

## N4A

**Kristin Rusboldt****UNC Greensboro**

Associate AD for Student-Athlete Support Services/  
Diversity & Intercultural  
Engagement

Did you know that Google is older than most of our student-athletes? That means that our current student-athlete population have NEVER lived in a world where information wasn't at their fingertips.

If the past two years have shown us anything about what our future will look like in the world of athletics, it is the continued rapid growth of technology in the everyday lives of student-athletes. As professionals we have had to make quick adjustments involving technology. Some of those adjustments have stuck. Virtual meetings are now an everyday option. Going on the road with teams may not be as critical when you can Zoom into your daily meetings with students. Some, (we hope) go away forever (no more Zoom study hall please!).

What is next for technology within academics and student-athlete development? We talk about platform fatigue in academics. I think the platform fatigue is happening more to the professionals in our field and not as much to the students. This group has been the most resilient and easiest to navigate the world of technology that exponentially grew during the COVID-19 pandemic. The student-athletes have found ways to adjust. Now it's our turn.

Instead of bulletin boards, we have TV screens that scroll through important updates. Instead of blasting emails about events and opportunities, we add them to Google calendars and create graphics to post on Instagram stories. Instead of group meetings in libraries, students can Zoom and collaborate on Google sheets to create documents in real time from their dorm rooms.

In contrast, because technology is at the forefront of everything our student-athletes do, as professionals we can be better at providing spaces and experiences that are free from technology. Technology isn't a replacement for

what our student-athletes need. It's a reality and most times is an additional support. As academic advisors, learning specialists, and student-athlete development professionals, we have the ability to also offer support and experiences that give student-athletes a break from the tech. We can do this by providing quiet spaces that allow students to focus and relax. Encouraging more face-to-face meetings when possible and teaching student-athletes how to balance screen time when they have free time.

We must find ways to embrace technology and continue to be creative in how it can support the student-athlete experience, while continually educating on how to unplug when the time is right. The balance will be challenging, but as athletics professionals it is how we continue to support each of our student-athletes through a successful collegiate experience.

@NAACConnect

## NAAC

**Marra Hvozdic****Atlantic Coast Conference**

Director of Compliance

The cliché goes that the college sports industry is fast-paced and ever-changing – this definitely describes our current environment!

Earlier this year, the NCAA Board of Governors announced plans to take a critical look at the language of the NCAA Constitution. The NCAA Constitution Committee was established to give thoughtful consideration to the principles that define college sports and develop a Constitution that meets the needs of current and future college athletes. In doing so, they sought feedback from the NCAA membership by implementing a survey over the summer. The 28-member Committee, including members from all three divisions, used survey results to inform the initial draft of the new constitution published to the membership in November. After releasing the draft, a Special Convention

was hosted to collect broad feedback on the proposed revisions. An overwhelming majority of attendees supported the draft with minor changes and considered it to be more student-athlete focused. Many expressed appreciation for its use of simple terminology and organization, in comparison to the existing Constitution.

The Constitution Committee aims to provide a final recommendation to the NCAA Board of Governors in time for a vote during the 2022 NCAA Convention in Indianapolis. If adopted, we anticipate that each division will perform a comprehensive review of their bylaws to ensure they support the principles of the new Constitution. The Transformation Committee was established to perform this review on behalf of the Division I membership, which must be completed in time for the start of the 2022-23 academic year.

Shifting attention to the standard DI legislative process – there is plenty of activity in the 2021-22 cycle! In addition to the Council-sponsored proposals, many of the previously tabled proposals from the 2019-20 legislative cycle will be voted on during the Council's January or April meeting.

And, let's not overlook the success of the \*new\* modernization legislative track! The alternative legislative route allows the DI Council to introduce a concept during any meeting and adopt the proposal during the following meeting. This allows the DI membership an expedited avenue to modernize their rules while still preserving the importance of the broader membership feedback and discussion.

In effort to support this cause, the DI Legislative Committee established a modernization of rules subcommittee, whose primary focus is to identify rules that no longer serve the needs of the membership and our student-athletes. So far, the group has focused its review on rules that are outdated and those for which the value of oversight is outweighed by the burdens of monitoring and enforcement.

As the cliché holds true – there is plenty to keep track of! And, many opportunities for membership feedback and influence! Encourage us to stay up-to-date and engage on these topics, as each process has a significant impact on college sports and athletics compliance.