

To: Faculty Senate
From: Council on Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (CIA)
Date: August 19, 2025
Re: Annual Report Summary for Academic Year 2023-2024

Members: Todd Lough, Chair (COEHS), Beth Hansen, CAS, Stephen Gray, CBT, Jeremy Robinett, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, Ries Wynn-Foster, Director, Student-Athlete Success and Support Center, Beth Wilson, Academic Support, Emir Miranda, SGA Representative, Mallory McDermott, Student-Athlete Representative, Leah Ahlers, Student-Athlete Representative, Paul Bubb, Intercollegiate Athletics (Ex-Officio)

Council Objective: The Council on Intercollegiate Athletics recommends policies and procedures for maximizing effective athletic programs as they relate to federal, NCAA, and conference guidelines and to University missions and resources.

1. Todd Lough (LEJA) was elected Chair of CIA for the 2024–2025 academic year. Janice Gates volunteered to serve as Chair for 2025–2026, but was unable to do so due to being laid off. Steven Gray agreed to take over as chair, but then was moved into being the interim director of the School of Accounting and Business Administration. A new chair will need to be elected.
2. The Council reviewed WIU’s successful transition into the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC). Members and student-athlete representatives shared that the move has been overwhelmingly positive, with improved competitive opportunities, reduced travel, and enhanced student-athlete experiences.
3. FAR Robinett shared updates on compliance reviews, GSR, APR, and academic support initiatives. He also introduced revisions to the APR Improvement Plan (AIP) for football.
4. The Council discussed NCAA scheduling changes since 2009, considering their impact on student-athletes’ academic success.
5. The Council was informed that, on average, teams miss approximately 12 class days per year for travel and competition. The Council will be reviewing this more thoroughly in 2025-2026 to formulate recommendations.
6. Work is underway to update the CIA’s operating papers to focus on the evolving demands of Division I athletics and the support structures needed.
7. The Student-Athlete Success and Support Center reported positive results, particularly in tutoring utilization. Through the AASP Grant, new equipment and supplies were added, and a grant-funded reception was hosted to celebrate the opening of the Center.
8. Discussions also included the role of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), Cost of Attendance, and Alston monies. While NIL is less significant at OVC schools, the Council noted the growing importance of Alston awards and WIU’s exploration of how they may be implemented to support retention and academic incentives.
9. During the summer, schedules were reviewed and approved for Men’s and Women’s Basketball, Women’s Tennis, Men’s and Women’s Golf, and Women’s Bowling.
10. The Council also noted the addition of Women’s Bowling to Leatherneck Athletics, beginning competition in the 2025–2026 season. This represents an exciting expansion of opportunities for WIU student-athletes.

Fall 2024 Scheduled Absences:

Sport	M/W/F Missed	T/Th Missed	Total
Cross Country	6	3	9
Women's Soccer	6	4	10
Men's Soccer	3	3	6
Volleyball	7	3	10
*Women's Basketball	14	7	21
*Men's Basketball	14	9	23
Men's Golf	5	4	9
Women's Golf	6	3	9
Football	7	0	7

*Fall and Spring, and includes tournament

Spring 2025 Scheduled Absences:

Sport	M	TU	W	TH	F	Total
Women's Golf	4	3	1	–	2	10
Men's Golf	3	3	2	2	2	12
Indoor Track	1	1	1	–	2	5
Baseball	1	-	2	6	7	16
Softball	1	1	1	2	4	9
Outdoor Track	-	-	2	5	5	12

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lough, CIA Chair 2024–2025