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Sent via email

March 7, 2023

Kevin Lennon
NCAA Vice President for Division I

Dear Kevin,

We understand from recent reports of NCAA governance meetings that the Division I Board is examining its composition and that a legislative proposal may be considered in April with an anticipated effective date of September 2023.

The purpose of this letter is to reiterate the governing principles the Knight Commission communicated in our [Dec. 9, 2021 letter to Robert Gates](#), who served as the Constitution Committee chair. The principles outlined in the letter apply to the composition of the Division I governing board and, in our view, are absolutely essential to achieving both the transformation the NCAA is seeking and the NCAA's desire for Congressional assistance with numerous issues facing the Association. Our proposed board-level changes will demonstrate a commitment to governing principles that we believe will interest Congress.

We request that the following principles be included in the NCAA's proposal on Division I Board composition:

- Add independent directors consistent with university governance and in the same manner that voting independent members are included on the NCAA Board of Governors.
- Increase college athletes' voices on the board and demonstrate a greater commitment to gender equity by requiring an equal number of male and female voting athletes.
- Require at least one independent director who is a designated expert and/or advocate on college athlete physical and/or mental health.

With regard to the overarching principle that NCAA Division I governance should include independent directors, it is noteworthy that FBS athletics directors, through their LEAD1 association, [called for independent directors to be included in a new governing system for the sport of FBS football](#) in their December 2022 proposal. LEAD1 shared this proposal with the NCAA Division I Board and the Transformation Committee.

We are hopeful that the Division I Board will formally discuss, evaluate, and vote on the above recommendations.

Our Knight Commission co-chairs and other Commission members, who include experts on college athlete health and safety issues, would welcome a conversation with you and/or any other leaders to discuss these issues further.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amy Privette Perko, CEO

cc: Charlie Baker, President, NCAA
Pam Bernard, Co-Chair, Knight Commission
Brynn Carlson, Student-athlete Representative, NCAA Division I Board of Directors
Arne Duncan, Co-Chair, Knight Commission
Len Elmore, Co-Chair, Knight Commission
Jenn Fraser, Managing Director for Division I Governance, NCAA
James Harris, Vice Chair, NCAA Division I Board of Directors
Jere Morehead, Chair, NCAA Division I Board of Directors