

N4ACORNER



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NYU

Director of Academic and Student-Athlete Support Services & Compliance Officer

It is an exciting and monumental time for the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development Professionals (N4A). Boasting approximately 2,000 members, N4A has grown to become the largest and most professionally diverse affiliate of NACDA. As our Association has grown, so has our voice and our ability to positively impact the greater industry of intercollegiate athletics. Over the past 18 months, our Board of Directors, committee chairs, and the N4A Strategic Future Task Force led by Ursula Gurney (UMKC), Jeremy Flynn (Michigan State), and Heather Ould (Oh-Fey Insights, LLC) worked to finalize a new N4A organizational structure that would adequately support the growth and diversity of our membership. We are thrilled to have finalized this new leadership structure, which will be implemented during the 2019 National Convention.

This new structure provides our Association with increased leadership opportunities as well as streamlined communication and reporting channels. The Association's new and improved organizational structure helps to clarify operational "functional areas," formally recognize all of our working groups and will enhance progress reporting throughout the year. Our new structure expands our Executive Committee structure from three to four positions by adding the new role of 2nd Vice President. It includes two additional Board of Director seats, namely, Division Director for Academic and Learning Services and Division Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We have also established permanent director positions in the areas of communications, institutional programs, and programming & events. These new permanent positions will work to heighten the quality of the services and communication provided for our membership. We have created new committees and working groups in an effort to increase opportunities for our members to become actively involved in the forward progress of the Association. These new groups include academic programs and practices, student-athlete well-being, virtual education, regional/thematic conference planning, communications, and corporate sponsorships. In the year ahead, we will also be reformatting the structure of our fall region conferences as well as our industry premier program, the Steve

McDonnell Professional Development Institute (PDI). Please stay tuned for further information on these enhanced professional events.

We're excited about the collaboration and leadership opportunities that our new structure presents and we're looking forward to fully implementing these changes in the year ahead. The hard work and dedication of our current leadership as well as our Past Presidents and former Board members have helped us to arrive at this moment in our Association's history. The implementation of our new organizational structure is a significant and necessary change which will help to strategically prepare us for future success.

@NAACConnect

NAACCORNER



Bert Locklin

Liberty University

Associate AD for Compliance

We cannot tell you how excited we are to have our annual NAAC Convention back in Orlando this year (and it's not just because of the pool). Orlando and the World Center Marriott Resort have been such great partners with NACDA and NAAC over the years that we look forward to every time we get to come back to this amazing property.

Thanks go out to an outstanding 2019 Convention Committee led by Rachel Strassner. With over 10 years' experience on this committee she has led the group to be able to put together an exceptional program for our members and constituents. The committee wishes to thank NAAC President Elizabeth Heinrich and the rest of the Officers and Board of Directors for their support of the committee's work and assisting in developing another sensational line-up of programming.

Dr. Earl Suttle will be kicking things off, talking to us about our purpose and "why

we do what we do." This keynote session will help our membership identify why we strive to excel in the field of compliance, remember the importance of enjoying "the process" over "the result," and discuss how to improve our relationships in order to improve our success.

In this year's Compliance Conversation, NAAC President Elizabeth Heinrich and NCAA's Executive Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Stan Wilcox, will take a deeper dive at his vision for Regulatory Affairs and the future engagement between the different units and Vice Presidents within the Regulatory Affairs division of the NCAA.

The committee is also very excited to introduce a series of Roundtables labeled as "Stop & Share." The goal of these sessions are to provide an opportunity for our membership to come and discuss who they educate pertaining to specific bylaws, how often, and the formats they use. Our constituents should come ready to share some materials and be ready to take away some more specific examples. One size does not fit all and these roundtables will allow for a chance to engage with a variety of compliance professionals.

We will also be providing a Division I Legislative Forum again this year as an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on potential

proposed legislation. It will be a great opportunity to discuss some of those pesky monitoring areas that we wish to deregulate!

Our programming this year will conclude with a "Lunch and Learn" session (yes, lunch will be provided), where we will have the chance to hear from athletics directors who began their athletics career in compliance. The panel of athletics directors will share how their compliance backgrounds impact their leadership decision-making. This will be a great opportunity to see the importance of our profession at all levels of leadership, and provide us with techniques in communicating with upper administration.

Thank you to all our members for engaging in this year's Convention. Be sure to stay up-to-date on Twitter with @NAACconnect. We look forward to sharing best practices, catching up with colleagues, making new connections, and advancing integrity.