Another fantastic NAIA National Conference is in the books! Thank you to the more than 400 members who were able to join us in West Palm Beach, Florida.

This was my 20th NAIA convention and every, single year NAIA members blow me away with their passion to improve our association. Your enthusiasm also recharges the national office staff in making sure our efforts are best supporting your institutions.

This year was especially exciting as we unveiled ROA Insights, the first member-facing analytics tool for NAIA members from the Return on Athletics™ (ROA) initiative. The 39 institutions who participated will now have the ability to analyze year-over-year athletics data, compare data to that of like-institutions, and calculate potential net revenue based on hundreds of different scenarios. It has tremendous potential in helping our member institutions drive enrollment, improve student success, and increase the bottom line.

NAIA members also passed a proposal to reorganize and expand existing financial assistance regulations. Under the previous bylaw, student-athletes were unable to accept any gifts or benefits. This change is another example of how the NAIA uses a common sense approach and allows our member institutions the autonomy to make the best decisions for their campuses.

Again, thanks to those who joined us. If you weren’t able to attend, I hope you’ll consider coming to next year’s convention in Kansas City, which will be a bit earlier than usual. Mark your calendars for March 29-April 1, 2020. We hope to see you then.

All the best,

Jim Carr
President and Chief Executive Officer
FINANCIAL AID TASK FORCE

COP Chair Kent Henning (Grandview, Iowa) shared a progress report on the Financial Aid Task Force, which has initially focused on issues related to competitive advantage. While there is still a significant amount of work to be done, initial data review has shown:

- The number of scholarships has minimal impact on competitive advantage.
- Many institutions are not awarding the maximum amount.
- More reliable data are needed to assess the effect of roster size, much of which will become available through ROA.
- Overall, the NAIA’s upper limits as compared to NCAA DII seem appropriate, with football requiring further study.

Next steps for the task force:
- Further study and discussion is needed related to the simplicity and transparency of academic exemptions.
- Differentiated tuition types need to be considered.
- Analyze the use of financial aid for multi-sport athletes.
- Consider football’s situation and the further dialog needed regarding coaches’ proposals.

The Financial Aid Task Force will share additional data with membership and continue to gather feedback before bringing forward any recommendations in April 2020.

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS (COP)

- The COP approved the University of St. Katherine (San Marcos, Calif.) as a new member for 2019-20.

- The importance of student-level data to the Return on Athletics (ROA) initiative was discussed. The NAIA plans to alter the year-end report in 2020 to eliminate the data that are no longer relevant and include ROA data points. This is also an opportunity to provide clarity around inconsistent data submission within the report. While altering the year-end report does not require approval from the COP, the council passed a resolution encouraging COP members to promote and support this change with their respective conferences.

- The COP recommended a comprehensive review of postseason formats utilizing the governance structure. This action is in response to membership concerns regarding the rising cost of postseason participation, the health and wellness of student-athletes, and missed class time.

- Montana Tech President Don Blackketer provided an update from the Postseason Expenses Study Group. After a successful first year using the “insurance model” with football, the group discussed applying the same model to other sports. They determined the cost and potential financial return to schools would not be as effective for other sports for a variety of reasons. With the COP’s approval of the postseason formats review, the work of this study group will conclude, at least temporarily. Once the postseason format review comes forward with recommendations, this study group may need to reexamine postseason expenses.
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (NAC)

Basketball
The NAC made several important decisions relating to the 2021 move to one division in basketball. The following were passed for both men’s and women’s basketball were:

- Opening round rights fee of $12,500
- Opening round facility certification requirements. An “A” and “B” set of standards were passed for campus facilities that wish to host NAIA opening rounds. The requirements are aimed at creating the best possible student-athlete experience.
- A bid and facility certification time line was approved. Three major dates on the time line are; September 1, 2019- dates for conferences who would like to submit bids for 1-4 years between 2021 and 2024 to host an opening round in partnership with a Destination Marketing Organization (DMO). September 1, 2020 is the deadline to have a campus arena certified to host an opening round and February 1, 2021 the deadline for campus sites to bid on hosting an opening round.
- Six Area Ratings Councils (ARCs) were established. Initially ARC chairs will be selected equally between former division-one schools and division-two schools to ensure equal representation on the national selection committee.

Sunset Period for Championship Formats
The Council approved a “sunset period” of three years locking in any newly changed championship formats for three years.

Women’s Wrestling—Frequency of Play
The council approved a legislative proposal for women’s wrestling to mirror that of men’s wrestling. The championship dates of March 13-14, 2020 were also approved.

Bowling Added as 27th and 28th Championship Sport
The Council approved men’s & women’s bowling as the NAIA’s 27th and 28th championship sports.

Women’s Beach Volleyball Added as Emerging Sport
The Council added women’s beach volleyball as an emerging sport. Currently 16 NAIA schools have declared to compete for the 2019-2020 school year.

Rules, Awards & Statistics
- The Rules, Awards and Statistics Committee passed five future rules changes including a shot clock for lacrosse, curb for outdoor track, bat testing for baseball and several other sport rule changes.
- The committee also approved the addition of All-American recognition for men’s volleyball.

Experience & Enhancement Committee
The committee began study of the new opening round student-athlete experience for men’s and women’s basketball with an eye on suggesting ways to make each opening round site have consistent branding and maximum student-athlete experience.

Ratings & Postseason Selection
The committee approved a decision to create a timeline for all sports to move towards the formation and use of a national selection committee as a means for national championship selection. While the use of a national selection committee is not applicable for all sports, the sports that will be looking to add a national selection committee will be required to create a process and protocol for their national section committee to operate. With the creation of a national selection committee, those sports will move away from using the final ratings as their means for national championship selection of at-large berths.
NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE (NEC)

• Long-time NEC member, Valerie Beeson (Eligibility Chair, AMC) will be rotating off the NEC.
• Dr. Paul Sadler (Eligibility Chair, Sooner Athletic Conference) will begin his active role on the NEC.
• Dr. Bryce Bernard (FAR, Corban University) has been named vice-chair of the NEC.
• The NEC discussed interpretations as it pertains to Article VII, Section C, Item 2 concerning the regulation that dictates the type of prize money an athlete can receive when identified with an institution; and interpretations regarding Article VI, Section B, Item 9a forfeits required when an ineligible athlete competes.

FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION (FARA)

Elected:
• Chair-Elect: Dr. Terry Harris (LSU-Shreveport, RRAC Eligibility Chair)
• Vice-Chair: Mark Brown (MidAmerica Nazarene University)
• Secretary: Dave Bass (Valley City State College, North Star Eligibility Chair)

CFAR position (one, at-large position):
• Hans Nickle (Sterling College)

Wally Schwartz Award Committee (two, open positions):
• Kim Hayes (Dalton State University)
• Erin McDonell-Jones (Bellevue University)

Duer Award Committee (two, at-large position)
• Craig Dyer (Indiana Tech)
• Torin Sanders (Southern University at New Orleans)

Committee on Leadership, Diversity, and Inclusion (one, at-large position):
• Amy Stucky (Taylor University)

COUNCIL OF FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES (CFAR)

• Long-time at-large member, Dave Bass (Valley City State College, North Star Eligibility Chair) will rotate off as CFAR member. Hans Nickel (Sterling College) has been elected in his place.
• Dr. Terry Harris (LSU Shreveport, Red River Eligibility Chair) will join CFAR as FARA Chair-Elect.
• Hans Nickel has been nominated to continue to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
• CFAR affirmed the CCA's nomination of Larry DeSimpelare to the Competitive Experience Committee.
• CFAR had a high-level discussion about reviewing current bylaws and policy. This was to assess if CFAR intends to further assess these areas during the next academic year. Bylaws and policy include:
  1. Discussion around post-season formats and impact of class absences on students’ academic success.
  2. NAIA stated approach to penalties; specifically around self-reporting process and student-athletes who were otherwise ineligible.
  3. A 21-day window to re-certify for athletic teams who compete between fall and spring academic terms.
ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES (ASA)

- The ASA sponsored the inaugural student-athlete leadership summit as part of their convention experience. They were equipped with resources to provide support for their conference level ASA groups.

- Nishesh Yadav (Doane University) was voted in as the new chair for 2019-20 and Payton Veraldi (Lindsey Wilson College) was voted in as the new vice chair for 2019-20.

- The ASA signed a partnership with Special Olympics as their national Servant Leadership Initiative.

COUNCIL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES (CSA)

- Athletic Trainer Michael Nolan (Missouri Baptist) and student-athlete Nishesh Yadav (Doane University) will co-chair the group.

- The CSA began work on developing a student-athlete wellness statement of philosophy for the association.

- CSA continued to work on strategies to strengthen the health and safety of the student-athlete experience.

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NCC)

- Rob Cashell, Cascade Collegiate Conference commissioner, has been representing the NAC on the NCC. In May, Rob will be rotating off the NAC and will end his time with the NCC.

- Eric Ward, Mid-South Conference commissioner, will move to NAC vice-chair and serve as NAC rep to the NCC. Both Bill Popp, athletics director at Reinhardt University, and Eric Ward will be the NAC representatives serving on the NCC.

- The NCC will begin looking at amateurism bylaws. The NCC is the committee tasked with amateur reinstatement for student-athletes who may have violated their amateurism.

- The NCC approved one policy that will be included in the NAC policy section of the 2019-2020 NAIA Handbook. The Sunset Clause will be added to the NAC policy and states a three-year sunset period will be in place once a change to postseason format and/or selection criteria (i.e. ratings, selection committee, etc.) has occurred. Exception to this policy will be championships format/selection in “pilot” status.
ATHLETICS DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ADA)

- Chelcie Abajian, the NAIA’s liaison to NACDA, gave a report on the current status of ADA membership, which currently has nearly 200 paid members. The NAIA ADA looks forward to an increased presence at the June NACDA convention, and recognized NACDA for providing numerous scholarships to help NAIA administrators attend NACDA.

- The ADA Board of Directors received an update on Return on Athletics™ (ROA) from Alan Grosbach and Chesney Sallee. The group recognized a shared interest in using ROA to understand better the business of college athletics through analytics and association support.

- Nominations for the new ADA 3rd Vice President include: Tom Galbraith (Simpson), Mark DeMichael (Indiana Wesleyan), and Jeff Lanham (Rio Grande).

CONFERENCE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION (CCA)

- Danielle Brazil, the associate athletic director at the College of Idaho, presented a workshop and roundtable on emergency action planning. The conversation included tips and best practices for keeping people safe during a crisis.

- Diversity and inclusion continues to be a hot topic among the CCA, leading the group to have Dr. Jenny Withycomb present on how commissioners can play a role in increasing the diversity within their conferences.

SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (SIDA)

NAIA-SIDA Board members met with NAIA President Jim Carr, along with CoSIDA Director of External Affairs and Professional Development Barb Kowal and CoSIDA President Rob Knox. The group discussed the success of the NAIA division of the CoSIDA Academic All-America program. They also discussed an advocacy initiative that will help to inform athletics directors on what sports information personnel do and how they can be best utilized on each campus.

Other topics included ensuring more NAIA SIDs are nominated for national CoSIDA awards and identifying worthy candidates from member institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. KATHERINE
San Marcos, California
Active Member

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT KATHERINE
San Marcos, California
Active Member

CONDUCT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE (CEC)

- The committee discussed penalties associated with frequency of play limits. Two common violations that occur with frequency of play include a violation in competing in over the total number of permissible competitions and not meeting the definition of a scrimmage. The committee has discussed how they may address this if presented with these violations in the future.

- The committee is looking forward to the implementation of the Learning Center that will be made available to the entire membership beginning the next academic year. The committee may begin to encourage institutions to take courses in the learning center in response to violations that have occurred.
REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION (RA)

- The annual business meeting of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers was held in Los Angeles, Calif. on March 30-April 3, 2019.

- Registrar Adrienne Wyatt (Jarvis Christian University) was elected vice chair and Registrar Donald Reynolds (Faulkner University) was elected Secretary of the NAIA RA Executive Board.

- All registrars are encouraged to be active within the RA and attend the annual meeting held at AACRAO.

- Next year’s business meeting will be held at AACRAO in New Orleans, La. on April 5-8.

COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE (CEC)

The Competitive Experience Committee met Friday evening, welcoming Larry DeSimpelare of the Crossroads League as the new CCA representative. On Sunday, the committee hosted a session on the competitive experience rule, its current challenges and future possibilities. Additional committee conversations will occur over the next year and the committee welcomes feedback from membership on this topic.
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<tr>
<td>19-C-01</td>
<td>Voting Delegate Authorization</td>
<td>To shorten the required deadline prior to the annual business meeting before which a convention voting delegate must be authorized from one week to 72 hours.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-01</td>
<td>Women’s Wrestling Frequency of Play and Medical Hardship Limits</td>
<td>To establish 20 as the maximum number of contests in which a women’s wrestling team may compete in an academic year, clarify that no additional scrimmage dates are provided, and establish four dates as the maximum number of contests in which a women’s wrestler may participate and be eligible for a medical hardship.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-02</td>
<td>Lacrosse Frequency of Play Limits - Scrimmages</td>
<td>To specify that the three additional scrimmage dates lacrosse teams may play prior to the end of the fall term must be played on weekends or other non-scheduled class dates.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-03</td>
<td>Softball Frequency of Play Limits - Scrimmages</td>
<td>To allow softball teams three extra scrimmage dates to be played prior to the end of the fall term, in addition to the existing 28 dates and 2 scrimmage dates that can be utilized at any point during the sport’s 24-week season. Effective date: August 1, 2019</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-04</td>
<td>Competitive Cheer and Competitive Dance - Frequency of Play Limits - Scrimmages</td>
<td>To establish one date as the number of additional scrimmage dates in which both competitive cheer and competitive dance teams may participate during an academic year, beyond the 10 competitive cheer and 10 competitive dance contests provided for in Article I, Section G, Item 1.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<td>19-B-05</td>
<td>Financial Assistance</td>
<td>To reorganize the existing regulations regarding financial assistance to provide clear guidance regarding what can and cannot be provided to student-athletes, and expand the existing regulations in recognition of common accepted practices. The intent is to distinguish between the following types of financial assistance and provide the following guidelines: 1. Financial aid and benefits provided by the institution, which closely mirror the existing policy that an institution can provide aid not to exceed the value of tuition + room/board + books/fees, and also permit an institution to provide any benefits that are available to the general student body; 2. Athletically related expenses, which an institution or club team may provide for expenses incidental to competition, and permit an institution to provide for additional ancillary athletically related expenses for its student athletes; and 3. Financial benefits provided by third parties that are unrelated to an individual’s status as a student-athlete are permissible.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<td>Bill Number</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>19-B-06</td>
<td>Campus Visitations and Try-outs</td>
<td>To remove the existing limitation that requires athletic tryouts to be conducted on a member institution's campus, and to remove the existing requirement that mandates a prospective student must secure approval if the student will miss class time in the course of a campus visit.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-07</td>
<td>Initial Eligibility - Class Rank Exception</td>
<td>To create an exception to the initial eligibility class rank criterion that would allow a student who is unable to provide a qualifying class rank to satisfy the criterion by instead presenting successful completion of nine institutional credit hours earned prior to initial identification.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-08</td>
<td>Freshman Eligibility Requirements - Home-Schooled Students</td>
<td>To adopt an ACT test score of 20 and SAT test score of 1040 as the minimum acceptable scores a homeschooled student may use on test taken beginning May 2019 to receive an eligible decision without obtaining a waiver from the NAIA Home School Committee.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-09</td>
<td>Initial Eligibility - Mid-Year Eligibility Opportunity</td>
<td>To create an opportunity for students who did not satisfy initial eligibility requirements to gain eligibility following the first term of attendance, assuming the student earns 12 institutional credit hours with a grade of “C” or better at the certifying NAIA institution, and also meets one of the initial eligibility criteria found in Bylaws Article V, Section C, Item 2</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-10</td>
<td>24/36-Hour Rule - Associate Degree Exemption</td>
<td>To remove the existing restriction that limits the exception to those students who have used no more than five semester or seven quarter terms of attendance.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-11</td>
<td>Repeat Courses</td>
<td>To allow a student to use a repeat course to satisfy the 12-Hour Enrollment Rule and the 24/36-Hour Rule when the student’s degree program requires successful completion of the course with a grade of “B” or higher and the student’s previous attempt at the course earned a grade lower than a “B.”</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-B-12</td>
<td>Amateur Code - Recognized Awards</td>
<td>To increase the maximum value of an amateur award a student-athlete can receive in recognition of athletic participation to $1,000 per award, for a combined value of not more than $1,500 from an event.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-R-01</td>
<td>Student-Athlete Health and Wellness Day Off Resolution</td>
<td>To resolve to afford all student-athletes with one day off per week from all athletically related activities in recognition of the numerous benefits of providing student-athletes with a mental, emotional and physical break from athletics.</td>
<td>Pass</td>
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For more details about 2019 legislation, visit [here](#).