



# Knight Commission On Intercollegiate Athletics

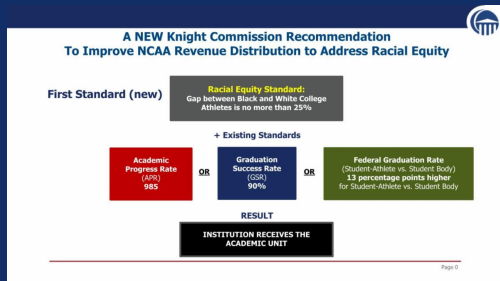
A PROJECT OF THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

## Impacting the Future of College Sports Issues and Solutions Update – May 2022



At its May 16 meeting in Washington, D.C., the Knight Commission recommended major changes to correct for racial and gender inequities in the NCAA's athletics-performance and academic-performance incentives, which total more than \$200 million annually. At the same time, the Commission's 2020 recommendation for overhauling the governance and structure of FBS Football is getting new attention and has been thrust into the national conversation about the future of the sport.

### Correcting Racial Inequities in Academic-Performance Incentives

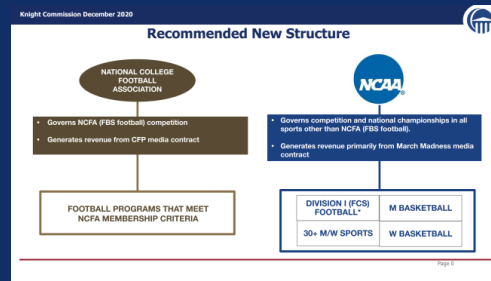


(Click Image to Enlarge)

The Commission recommends that to qualify for academic-based awards, institutions must first demonstrate that the gap between their Black and White Athlete graduation success rates (GSRs) is not more than 25 percentage points.

New research from the Knight Commission shows that if this Racial Equity criteria had been implemented in 2019, 66 percent of DI schools would have qualified for the academic-based incentives, instead of 79 percent of DI

### Previously Recommended FBS Overhaul Being Given New Consideration



(Click Image to Enlarge)

Recent media reports suggest influential leaders are taking a new look at the Knight Commission's [2020 report](#) and proposal that a new entity be created, separate from the NCAA, to govern the sport of FBS football.

As the NCAA considers how to transform Division I, the approach the Commission suggested in 2020 – to align authority with accountability in FBS Football governance - is more relevant than

schools.

Co-chair Len Elmore said, "Black college athletes are both the largest racial minority in Division I and the minority group with the largest negative graduation gap compared to the graduation rate of White athletes."

Read more [here](#) and access the [slide deck of data](#).

ever.

The 2020 report also outlined ten guiding governing principles for the new entity and a restructured NCAA.

The full report, as well as the independent antitrust and Title IX legal assessments of a separate FBS football-only entity can be accessed [here](#).

## Correcting Gender Inequities in NCAA Revenue Distribution

Guest speaker Roberta Kaplan reviewed the independent gender equity analysis her law firm, Kaplan Hecker & Fink, conducted for the NCAA Board of Governors. One finding, still unaddressed, is that the athletic-performance incentives in the NCAA's revenue distribution are "inconsistent with the NCAA's stated commitment to gender equity."



*The Commission reiterated its proposal to implement a gender equity principle in the NCAA distribution formula. It highlighted that the NCAA awards more than \$160 million based on men's basketball teams' wins and participation in March Madness but \$0 dollars based on the tournament performance of women's teams.*

*The Commission's proposal would require equal rewards for the success of men's and women's teams IF the formula continues to provide athletics-performance based incentives.*

Read more [here](#).

## News About Restructuring FBS Football



College football offseason primer 100 days before Week 1 kicks off  
May 24, 2022

"A complete restructuring of the collegiate landscape is on the horizon, with the NCAA rewriting its constitution, restructuring the way it is governed and searching for a new president to replace Mark Emmert..."

The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics also has recommended creating a separate organization to manage the 10 conferences and 130 schools that compete at the FBS level. It's an idea that only recently has been garnering traction among university presidents and the sport's decision-makers..."

[Read Here.](#)



## Why Ohio State's Gene Smith, Other Leaders in College Athletics Believe FBS Football Should Split from NCAA May 19, 2022

Gene Smith: "We have the model with CFP, we have the umbrella so to speak, and need to just define the model," Smith said. "The Knight Commission proposed this a couple years ago. It was a great report..."

[Read Here.](#)



## Here's why the idea of moving FBS football out of the NCAA may be picking up steam: May 10, 2022

In this May 10, 2022 college sports industry newsletter and in a May 6, 2022 interview with Knight Commission CEO Amy P. Perko, Matt Brown takes a look back at the Knight Commission's 2020 report and recommendation that a new governing entity be created for the sport of FBS Football, separate from the NCAA.

[Read Here.](#)

[Watch the interview Here.](#)

## News About Our Recommendations



### "Knight Commission urges NCAA to immediately implement gender, racial equality measures" May 16, 2022

The Knight Commission on Monday urged the NCAA to act immediately on two proposals to correct racial and gender inequities in NCAA athletics revenue distribution, and the group was staunch in its belief that the organization doesn't need to wait for a new NCAA president to do it.

Co-Chair Nancy Zimpher urged the NCAA to take steps to correct the "flagrant multimillion-dollar gender inequity in its revenue distribution" which she called "personally troubling, to say the least."

[Read Here.](#)



### "Knight Commission addresses issues of gender and racial inequities" May 19, 2022

"Black college athletes are both the largest racial minority in Division I and the minority group with the largest negative graduation gap compared to the graduate rates of white athletes," said Knight Commission co-chair Len Elmore. "The NCAA should stop sending millions of dollars to schools that fail to close those gaps."

[Read Here.](#)

### "Enhancing the Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Experience" April 28, 2022

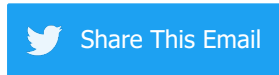
The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, an independent



thought leadership group, is pushing for what CEO Amy Perko calls a “much more principled concept.”...

“In terms of the performance-based components of the distribution... the NCAA’s formula only rewards for success in the men’s basketball tournament,” she continues. “Our proposed changes basically say that gender equity is a principle of the NCAA, so that principle should apply to revenue distribution as well. If there’s going to be an athletics performance-based component, that component needs to provide equal rewards for men’s and women’s teams.”

[Read Here.](#)



Knight Commission | 200 South Biscayne Blvd., Suite 3300, Miami, FL 33131-2349

[Unsubscribe aperko@nc.rr.com](mailto:aperko@nc.rr.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [perko@knightcommission.org](mailto:perko@knightcommission.org) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!