



**REPORT OF THE  
NCAA BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
AUGUST 8, 2024, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**KEY ITEMS.**

1. The NCAA Board of Governors directed the divisional governance bodies to make the needed legislative changes to create an Association-wide committee focused on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
2. The Board of Governors approved the fiscal year 2024-25 budget proposal, effective September 1, 2024.
3. The Board of Governors approved an Association-wide budget allocation to fund the creation of the Division I Woman's Basketball Distribution Funds.
4. The Board of Governors approved an Association-wide budget allocation to fund the liability of three institutions that were active members during the damages period of the settlement but departed Division I before 2024.
5. The Board of Governors elected Linda Livingstone as chair of the board through its August 7, 2025, videoconference.

**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. **Legislative Items.**
  - **Noncontroversial Legislation – Committees – Association-wide Committees – Consolidation of the Committee on Women's Athletics, the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, the Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, and the Gender Equity Task Force.**
    - (1) Recommendation. That the divisional legislative bodies adopt noncontroversial legislation to consolidate the Committee on Women's Athletics, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, and Gender Equity Task Force into one comprehensive committee that shall focus on Association-wide issues regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
    - (2) Effective Date. Immediate (for the committee composition to be determined in spring 2025 and full implementation of the new committee in fall 2025).
    - (3) Rationale. Following the adoption of the new NCAA Constitution in January 2022, the Board of Governors began a review of Association-wide committees to determine the relevance of those committees and whether potential changes could occur to better align the committees' work with the requirements outlined in the new Constitution. The DEI Committees Review Working Group was established to conduct this charge for the four existing

DEI committees/task force. The working group met several times and collaborated with governance and membership groups to determine how best to advance DEIB principles and initiatives throughout the Association. The working group noted that:

- (a) The more comprehensive DEIB-focused committee would take the place of the Committee on Women's Athletics, the Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, the Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, and the Gender Equity Task Force.
  - (b) The committee would be tasked with cultivating equitable and inclusive experiences for student-athletes at NCAA championships and throughout college sports and advising on DEIB-related policies, rules or other NCAA matters.
  - (c) It would focus on supporting participation opportunities for student-athletes from marginalized communities and cultivating diverse leadership in college sports that reflects the increasingly diverse population of student-athletes.
- (4) Estimated budget impact. The Association will likely experience a cost savings by consolidating the existing four DEI committees/task force into one comprehensive DEIB-focused committee (e.g., reduction of meeting frequency and committee member travel, lodging and per diem).
  - (5) Student-athlete impact. A comprehensive committee will allow for a more central focus on enhancing the DEIB culture across campuses and conferences and foster a more inclusive student-athlete experience.

## 2. Nonlegislative Items.

- **Referral of the NCAA Woman of the Year Award to the NCAA Honors Committee.**
  - (1) Recommendation. That the NCAA Honors Committee consider a legislative change to amend its duties to include oversight and management of the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.; further, to remove the oversight and administration of the NCAA Woman of Year Award from the duties of the Committee on Women's Athletics.
  - (2) Effective Date. Immediate.
  - (3) Rationale. Currently, the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics oversees, manages, and selects the annual Woman of the Year Award. Given the recommendation to consolidate the four existing DEI committees/task force

(including the Committee on Women's Athletics) into one comprehensive DEIB-focused committee, the DEI Committees Review Working Group agreed that the new committee should focus on broader DEIB issues rather than oversight and management of a specific award. Additionally, the NCAA Honors Committee recently took on the oversight of two awards that had been administered separately (the NCAA Gerald R. Ford Award and the Pat Summit Award) in part to centralize oversight of the NCAA awards program. The working group agreed that the Woman of the Year Award would be best managed by the Honors Committee to increase consistency with the administration of other awards, such as the Today's Top Ten, which the Honors Committee oversees. Further, the staff that supports the Honors Committee is well-versed on the Woman of the Year Award and could streamline its award support with additional oversight.

- (4) Estimated budget impact. Potential increased expenses of the Honors Committee to add members and meetings to complete the work associated with selecting the NCAA Woman of the Year (e.g., increase of meeting frequency and committee member travel, lodging and per diem).
- (5) Student-athlete impact. None.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

1. **Welcome and announcements.** NCAA Board of Governors chair, President Linda Livingstone, convened the meeting at approximately 1:01 p.m. Eastern time and welcomed the Governors.
2. **Executive session – Evaluation of NCAA President.** The board convened in executive session to discuss the evaluation of the NCAA President.
3. **Legal update.** The board received a legal update from the NCAA Office of Legal Affairs.
4. **Consent agenda.** By way of a consent agenda, the Board of Governors approved three items including: (a) the April 25, 2024, May 8, 2024, and May 22, 2024, videoconference reports; (b) updates to the NCAA Board of Governors Policies and Procedures; and (c) the Board of Governors appointments for new members and reappointments.
5. **NCAA President's report.** NCAA President Charlie Baker provided an update on the progress made on his 2023-24 goals and also highlighted the key finds from a national office culture survey.
6. **Sports wagering update.** NCAA staff provided an update on the work of the national office regarding sports wagering. Staff specifically noted its work focused on protecting student-athlete well-being and monitoring the integrity of intercollegiate athletics competition.

Staff highlighted examples of integrity information received by staff and the handling of that information.

7. **NCAA communications update.** NCAA staff provided an update on its efforts with several campaigns to promote the NCAA and student-athletes. Specifically, staff highlighted the “Olympians Made Here” campaign, which included communications efforts before and during the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France.
8. **Update and next steps regarding congressional engagement & action.** NCAA staff provided an update on the progress being made with congressional engagement efforts. It was noted that for the first time since the Association began its efforts in this space a bill was moved out of the U.S. House Committee on Education. Staff also noted the positive impact of the advocacy from the membership, student-athletes and various third-parties that have an interest in intercollegiate athletics.
9. **Update on Board of Governors Association-wide committee review.** NCAA staff provided an update on the ongoing work of the board’s review of Association-wide committees to determine their relevance, assess whether potential changes would better align the committees’ work with the new constitution and determine how to streamline the Association-wide governance structure.
  - a. **NCAA DEI Committees Review Working Group recommendation.** NCAA staff provided an update from the DEI Committees Review Working Group, which was responsible for reviewing the Committee on Women’s Athletics, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, and Gender Equity Task Force. The working group recommended that the board direct the divisional legislative bodies to adopt noncontroversial legislation to consolidate the four DEI committees/task force into one comprehensive committee that shall focus on Association-wide issues regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. It was also noted that the working group identified the new committee’s mission, duties and composition. Staff also requested that the board approve a referral of the oversight and management of the NCAA Woman of the Year Award to the NCAA Honors Committee. Finally, staff noted that the four DEI committees/task force endorsed the two recommendations from the working group.

It was VOTED

“That the Board of Governors: (a) direct the divisional legislative bodies to adopt noncontroversial legislation to consolidate the Committee on Women’s Athletics, Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, and Gender Equity Task Force into one comprehensive committee that shall focus on Association-wide issues regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging; and (b) refer the oversight and management of the NCAA Woman of the Year Award to the NCAA Honors Committee for potential legislative change.” **Approved** (Unanimous voice vote)

- b. **NCAA Walter Byers Scholarship Committee review.** NCAA staff provided an update on the review of the Walter Byers Scholarship Committee. The committee noted that its work has not been absorbed by another governance body or national office staff, and its work is unique in administering the scholarship program. The board did not recommend a change to this committee.
  
- 10. **NCAA Board of Governors Finance and Audit Committee report.** Beth DeBauche, chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, presented the committee's reports from its July 10, 2024, and July 31, 2024, videoconferences. The board noted the following:
  - a. **Selection of external auditor.** During the July 10, 2024, videoconference, the Finance and Audit Committee received a report from NCAA staff regarding the formal competitive bid process with qualified independent accounting firms to deliver audit and tax services. The committee also reviewed a summary of the selection methodology, analysis and scoring of the finalist firms. It was noted that the committee approved Crowe LLP as the NCAA's independent accounting firm for an additional five years.
  
  - b. **Update on rollout of Post-Eligibility Insurance.** The committee discussed the rollout of the NCAA Post-Eligibility Insurance program that went into effect on August 1, 2024. Specifically, the committee discussed the development of a FAQ and how institutions can file a claim through an Incident Report Form, which is available on the NCAA website. The committee also received a report from NCAA staff regarding educational efforts conducted through summer 2024 to inform the membership and student-athletes of the program.
  
  - c. **FY 2023-24 external audit plan presented by Crowe.** The committee was joined by colleagues from Crowe LLP who reviewed the 2023-24 external audit plan. Crowe highlighted the engagement team who will conduct the audit, the scope of the audit and the timeline for delivery of services. Some discussion was focused on how the settlement would be reflected in the NCAA's financial statements, and the committee agreed that the settlement should be described as clearly as possible so that individuals can understand the impact of the settlement.
  
  - d. **FY 2024-25 NCAA Enterprise Risk Management risk assessment and internal audit plan.** The committee received a presentation from NCAA staff regarding the NCAA annual risk assessment and internal audit plan, which is an annual process that assesses several risk categories including operational, reputational, legal, financial, human and strategic risks. The committee approved the plan, as presented.
  
  - e. **Additional topics.**
    - (1) **Five-year financial outlook and FY 2023-24 financial update.** The committee received an overview of the five-year outlook and an update on

fiscal year 2023-24. Finally, the committee received a legal update from the NCAA Office of Legal Affairs.

- (2) **FY 2024-25 budget proposal.** The committee presented a recommendation for the board to approve the FY 2024-25 budget proposal. The committee discussed the Association's revenues and expenses, and the process of identifying operating expense savings in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget to support the settlement payment. It was also noted that Divisions II and III allocations will increase commensurate with the increased revenue projection.

It was VOTED

"That the Board of Governors approve the fiscal year 2024-25 budget proposal, effective September 1, 2024." **Approved** (Unanimous voice vote)

- (3) **Recommendation for funding of the Division I Women's Basketball Distribution Funds.** The committee presented a recommendation for the board to approve the use of Association-wide funding for the Division I Women's Basketball Distribution Funds. The committee noted that following fiscal year 2027-28, the funds would grow at the same rate as all other Division I revenue distribution funds. The board discussed the importance of establishing the funding for revenue distribution funds for Division I women's basketball, and how approving this recommendation demonstrates the Association's recognition and commitment to the growth of women's basketball.

It was VOTED

"That the Board of Governors approve the use of Association-wide dollars to fund up to \$25M, anticipating a build from \$15M in fiscal year 2026, \$20M in fiscal year 2027, and \$25M in fiscal year 2028, for the Division I Women's Basketball Distribution Funds; further, to specify that following fiscal year 2027-28, the funds would grow at the same rate as all other Division I revenue distribution funds." **Approved** (Unanimous voice vote)

[Note: During its August 6, 2024, videoconference, the Division I Board of Directors introduced legislation to establish the women's basketball distribution funds for a vote of the membership at the 2025 NCAA Convention. If the legislation is adopted in January 2025, the funds would pay out beginning with the 2025-26 fiscal year based on performance in the 2024-25 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball tournament.]

- (4) **Settlement update.** The committee presented a recommendation for the board to approve the use of Association-wide dollars to fund the \$6M

liability of the three institutions that were active members during the damages period but departed Division I before 2024. While the committee discussed several options to resolve the liabilities of the three schools, the committee agreed that the NCAA should use Association-wide dollars to pay the schools' liabilities over 10 years, and that the seven conferences impacted by this liability would no longer carry the liability of these exited schools. The board noted that the recommendation pertains only to the three schools that exited before 2024 and does not address liability repayment for institutions that might exit Division I in future years.

It was VOTED

“That the Board of Governors approve the use of Association-wide dollars to fund the \$6M liability of the three institutions that were active members during the damages period but departed Division I before 2024.” **Approved** (Unanimous voice vote)

[Note: The Board of Governors Finance and Audit Committee and the Division I Board of Directors Finance Committee will discuss the liability repayment for institutions that might exit Division I in future years during their meetings in October 2024.]

Finally, the board expressed its appreciation for the leadership of the chair of the committee, Beth DeBauche, as this was her last meeting due to her term expiring on the board.

11. **NCAA Sport Science Institute/NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports update.** NCAA president Charlie Baker introduced the new NCAA chief medical officer, Deena Casiero, who will begin her new role on August 12, 2024. Dr. Casiero shared her vision for the NCAA Sport Science Institute and the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sport. Thereafter, NCAA Sport Science Institute staff provided an update on various topics discussed by CSMAS during its June 2024 meeting.
12. **Board of Governors Processes and Procedures.**
  - a. **NCAA Board of Governors Executive Committee report.** President Livingstone reported on matters discussed in the Executive Committee's videoconference on August 1, 2024.
  - b. **Board of Governors chair election.** President Mary-Beth Cooper facilitated the election of the chair of the board. The board discussed the continuation of President Livingstone as chair for one additional year. It was noted that the board would also need to approve an exception to its policies and procedures as they specify that terms of chair shall not exceed two years. Finally, the board agreed that

President Livingstone's re-election as chair will provide continuity in an important time for intercollegiate athletics.

It was VOTED

"That the Board of Governors approve: (1) an exception to the board's policies and procedures to permit President Livingstone to serve a third year as the chair from the conclusion of the August 8, 2024, videoconference through the August 2025, videoconference; and (2) the re-election of President Livingstone as chair."

**Approved** (Unanimous voice vote)

[Note: President Livingstone, Baylor University, recused themselves from discussion and voting on this agenda item.]

13. **Other business.** The board did not have any other business. However, President Livingstone, other board members and various staff thanked the four board members whose terms expired at the conclusion of the videoconference for their service. The board members whose terms expired after the meeting included: Bryce Choate (Graduated Division I Student-Athlete); Commissioner Beth DeBauche (Ohio Valley Conference); President Jere Morehead (University of Georgia); and Isaiah Swann (Graduated Division III Student-Athlete).



Nadja West, MD, retired United States Army lieutenant general and 44 <sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Surgeon General.
Josh Whitman, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
<b>Absentees:</b>
None.
<b>NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:</b>
Terri Steeb Gronau and Stephanie Quigg.
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>
Scott Bearby, Tim Buckley, Dawn Buth, Deena Casiero, Michael Cioroianu, Amanda Conklin, Kelly Dodds, Clint Hangebrauck, Mark Hicks, Brian Higgins, Corey Jackson, Gina Lehe, Kevin Lennon, Felicia Martin, Louise McCleary, Mario Morris, Kim Oren, John Parsons, Lynda Tealer, Amy Wilson and Megan Wright.