

**Sent via Email**

May 1, 2024

Dr. Robert O. Davies  
Chair, NCAA Division I Committee on Academics

Dear Dr. Davies:

We write to follow up on our previous letter dated June 1, 2022, and our video conference with the Committee on Academics on July 28, 2022, regarding the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics recommendation to add a racial equity filter to the criteria for NCAA Division I academic performance awards.

We previously shared [independent research](#) revealing that in 2019, 47 Division I schools had an alarming graduation gap of more than 25 percentage points between their Black and White college athletes yet still qualified for an academic unit under the current NCAA Academic Performance Program criteria. To address this concerning finding, [we recommended implementing an additional racial equity filter](#), requiring that to qualify for academic awards, a school must demonstrate the gap between their Black and White college athlete Graduation Success Rates (GSRs) is not more than 25 percentage points.

Following our discussion with your committee on July 28, 2022, we understood that the group planned to consider our recommendation after the NCAA Transformation Committee's work was complete. The Transformation Committee's January 2023 report did not impact this area of policy and to our knowledge, the committee has not yet reconsidered this important issue.

This is to request an update on your committee's consideration of our proposal. We would be glad to meet with you and the committee again to discuss the research and recommendation in more detail.

We believe adding this racial equity filter is critical to upholding the NCAA's commitment to the academic success of all college athletes and to incentivizing schools to close racial gaps in graduation rates. The Knight Commission remains committed to promoting policies that prioritize educational equity and the well-being of all college athletes. We look forward to continuing to work with the NCAA to advance these shared goals.

Sincerely,



Christine Copper  
Co-Chair  
Knight Commission Athlete Issues and Educational Mission Committee



Wayne Frederick  
Co-Chair

Cc: Jen Fraser, Managing Director of Division I  
Jennifer Henderson, Managing Director, Academic and Membership Affairs, NCAA  
Binh Nguyen, Director of Academic and Membership Affairs, NCAA  
Quintin Wright, Associate Director of Academic and Membership Affairs, NCAA  
Members of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics