible to receive the Student Assistance Fund and are responsible to submit a report of uses to the national office.

### **SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

The Special Assistance Fund has three components to the calculation, as follows with the percentage of the fund allocated to each component noted in parentheses along with the 2018 approximate unit value:

1. Prior academic year number of Pell grants by institution (70%) (\$418).
2. Prior academic year number of grants-in-aid equivalencies by institution (15%) (\$44).
3. Prior academic year number of sports sponsored by institution (15%) (\$419).

Pell Grant Data:

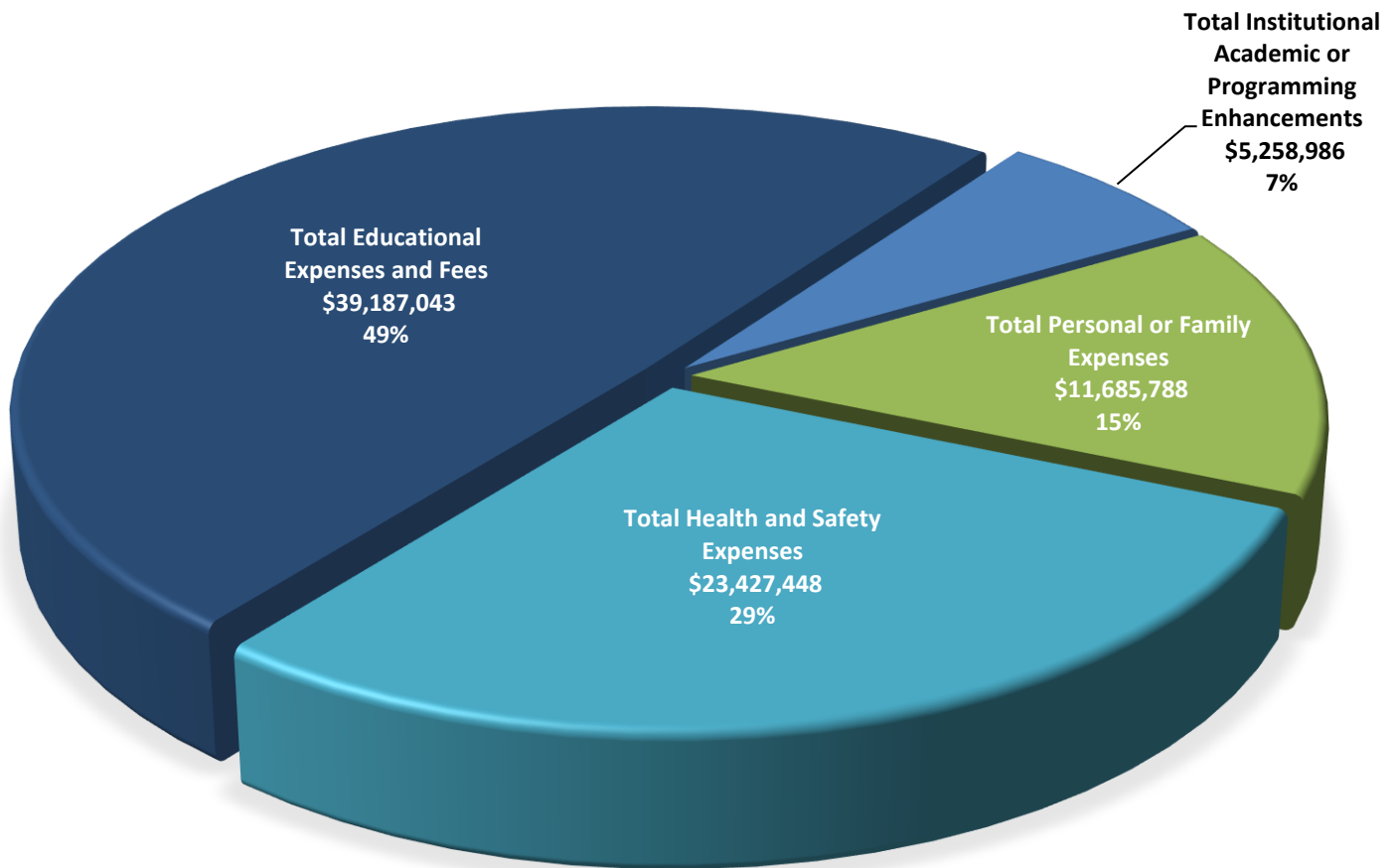
- a. Only sports in which the NCAA conducts championships competition (which meet the minimum contests and participant requirements of Bylaw 20.9.6.3) and emerging sports for women are valid for revenue distribution purposes.
- b. Only student athletes are countable for the Pell Grant submission (omit practice players).
- c. Student athletes should only be counted once on the Pell Grant submission.
- d. Only Pell Grants that have been awarded are countable for the Pell Grant submission (full, semester, summer).

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE OPPORTUNITY FUND**

The Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund (SAOF) includes the imposed Division I Committee on Infractions (COI) fines collected in the previous fiscal year. The COI fine amount will vary from year to year. The fund amount is calculated using the proportion of 'broad-based' distributions. Two-thirds of the fund are allocated based on the current year submission for grants-in-aid while the remaining one-third is allocated based on the current year submission for sports sponsorship. The 2018 unit value for the Grants-in-Aid portion was approximately \$92 and the Sports Sponsorship was approximately \$11,151.

## STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND | 2017-18 reported uses

---



**Proposal for Voting Action by  
America East Board of Presidents  
-Health and Safety Policies-**

The America East Administration Group recommends the following voting action for consideration by the Board of Presidents. The supporting rationale for these action items are included in Supplement 8-a as background information.

1. **Coverage at home athletics events.** Recommend codification of an existing practice that requires athletic trainers to cover home competitions and clarifies that this is mandatory for conference and non-conference competitions.
  - This requires **adoption** by the Board of Presidents.
  
2. **Hot and cold weather policies.** Recommend adoption of hot and cold weather policies, as specified in Supplement 8-a.
  - This requires **adoption** by the Board of Presidents.

## 2018-19 Health & Safety Committee Report

### Action Items

The Health & Safety Committee has spent the past year developing two policies with the intention of creating further safety measures for America East student-athletes, while eliminating subjectivity and confusion around weather-related decision making. The Health & Safety Committee unanimously supports both policies and CCC has reviewed and subsequently endorsed the policy recommendations as well during their March 21, 2019 conference call. The two policies were also reviewed by the conference's legal counsel and were found to "be well-reasoned and, in the case of the weather policy, well supported by appropriate legal and scientific authority." Therefore, the Health & Safety Committee and Administration Group recommends adoption of the following two policies by the Board of Presidents.

<b>Action Item No. 1</b>
--------------------------

#### ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES – OPERATING POLICIES

E. Health & Safety. ~~Medical Aid.~~

1. **Athletic Training Coverage.** ~~A certified athletic trainer and/or doctor shall be supplied by the host institution at all America East Conference regular season and championships.~~ **All home athletic competitions, both conference and non-conference, for America East-sponsored sports must be covered by a certified member of the home institution's athletic training staff and/or team physician.**

Rationale. This policy will ratify an existing practice that an athletic trainer covers home competitions and clarifies that this is mandatory for conference and non-conference competitions.

<b>Action Item No. 2</b>
--------------------------

#### ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES – OPERATING POLICIES

E. Health & Safety. ~~Medical Aid.~~

2. **Hot/Cold Weather.** **To limit risk of heat or cold illness or injury, all home athletic competitions, both conference and non-conference, shall be governed by the following:**
  - a. **The designated technology of the host institution will be the measurement tool to determine the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) or Heat Index, in the case of heat, and the Windchill Index, in the case of cold.**



- b. To make a determination about the competition, the host institution must refer to the temperature that is projected for the duration of the competition. In sports where a competition event (e.g., track and field meet) or a series of competitions (e.g. baseball, softball) span multiple days, decisions must be made separately for each competition.
- c. If a competition has started, it shall continue, within reason and assuming the absence of an event (e.g. rainstorm, snowstorm, relative humidity increase) during the competition that causes a substantial change in temperature. If the conditions do change and the participants' health and safety are at risk, the host athletic training staff and designated home game administrator, in conjunction with the head official, shall be empowered to determine whether to delay or discontinue the competition.
- d. Specific required actions for hot weather are indicated in Table 1 and specific required actions for cold weather are indicated in Table 2.

**Table 1 – Hot Weather.**

<u>Sport(s)</u>	<u>WBGT (°F)</u>	<u>Heat Index (°F)</u>	<u>Required Action</u>
<u>Soccer</u> <u>Women's</u> <u>Lacrosse</u>	<u>&gt;90°</u>	<u>&gt;104°</u>	<u>Cancel event</u>
	<u>82° - 89.9°</u>	<u>90° - 104°</u>	<u>Increase half-time; allow water break mid-way through each half</u>
<u>Cross Country</u> <u>Field Hockey</u> <u>Track &amp; Field</u> <u>Men's Lacrosse</u> <u>Baseball</u> <u>Softball</u>	<u>&gt;90°</u>	<u>&gt;104°</u>	<u>Cancel event</u>
	<u>82° - 89.9°</u>	<u>90° - 104°</u>	<u>Standard precautions and refer to "Heat Procedure Guidelines" (Appendix A)</u>

**Table 2 – Cold Weather.**

<b><u>Sport(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Windchill Index (°F)</u></b>	<b><u>Required Action</u></b>
<b><u>Soccer</u></b> <b><u>Field Hockey</u></b> <b><u>Cross Country</u></b> <b><u>Lacrosse</u></b>	<b><u>&lt;5°</u></b>	<b><u>Cancel event</u></b>
	<b><u>5-20°</u></b>	<b><u>Shorten introductions; extend halftime; use portable heaters (if available)</u></b>
	<b><u>&gt;20°</u></b>	<b><u>Standard precautions</u></b>
<b><u>Track &amp; Field</u></b> <b><u>Baseball</u></b> <b><u>Softball</u></b>	<b><u>&lt;32°</u></b>	<b><u>Cancel event</u></b>
	<b><u>≥32°</u></b>	<b><u>Standard precautions (Use portable heaters, if available)</u></b>

Rationale. This policy will create additional safety protections for America East student-athletes, as the current NCAA policies for weather are vague and non-sport specific. Additionally, there is often confusion and subjectivity in determining when competitions should and should not be played because each institution has differing hot/cold weather policies; therefore, the consistency will better protect student-athletes within the conference and provide a consistent standard for athletic training staff and sport administrators to apply.

### **Informational Items**

#### **1. Health & Safety events.**

- a. Health & Safety Summit. The conference hosted its fourth annual Health & Safety Summit at UMass Lowell on May 29-30. Over 70 athletic trainers, team physicians and other health-related athletics personnel attended, which is the largest number of participants in the summit's four-year history.
- b. Mental Health Workshop. Based on the mental health recommendations approved in June 2018, the conference added a workshop focused exclusively on mental health to the second day of this year's Health & Safety Summit. The workshop included presentations and panels on the impact of sleep deficiency and disorders on health, confidentiality and communication best practices, transition periods and their effects on student-athlete mental health, balancing empathy and accountability. The workshop also featured a

presentation from keynote speakers Kym and Mark Hilinski, who lost their son to suicide in 2018 and co-founded Hilinski's Hope to help tackle the mental health crisis facing student-athletes. Institutions were encouraged to invite their athletics department personnel along with their counseling and psychological services personnel and the total attendance was over 90 attendees for this workshop. The conference will explore creating a future standalone event focused on mental health for the membership based on the strong and growing interest.

## **2. Mental Health Standard Practices.**

- a. Standard Practices implementation. Institutions are aware of the Mental Health Standard Practices that are required to be in place by the start of the 2019-20 academic year. The conference has and will continue to assist institutions to ensure they are successfully implemented.
- b. Needs assessments. In conjunction with the Standard Practices implementation, each institution, via their respective Health & Safety Committee member, was responsible for completing a Needs Assessment and Planning document twice in 2018-19, an initial assessment in October 2018 and an updated assessment in April 2019. Each institution has made significant progress towards having all Standard Practices fully implemented by fall of 2019. The practices that have proven to be the most challenging to implement are quarterly SAAC meetings, pre-participation examination screening for mental health, and creation of a mental health care team. The conference will continue to provide resources and assistance to ensure all institutions have reached fully implemented status.

**America East Conference  
Health & Safety Initiative  
Two-Year Roadmap  
2019-20 and 2020-21**

**Staff Liaisons**

- Kate Bergstrom, Associate Commissioner, Internal Operations
- Marsha Florio, Executive Director, Academic Consortium

**Background**

The conference and its members continue to invest in and reaffirm their commitment to the health and safety of all student-athletes. Over the next two years the conference plans to further expand those efforts to ensure that it maintains its position as a leader in student-athlete mental health, as well as other student-athlete welfare initiatives, as a critical aspect of supporting and enhancing a complete student-athlete experience. In addition to current work and efforts of the conference's Health & Safety Committee, the annual Health & Safety Summit for sports medicine staffs, and the America East SAAC's Better Together mental health initiative, the conference will work over the next two years to achieve the following objectives.

**Objectives**

- 1) Develop conference-wide student-athlete health and safety standards and best practices that ensure consistency and a high standard of care throughout the entire membership.**
  - a. Implement hot/cold weather policies in certain sports and track the impact on involved parties with adjustments, as necessary (pending adoption in June 2019).
  - b. Create eating disorder guidelines, resources and best practices with the assistance of experts in this area.
  - c. Explore opportunities to raise the level of protection and care for all America East student-athletes, primarily through policy and practices of athletic training departments.
- 2) Expand the existing mental health initiative through: (a) increased education, awareness and policy standards; (b) creation of a stand-alone, in-person educational event, and (c) partnerships with industry organizations and leaders.**
  - a. Upon full implementation of the Mental Health Standard Practices in fall 2019, reconvene the Mental Health Working Group, in conjunction with Health & Safety Committee, to examine areas for increased education, awareness and policy standards.
  - b. Create an additional in-person, educational mental health event (e.g., Mental Health Workshop) for student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and staff in 2019-20.

- c. Broaden partnerships and relationships with industry organizations and leaders in the space to leverage their expertise and provide additional resources and access to the membership.
  - d. Create guidelines, resources and best practices around care for student-athletes transitioning out of sport (e.g., injury, graduation).
- 3) In conjunction with the America East Academic Consortium (AEAC), establish an institutional mental health research collaboration across the membership to examine the implications of mental health conditions on student-athletes and the general student population.**
- a. Focus research on mental health, as America East has proven itself as a leader in the space through education, awareness and policy work.
  - b. The Board of Presidents has expressed an interest in conference initiatives serving as a model for general student population. This is an opportunity to leverage that connection through an academic-based collaboration.
  - c. Action items needed to begin this objective:
    - 1. Determine specific area of mental health for prospective research.
    - 2. Identify America East institution faculty to conduct research.
    - 3. Secure grant funding for faculty to complete research.

### **Measuring Progress**

In 2019-20, the conference will measure progress towards achieving objectives by:

- 1) Evaluating the effectiveness and value of the new policies (pending adoption in June 2019) by surveying ATC staffs.
- 2) Reconvening the MHWG and student-athlete subgroup to articulate a clearer definition of success and subsequently setting institutional targets to achieve that success.
- 3) Identifying a topic of research for the AEAC collaboration through focus groups and engaging relevant faculty.
- 4) Submitting grant funding applications to various organizations.

### **Membership Involvement**

The conference will utilize certain committees and constituency groups to assist in meeting these objectives. The Health & Safety Committee will be the primary oversight body to this work. Additional involvement may include but is not limited to:

- 1) Student-Athlete Engagement Committee
- 2) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- 3) Institutional athletic trainers & team physicians

- 4) Mental Health Working Group (formed 2017)
- 5) AEAC

**America East Academic Consortium  
Annual Report – June 2019**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the status of the America East Academic Consortium (AEAC), and to announce plans and paths forward for future activities. As a reminder, this was the first year in which managing oversight of the AEAC shifted from the Provosts to the Board of Presidents, as determined at the Board's June 2018 meeting. This structural shift opened additional liaising opportunities by the new Executive Director in her first full academic year to a broader constituency of campus stakeholders and yielded more programming ideas for the future. This report provides an overview of key actions over the past year to further the **reach and impact** of the AEAC, thereby **creating value** for the member universities of the Conference.

Finally, it should be noted that the primary objective for 2018-19 to implement at least two new initiatives or programs was successfully achieved indicating promise for continued growth of the AEAC under its current leadership and structure.

### **Ongoing Initiatives from Prior Years**

**Program Showcase.** Supported by the Board last June, this initiative continued, offering visitations at three host locations (Binghamton, Maine, Vermont) for the 2018-19 academic year. Visitations allow faculty and/or staff members from one institution to visit the campus of another to engage in a learning opportunity.

Although several communications regarding host sites and descriptions were circulated through both the provosts, presidents, and faculty athletic representatives there was only "match" made with expressed interest, but based on scheduling conflicts between the involved parties, no visits occurred. This is a difficult initiative to implement without consistent interaction and engagement with a campus liaison. Discussing the designation of a campus liaison to work directly with the AEAC may be a possible alternative to consider in the future.

#### **Plans for 2019-20**

Based on the lack of engaged interest, the AEAC staff intends to reduce the level of time invested in this initiative (e.g. seeking out hosts and prospective visitors), while still offering to facilitate introductions, meetings and visits as a general service and offering of the consortium. It is hoped that as the consortium expands its overall network across campuses through other initiatives, this program can organically grow in future years.

**Hack AE.** The third annual hackathon took place on March 2-3, 2019 at the University of Maine. Hack AE 2019 turned its focus to small farmers and other independent agricultural and agricultural-

dependent businesses. Unlike previous years, Hack AE 2019 extended invitations to both graduate and undergraduate students outside of the conference in an effort to bring together a more diverse cross-disciplinary skill set to address the integration of technology with the economic conditions of small agricultural businesses in the AgTech space. Over the course of the weekend, students spoke with representatives from BAE Systems, Google, the University of Maine's Wireless Sensor Networks Lab (WiSe-Net), the New Media/School of Computer and Information Sciences, as well as various small farmers from the surrounding Bangor area.

Initial pre-registration numbers were strong with close to 130 hackers pre-registered including students from 37 different universities and six of the nine America East institutions. While the event was a success in terms of the experience provided to participating students, the final turnout for the event was a disappointing 42 students, despite strong marketing efforts through the University of Maine, the AEAC and Major League Hacking. Snow on both days contributed to the low turnout. Although over half of the conference schools were represented at the event, only 53 of the pre-registered 130 hackers were from America East institutions. Efforts by the organizing committee to identify the appropriate points of contact on each campus to assist with event promotion and transportation arrangements in the weeks leading up to the hackathon proved difficult.

#### Plans for 2019-20

The AEAC staff plans to discuss with the primary hackathon contacts on each campus the best manner for planning a 2019-20 event within the next two months. Hackathons remain immensely popular in higher education as evidenced by Major League Hacking sponsoring over 200 hackathons alone in 2018; however, the saturation of these events on our campuses (four of nine member institutions host their own annual events) and in nearby cities may be evidence that greater attention needs to be given to the timing, location and theme of an AEAC event in future years. Alternatively, the AEAC will seek input on other emerging student engagement activities in this space that may yield increased participation.

### **New Programs Launched in 2018-19**

**College Fair and School Counselor Meetings.** In early December the AEAC hosted a full-day meeting with admissions and enrollment colleagues across the membership. In addition to discussing general admissions-related trends and challenges, attendees agreed on organizing and hosting the first annual AEAC College Fair for prospective students and families and two school counselor meetings for high school guidance counselors in the Chicago region May 20-21, 2019. The group identified Chicago as a target to explore an emerging market to reach out-of-state students given the declining trends of college age students in the Northeast. All nine institutions attended this two-day event.

Seventy-two school counselors and consultants from over 40 public and private school districts, representing five Chicago counties, registered for the event. Admissions staff from America East



institutions met with 40 school counselors at breakfast and luncheon events held on May 21. Attendance at the prospective student college fair, which was not the main focus of the planning efforts and outreach, was significantly less, with only six students attending the evening event.

#### Plans for 2019-20

Based on the success of this inaugural event, the admissions group has already started plans for a 2019-20 event. Given the high interest among the school counselor community (as opposed to prospective students), the emphasis will remain on this school counselor group as the target market for future events. As noted above, with the declining rates of the college age population over the next several years, the admissions group believes this is an excellent and efficient mechanism to expand beyond the Northeast geographic footprint.

**Research Symposium.** In partnership with Binghamton University, the AEAC co-hosted its inaugural year research symposium on April 12, 2019. This was a pilot symposium for the AEAC to assess the level of interest by students and faculty across the membership with Binghamton willing to extend invitations to other AEAC members as part of the experiment.

The goal of the event is to bring together students, faculty, and staff engaged in research, scholarship, and creative collaborations from all nine America East institutions. The event showcases the diversity of undergraduate research and creative interdisciplinary collaborations across the conference membership and provides a venue to share the results of multidisciplinary research.

With only a few weeks of planning, 10 UMass Lowell students traveled to Binghamton to present their research as part of Binghamton's Research Days. Posters from the visiting students included *The Role of Self-Esteem on Alcohol Attitudes Among University Students*, *Assessing the Viability Soft Robotics for Bio-Inspired Flight*, and *Emerging Solutions for Microplastic Pollution in the Environment*.

#### Plans for 2019-20

Based on the success of the pilot at Binghamton, UMass Lowell has agreed to host the second annual symposium for the 2019-20 academic year.

**Community of Practice – Engineering and Computing.** A fall 2019 meeting is in the planning stages for America East engineering and computing deans to meet on UMBC's campus in October 2019 to discuss how to elevate the potential in these programs of study at each campus. Possible ideas include cross-campus teams for international or national engineering competitions, recruiting prospective undergraduate students, undergraduate research interns and graduate students, and the sharing of best practices and collaborative technical or educational research projects across the membership, such as a multi-campus National Science Foundation engineering education research project focused on greater student or faculty diversity.

### Future Initiatives

As previously mentioned, significant time has been devoted to establishing key contacts and relationships across the campus membership to improve AEAC connectivity and awareness, while identifying opportunities for institutional collaboration. Plans and paths forward for future activities include:

**Mental Health Research Collaboration.** In conjunction with the America East Conference Health & Safety Initiative, establish an institutional mental health research collaboration across the membership to examine the implications of mental health conditions on student-athletes and the general student population.

**Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (Lockdown).** Host a “lockdown” competition event around cyber-defense and cyber-security at the University at Albany. There is growing interest in this field of study and research and the AEAC is in position to collaborate in this area.

**Esports/Gaming Competition.** Organize regular season online competition with a championship tournament hosted by the AEAC, possibly held in conjunction with an America East sport championship. Discussion has already begun with a third-party who aims to facilitate esports/gaming as part of intramural programs on each campus.

**Customized International Immersion Experience.** Create a customized course open to students at all nine universities taught by faculty from America East institutions, in addition to immersive social/cultural activities, lectures and workshops to enhance each student’s identity as emerging global citizens. The thesis behind this idea is to create opportunities for faculty who wish to teach these types of international courses/programs, but have low student interest on their own campus, which then creates more opportunities for students across the membership as well.

**Boston-based Internship Opportunities.** Organize and facilitate internships at key Boston companies and organizations for students across the membership who may not otherwise have access to the rich volume of organizations and companies in a highly concentrated area.

### Key Potential Partnerships and Opportunities

Listed below are key organizations with which the AEAC has held initial conversations for potential collaborations in the future:

- MIT Innovation Initiative
- MassChallenge
- Advanced Cyber Security Center
- BAE Systems
- JPMorgan Chase
- Kronos
- Mission Control



MEMORANDUM

May 3, 2019

TO: NCAA Division I Presidential Forum Members and Division I Conference Commissioners (with a copy to NCAA Division I Collegiate Commissioners Association Compliance Administrators and select NCAA staff members)

FROM: Frank Gilliam, chair, Presidential Forum and chancellor University of North Carolina at Greensboro

SUBJECT: Requesting Feedback on Academic Misconduct and Academic Violation Concepts.

**The purpose of this memorandum is to ask every Division I conference to discuss the enclosed information and provide one written conference perspective not later than July 1.**

The NCAA Division I Board of Directors asked the Division I Presidential Forum to lead a membership review of Division I academic misconduct legislation. The Forum has been overseeing this review for the past 16 months and has developed concepts for membership input. I want to thank the Forum members, and in particular the members of the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum Steering Committee, who have spent considerable time discussing the concepts contained in the enclosed document.

It is inevitable that such major topics garner diverse perspectives, but I believe the concepts presented represent alternatives that balance institutional autonomy and NCAA regulation which helps better ensure not only fair competition, but more importantly the academic success and degree completion of all of our student-athletes. During the last several Forum meetings, we have discussed academic misconduct, and Forum members are prepared to help lead a conversation with their presidential colleagues during spring and summer conference meetings.

In order to help familiarize conference office staff with the concepts, the NCAA staff will schedule a conference call and invite conference office staff to participate.

After receiving all conference input and the feedback of key governance bodies, the Forum Steering Committee in conjunction with the Division I Board of Directors will finalize the concepts and ask the NCAA Division I Council, if appropriate, to sponsor legislation for the 2019-20 cycle.

**Please provide your written feedback using the enclosed feedback form to Bridget Rigney ([brigney@ncaa.org](mailto:brigney@ncaa.org)) not later than July 1. If you have questions about this request, please contact Diane Dickman ([ddickman@ncaa.org](mailto:ddickman@ncaa.org)).**

I appreciate your time and engagement on this important matter.

Thank you.

Enclosure

**Academic Misconduct / Academic Violation Concepts  
Feedback Form**

[Note: Important background information is contained in the attached document.]

**Please provide this form to Bridget Rigney at [brigney@ncaa.org](mailto:brigney@ncaa.org) not later than July 1.**

Name of Conference or Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

***Concept #1: Overarching bylaw that would capture systemic, willful disregard for academic integrity.***

Support concept? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Support some kind of “guardrails” before changing this bylaw  
(e.g., presidential review)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

***Concept #2: Changes that improve clarity and readability but do not change substance.***

Support concept? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

***Concept #3: Provide institutions with best practices to help prevent academic violations impacting student-athletes.***

Support concept? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Support consideration of institutions’ practices for reviewing issues of academic  
integrity for student-athletes as a potential mitigating or aggravating factor in an  
academic violation infractions case? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:

***Concept #4: Status quo – make no changes.***

Support no changes to the legislation at this time? ☐ Yes, make no changes. ☐ No, do want some changes.

Comments:

***Overall Comments:***

Other changes you suggest?

# Defining the NCAA's Role in Addressing Academic Violations

## *Request for Membership Feedback Regarding Concepts Under Consideration*

**Request for membership input:** The purpose of this document is to ask every Division I conference and key governance groups to discuss the following information and provide one conference or committee perspective not later than July 1 to help inform future discussions and final recommendations. Please use the feedback form provided.

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Academic integrity is of paramount importance in higher education and is among the NCAA's highest priorities. The Division I Board of Directors and the membership want to provide student-athletes with a sound educational experience that contributes to their personal well-being and will help them be successful after graduation. The NCAA's involvement in regulating academic integrity is predicated on fair competition on the playing field involving college students competing against other college students, academic standards that lead to graduation, and the necessity of student-athletes earning the requisite credits/grades.

### Background and timeline for review.

The Division I Board of Directors charged the Division I Presidential Forum to oversee a review of the NCAA's proper role in addressing academic violations that impact student-athlete eligibility and/or fair competition.

Division I adopted improved legislation in 2016 that better balances deference to institutional autonomy and NCAA oversight in academic matters, and the membership to date has not indicated that an overhaul of the current legislation is needed. However, various "gaps" have nonetheless surfaced that may be problematic, and the Presidential Forum has worked over the last several months to develop concepts to address the concerns. The Forum has intentionally not yet taken formal positions on the concepts; rather, Forum members will work with their conference commissioners during spring/summer conference presidential meetings to gather input. Key Division I governance committees (e.g., NCAA Division I Council, Committee on Academics, Committee on Infractions, Infractions Appeals Committee) will also provide comments.

The following bullets summarize the past year of work on this topic:

- Academic violations have been a focus of the division for several years, including a 2016 legislative revision that improved the application of academic rules but is just now starting to be applied in new cases. While the 2016 legislation is broadly considered a vast improvement, some membership groups have urged further exploring whether any "gaps" exist in the new legislation (this central theme is addressed later in this document).
- In April 2018, the Division I Board of Directors made academic misconduct one of its strategic areas of emphasis and assigned its highest advisory body, the Presidential Forum, to review the Association's role in academic violations involving or impacting student-athletes. The Board's decision was reinforced by the Commission on College Basketball, whose report included a reference to ongoing concerns about the NCAA's proper role in regulating academic matters, and by the Division I Committee on Infractions, which sent a written request to the Board seeking such a review.

#### ***From the Board's Strategic Areas of Emphasis:***

*"Examine NCAA expectations related to academic misconduct to assure continued consistency with the practices of higher education while recognizing the Division I membership's collective interest in the fairness of competition and the integrity of the student-athlete experience."*

- The Presidential Forum Steering Committee created a small working group in January 2018 to help inform the review of academic integrity legislation, policy and interpretations. The working group was composed of members from the Division I Committee on Academics, Division I Committee on Infractions and Division I Infractions Appeals Committee – the three membership bodies that interact most directly with academic violations. The working group’s recommendations contributed significantly to the concepts described later in this document.
- The Forum met April 30 to further hone the concepts and pose questions to help shape the membership input that is so critical in this process. That feedback will be gathered through the spring and summer conference and NCAA governance meetings, with Forum members providing background and context during conversations within their conferences.
- Any changes to NCAA legislation as a result of this review would be considered in late winter/spring 2020 for potential application that year.

---

### **What are the problems to be solved and issues to be addressed?**

1. Balance deference to the academy and student-athlete eligibility/fair competition.
  - Beyond student-athlete success and well-being, academic integrity is also connected to eligibility and fair competition. Accordingly, the NCAA has a role to play in regulating academic matters involving student-athletes. The NCAA does not wish to insert itself in the academic integrity arena to interfere with institutional autonomy; on the contrary, the NCAA rightfully acknowledges the institution’s authority to regulate academic integrity for all students. However, because student-athletes interact with and may be influenced by institutional staff members and boosters who seek to keep the student-athlete academically eligible to compete, it becomes the NCAA’s obligation to be responsive to those unique circumstances. While it is imperative to honor institutional autonomy in regulating academic matters within the academy, the Division I membership also has a vested interest in ensuring fair competition.
  - Inherent in that balance is a concern about overregulating institutions that already “do the right thing” and underregulating those that do not.
2. Restore public and membership confidence in the NCAA core value of academics.
  - Academic misconduct is particularly damaging, not only to the institution at which the violations occurred but also to the entire Association and certainly the student-athlete’s academic experience is compromised. When one school behaves poorly and the NCAA cannot act, it impacts the entire Association.
3. Position the NCAA to be responsive when “adults” (e.g., coaches, advisors, boosters) commit egregious academic violations to ensure a student-athlete’s eligibility or otherwise compromise fair competition. Current legislation may be particularly vulnerable in cases when an institution has no or sparse policies to address the behavior in question.
  - Academic integrity is at the core of higher education. Colleges and universities have layers of review/evaluation/approval to ensure their academic offerings meet the highest of standards. While there is an underlying desire to treat student-athletes and general students the same when it comes to campus academic policies and requirements, several factors are unique to the student-athlete environment, including the number and types of nonstudents who influence the student-athlete academic experience. That includes coaches, advisors, tutors, athletics administrators/staff and boosters who often have an interest in ensuring the student-athlete becomes or remains academically eligible to compete. While institutional policies regarding academic integrity address all students, they may or may not relate to these other individuals who interact uniquely with student-athletes. It is imperative that student-athletes do their own academic work, and nonstudents who interact with them must not unduly influence the completion of any of that work.

---

## Items approved or underway.

Significant changes are already in place or underway that have (or could) improve the regulatory environment.

- **Approved.**

- The Division I membership has generally indicated that the framework adopted in 2016 was a significant improvement over the prior construct, which was vague and undefined legislatively. The current legislation is widely accepted as providing greater clarity in what is and is not a violation of NCAA rules in the academic misconduct space.
- Adding “importation” of outside materials and information as part of the infractions process (a recommendation from a topical working group formed after the Commission on College Basketball issued its report). Other changes include clearer responsibility to cooperate, additional penalties for parties who do not cooperate, and protection of whistleblowers. These changes have already been approved and are now operational.
- Another result of the Commission on College Basketball was to establish an independent alternative resolution program to investigate and adjudicate select infractions cases, potentially including academic misconduct cases.

Many people believe these actions provide a solid foundation from which to consider additional changes that further strengthen NCAA rules.

- **Underway.**

- The Presidential Forum asked the Division I Council to review and examine the interpretive framework within the context of the enforcement/infractions process. A working group has been named and work on this referral has begun. The working group is expected to provide a substantive update to the Forum in October 2019.
- The Forum supported the Academic Misconduct Working Group’s recommendation to collaborate with the six regional accrediting agencies to discuss their role in academic misconduct matters.

These factors both already approved and those still underway add resources that groups within the enforcement/infractions process will have at their disposal to help adjudicate academic violations. But not all areas are covered adequately at this point, as the following section illustrates.

---

## What “gaps” in existing legislation need to be addressed?

Throughout this review, there has been recognition that the 2016 legislation improved how academic integrity was regulated and provides a solid foundation. Yet gaps remain, particularly when conduct falls outside of an institution’s written academic policies and procedures. As such, some “bad actor” behavior may go unregulated, which is what this review attempts to address. Following are areas where such gaps may exist.

1. **Lack of or sparse campus academic policies.** If a member school has no existing academic policies that address a given situation (e.g., no policies that govern faculty; no policies governing grade changes; no policies regarding independent study courses), the remaining legislative framework may be too limited in scope. While the framework is limited in scope, it *is* a mechanism devised to capture those eligibility-impacting decisions that do not conflict with institutional policy. If the institution has no policy, then several criteria must be present to find an NCAA violation (i.e., the behavior impacted eligibility to compete, involved an institutional staff member, and was not generally available to institution’s students). These specific criteria may limit the NCAA’s ability to address all “bad behavior” that falls outside an institution’s own policies.

**2. Campus academic policy violations cannot be adjudicated for some reason or result in seemingly unreasonable outcomes that may yield competitive advantages.** In some instances, campuses have effective policies governing a specified circumstance, but the policy violation is not adjudicated for some reason. The following examples illustrate what can be missed due to this “gap” in the current legislation:

- A student-athlete who was rendered eligible through a coach doing all the coursework has now turned professional, so the school does not apply its policies and does not find any institutional policy violation.
- A student-athlete opts not to participate in the campus’ academic misconduct adjudication process. The campus is therefore unable to determine whether the coach completing all of the student’s coursework was a violation of its policy.

Again, while institutional autonomy is honored in each case, most people would regard the outcomes as unreasonable.

**3. The “unimaginable” (i.e., purposeful disregard of academic norms that threatens the collegiate model).**

While the existing legislation and the concepts aimed at filling the gaps are worth considering, it is not possible to ensure that every possible scenario of academic misconduct would be captured. If an instance were to arise that clearly violates NCAA core academic values but is “unthinkable,” the legislation might not capture the situation. That’s what makes the behavior so outrageous – it is unimaginable for a school to behave in this fashion. When an institution’s behavior appears to threaten the collegiate model, some mechanism needs to provide the flexibility to capture such behavior. When the institution purposefully disregards academic norms in the effort to win, there should be no impediment to an NCAA infractions review.

---

**Forum feedback to date.**

- The Forum acknowledges that issues of institutional autonomy, fair competition and reputational impact are at play when addressing academic integrity and fairness issues.
- The Forum has expressed concern about requiring academic policies for student-athletes that are different than for regular students, or requiring supplementary regulations governing only student-athletes and institutional staff members (and boosters) in academic matters. The Forum also is concerned about the NCAA regulating specified areas that campus policies should cover, and often do.
- The Forum has expressed interest in current requirements for institutions to have written academic misconduct policies that govern all students and that alleged violations of such institutional policies are adjudicated by the institution consistent with the school’s policies. Such policies should apply in the same way to all students regardless of the extracurricular activities in which they are involved. These existing standards reinforce institutional autonomy in having each campus determine appropriate academic policies for all students and adjudicating violations of such policies on campus consistent with those policies.
- The Forum is concerned about overregulation on all Division I members, but strongly interested in knowing that those who engage in a pattern of practice of egregious acts of academic misconduct can be penalized through NCAA processes.
- The Forum believes further examination of possible preventative measures that could help each campus review academic integrity issues involving student-athletes is appropriate, including providing examples of possible options to help campuses in this regard (e.g., best practices).

\*\*\*\*\*



## CONCEPTS FOR FEEDBACK

*The following concepts have been developed for membership feedback. These concepts are not mutually exclusive. Members may support one or more, or none.*

**Concept 1: Adopt legislation to add an overarching bylaw that would capture instances of systemic, willful disregard for academic integrity as it pertains to student-athlete eligibility and/or fair competition.**

### **Factors to consider.**

- This legislation in concept would state, *“An institution may be held accountable through the NCAA infractions process in rare and extraordinary circumstances in which the value of competitive fairness is compromised in the context of student-athlete eligibility. The purpose of this provision is to address instances in which there is a pattern and practice of egregious academic malfeasance that is (1) systemic and pervasive in nature AND (2) indicates a willful disregard by the institution for academic integrity as it pertains to student-athletes.”*
- Before the enforcement staff alleges this violation in a notice of allegations, a conceptual framework was discussed in which a membership group of academicians (e.g., presidents) would review the allegation as a “guardrail” to protect deference to institutional autonomy and reduce the perception of NCAA overreach. Upon approval of the membership group, the enforcement staff may charge this bylaw in addition to or in lieu of other bylaws.
- This concept supports a strong commitment to defer to institutional decision-making on academic issues yet acknowledges the NCAA has a role to play (with appropriate guardrails) when problems exist that are systemic and pervasive and reflect willful disregard even in instances when the school believes otherwise.
- If adopted, this concept would affect the nomenclature used in NCAA bylaws in that only behaviors alleged under this overarching bylaw would be categorized as “academic misconduct.” All other behaviors would be categorized as “academic violations.” The rationale is that because the term “academic misconduct” is so damaging to an institution’s reputation, it should be reserved only for instances that are systemic and pervasive – indicating widespread institutional accountability – rather than apply to instances involving one or two “bad actors.” *(Note: If this concept is adopted, the nomenclature adjustments would be applied in the legislative changes included in Concept 2 below.)*
- Similar to alleged violations of institutional control, the enforcement staff would charge, and the Division I Committee on Infractions or the new Independent Resolution Panel would have to conclude whether the violation occurred. The charge would occur only after the enforcement staff completes its investigation, as only then are the facts fully known; the institution has provided all the information; and all interviews have been conducted.

### **Questions for membership feedback:**

1. Do you support adoption of such an overarching bylaw? Yes or No.
2. If so, do you support a membership group of academicians (e.g., presidents) reviewing the matter before the enforcement staff alleges the violation as a “guardrail” to protect deference to institutional autonomy and reduce the perception of NCAA overreach?
3. Any other comments about this concept?

\*\*\*\*\*

**Concept 2: Adopt legislation to improve the overall clarity and reinforce the intended application of the legislation Division I adopted in 2016. (See the attachment for an overview of these changes.)**

**Factors to consider.**

- The package includes the following components:
  - Consolidate all elements of academic misconduct legislation into one section of Bylaw 14 (definitions, pre-enrollment, post-enrollment).
  - Establish uniform terminology to describe the different types of academic conduct and scenarios that constitute NCAA academic integrity violations.
  - Embed the institutional determination of a policy violation into the legislative mechanics of assessing whether an NCAA academic integrity violation occurred.
- The recommended revisions simply clarify existing legislative authority in a manner that:
  - Continues to address *only* the specific types of institutional academic issues that currently constitute NCAA violations;
  - Does *not* change how the existing legislative framework applies on an individual campus, but simply restructures the legislation into a more approachable format, designed to improve understanding and simplify application; and
  - Does *not* impact how the existing legislative framework is currently used to evaluate academic incidents that occur on campus.

**Questions for membership feedback:**

1. Do you support the clarifications as noted in the attachment? Yes or No.
2. Other comments?

\*\*\*\*\*

**Concept 3: Provide institutions with “best practices” to help schools prevent academic violations for student-athletes.**

**Factors to consider.**

- This concept reinforces institutional autonomy by acknowledging that the vast majority of institutions maintain and follow their own academic policies and procedures very well and most have academic oversight committees to help prevent academic integrity issues for student-athletes. The NCAA Division I Committee on Academics could be asked to publish and periodically update suggested best practices that can assist member institutions in developing policies, practices and mechanisms to help prevent academic violations by student-athletes, institutional staff and boosters. There could include, for example, a review of campus academic policies involving grade changes; policies and procedures involving academic support personnel; and training and education of staff and coaches.
- The Academic Misconduct Working Group originally proposed requiring that each institution have an academic oversight committee appointed to review student-athlete eligibility and fair competition issues. However, because the Presidential Forum has consistently been opposed to overregulation, the concept was morphed into a more flexible approach that allows each campus to determine the most appropriate mechanism for reviewing and identifying academic integrity issues for student-athletes.

**Questions for membership feedback:**

1. Do you support this concept? Yes or No.
2. Since having a campus mechanism for reviewing issues of academic integrity for student-athletes is encouraged and not required, some within the membership have suggested that whether the institution has such a mechanism be considered either a mitigating or aggravating factor in an academic misconduct infractions case as a way to further encourage the mechanism being in place. Do you support this approach?
3. Other comments about this concept?

\*\*\*\*\*

<b>Concept 4: Allow the legislation adopted in 2016 and the new tools created as a result of the Commission on College Basketball to more fully play out before seeking alternative solutions.</b>
--

**Factors to consider.**

- This concept establishes a holding pattern that allows additional review of whether the revised legislation adopted in 2016 – which is just now starting to be applied in new cases – achieves desired outcomes. In addition, the investigative changes and the Independent Resolution Panel that came as a result of the Commission on College Basketball have yet to be fully implemented. While this concept is not a commitment to the status quo per se, it does offer a pause in the review to more fully evaluate the effects of these additions to the toolbox.
- While the current legislation became effective in 2016, cases involving post-2016 conduct are just now making their way through the pipeline. However, the ability to address certain institutional scenarios may be limited, particularly when an institution has no or insufficient policies to address the behavior, or when an institution either cannot or chooses not to find a violation.
- This option could result in egregious breaches of academic misconduct such as those noted in Concept 1, not being captured by NCAA rules.

**Questions for membership feedback:**

1. Do you support making no changes at this time? Yes or No.
2. Do you have any additional alternatives to suggest?

\*\*\*\*\*

## Concept #2 Additional Details

### Possible Academic Misconduct Noncontroversial Legislative Revisions

During its January meeting, the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum supported the academic misconduct legislation noncontroversial and editorial changes recommended by the NCAA Division I Academic Misconduct Working Group.

The recommended revisions to the legislative framework are intended to improve the overall clarity and reinforce the intended application of the legislation adopted by the Division I membership in 2016. The identified revisions simply clarify existing legislative authority in a manner that:

- Continues to address *only* the specific types of institutional academic issues that currently constitute NCAA violations;
- Does *not* change how the existing legislative framework applies on an individual campus, but simply restructures the legislation into a more approachable format, designed to improve understanding and simplify application; and
- Does *not* impact how the existing legislative framework is currently used to evaluate academic incidents that occur on campus.

In total these recommended revisions achieve the following:

1. **Consolidate all elements of academic misconduct legislation into one section of NCAA Bylaw 14 (definitions, pre-enrollment, post-enrollment) and update legislative language consistent with bylaw modernization efforts.**
  - While the 2016 changes moved all legislative authority into Bylaw 14, components of the legislation remain in separate sections. The recommended consolidation of all legislative authority into Bylaw 14.9 and revised language will ease membership evaluation and application of the legislation.
2. **Establish uniform terminology to describe the different types of academic conduct and scenarios that constitute NCAA academic integrity violations.**
  - a. The current legislation was designed to capture two categories of conduct (“academic misconduct” and “impermissible academic assistance”) identified as detrimental to the academic integrity of intercollegiate athletics. “Academic misconduct” includes institutional academic integrity policy violations that involve staff, faculty or boosters, or result in specific outcomes. “Impermissible academic assistance” captures impactful types of academic assistance or exceptions that fall outside of institutional policy. Legislatively, neither institutional approach is advantaged over the other and there is no incentive for institutions to dilute or remove existing academic integrity policies.

- b. Neither category of conduct is inherently worse than the other, but rather depends on the facts and individuals associated with the academic incident.
  - c. The recommended revision eliminates the use of the phrase “impermissible academic assistance” to describe prohibited academic conduct that is not addressed by institutional policy. The legislative criteria used to assess conduct that falls outside of institutional policy are incorporated into prohibited conduct involving staff members and boosters. The use of uniform terminology reinforces that either type of violation is contrary to the NCAA’s core academic principles, regardless of whether the underlying incident is addressed by institutional policy.
- 3. Embed the institutional determination of a policy violation into the legislative mechanics of assessing whether an NCAA academic integrity violation occurred.**
- a. The current legislation reinforces that institutions remain the proper entities to develop policies and procedures that adequately promote the academic integrity of the students and staff on their campuses.
  - b. The recommended revisions reinforce that institutions are required to adjudicate academic incidents that arise involving student-athletes or staff in accordance with existing institutional policy. In addition, the revisions clarify that all institutional policies and procedures that pertain to the academic integrity of its student-athletes or staff apply to the adjudication of academic incidents related to a student-athletes, regardless of how such policies are characterized by the institution (e.g., academic misconduct policies vs. grade change policies). Embedding this institutional responsibility into the application mechanics of the legislation solidifies how the NCAA legislation is tethered to an institution’s identification of conduct that runs afoul of its own policy.