

# **UBC Vancouver Campus and NCAA Division II Membership: A Review of the Issues**

Consultation Document Updating the  
2009 Review Committee Report

Office of the Vice President Students  
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**a place of mind**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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In 2008, after five years of consideration, UBC Athletics and Recreation recommended to the University Executive that UBC should move its competitive sports programs from Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) into the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division II. UBC Athletics and Recreation gave two reasons for change. First, it argued that stringent CIS limits on student financial aid prevent UBC from competing for the best Canadian athletes and often force promising Canadians to leave the country in pursuit of full scholarships in the United States. Second, the introduction of large numbers of small universities and colleges into the CIS was diluting the level of competition, displacing old rivalries and undermining the quality of the UBC Varsity experience. Athletics made the additional point that the NCAA is a higher level of competition for our student-athletes. The timing also appeared opportune because the NCAA had just initiated a 10-year pilot during which Canadian universities could apply for NCAA Division II membership.

On the strength of this recommendation, the President, the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, and the Vice-President, Students established the NCAA Division II Review Committee in April of 2008 to consider the implications of a UBC move to NCAA Division II. In a March 19, 2009 [Consideration Memorandum](#)<sup>1</sup>, the Review Committee reported arguments in favour of making the change and reservations about some of the potential impacts. Most especially, the Review Committee described as “prohibitively expensive” an NCAA requirement that new members secure accreditation from a US accrediting body. A public consultation conducted as part of the committee’s review also revealed sharp polarization and an abundance of misconceptions about the NCAA – on campus, among UBC alumni and in the broader community.

The Review Committee made several recommendations, principally, that UBC should seek an exemption from the NCAA requirement for US accreditation and, secondarily, that UBC should initiate communications, consultation and advisory functions that would ensure the UBC community is well-informed about the contributions that UBC Athletics and Recreation make to campus life and about the challenges and opportunities it faces in providing the best experience for varsity athletes. The University Executive then deferred a decision, pending an opportunity to secure the NCAA accreditation exemption and/or to work with the CIS to resolve the above-stated issues.

These points having now been addressed (if not resolved), the University Executive would like to resume its review and revive a campus discussion with an eye to making a decision before the next NCAA Division II application deadline on June 1, 2011. To that end, this paper offers an update on the issues already mentioned and on changes that have occurred in the CIS, the NAIA, the NCAA and within UBC itself.

On the first Review Committee recommendation, the NCAA declined to waive the accreditation requirement. UBC then engaged MMK Consulting to investigate further the costs and efforts involved in securing a US accreditation. While original estimates put those costs between \$500,000 and \$1 million each year, MMK Consulting recommended that UBC should budget \$700,000 to \$1 million for the first two to three years and \$100,000 per year thereafter. Simon Fraser University, which is currently seeking accreditation with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), is managing the

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.students.ubc.ca/ncaa/download/NCAA\\_report\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](http://www.students.ubc.ca/ncaa/download/NCAA_report_with_appendices.pdf)

effort with the equivalent of three full-time employees (rather than 22, as UBC had been warned to expect). SFU reports that the effort is extensive, but has strategic planning benefits.

Efforts by UBC President Stephen Toope to resolve issues with the CIS have been unrewarded. The CIS is creating a new presidential oversight body, but has as yet declined to engage on the question of relaxing student financial aid restrictions. It continues to admit small universities and colleges into the CIS and has resisted efforts to create tiers that would protect the high level of competition for larger schools with a deeper athletic tradition. It is also considering a change to the Canada West conference that could cut UBC off from some of its traditional rivals. Finally, the CIS has prohibited dual membership with the CIS and NCAA, a solution that UBC had considered earlier.

The NCAA remains welcoming at the Division II level, as does the Great Northwest Athletic Conference in which UBC would most likely compete. The NCAA offers 25 of the 29 varsity sports in which UBC competes (the CIS offers 15) – most at the Division II level. Recent changes in NCAA rules would also enable UBC Hockey teams to bump up to Division I play. It is clear, however, that the NCAA will not guarantee UBC quick acceptance, particularly as many NAIA schools are also moving to the NCAA, competing for a limited number of openings.

The potential for the entire NAIA to merge with the NCAA – possibly within the next five years – poses a further challenge to UBC (which currently has eight teams in NAIA competition). On other counts, however, UBC Athletics and Recreation is well positioned. Its facilities and coaching are in excellent shape (easily meeting Div II standards) and switching to the NCAA would require only one additional staff member – a full-time compliance officer. Senior administrators in Athletics and Recreation continue to assert that NCAA membership would protect the level of competition, attract more community and student support and, thanks to reductions in travel and membership fees, save a small amount of money (roughly \$150,000 annually, as of 2008). They anticipate no negative impact on UBC's academic mission.

Simon Fraser University, which this academic year became the first Canadian school to join the NCAA, is positive about the experience. When SFU indicated its intention to move to NCAA Division II in 2011, the CIS declined to allow SFU to compete in the CIS/Canada West conference in 2010, forcing a quicker transition than SFU had anticipated. As a result, SFU reports that some teams were not as competitive as expected. But campus, community and media response has been positive, and the NCAA has been welcoming. SFU's switch also has direct implications for UBC. As a CIS member, UBC is now cut off from competing with a cherished rival – a relationship that would be restored if UBC joined the NCAA Division II.

Major questions remain: whether UBC's switch to the NCAA would harm the CIS and/or Canadian sport generally; and whether this move might be considered an intermediate step to NCAA Division I, where the tensions and distortions of highly lucrative team play in football and basketball might affect UBC's academic mission. On the first question, UBC will continue to support Canadian sport and Canadian student-athletes in every circumstance. If UBC Vancouver were to switch to NCAA Division II, UBC would remain a CIS member through the Okanagan campus, which has been accepted into the Canada West conference for the 2011 season. The CIS has expressed little concern about a potential UBC Vancouver departure, and UBC Athletics and Recreation is convinced that it would be able to provide a superior experience to Canadian student athletes in NCAA Division II.

As to NCAA Division I, any decision on membership in NCAA Div II is in no way a first step on a pre-determined course. Although UBC might be competitive at the Division I level, and while some see a more comfortable fit among the larger, research-intensive universities in that league, Division I membership is currently restricted to universities that have already been full members in NCAA Division II for five years. The concerns about Division I impact on the academic mission are also worthy of careful consideration. Thus, if UBC were to move to Division II and find the experience unsatisfactory, UBC would initiate another thorough and transparent process before considering NCAA Division I or returning to the CIS. There might be some risk that CIS would only welcome UBC back on uncomfortable terms.

The issue before us now is whether the challenges to UBC Athletics and Recreation are sufficient to force a change away from the CIS/NAIA and, if so, whether NCAA Division II membership would serve the university, its students, its academic mission and its community. Some pros and cons in that consideration are listed on page 17 of this report. The University Executive is optimistic that the entire community will join us in this consideration and help us reach a conclusion that is, indeed, in the university's best interests.

Guide to Acronyms used in this Report

AUCC	Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada
BCCAA	BC Colleges Athletic Association
CCAA	Canadian Colleges Athletics Association
CCHA	Central Collegiate Hockey Conference
CIAU	Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union
CIS	Canadian Interuniversity Sport
GNAC	Great Northwest Athletic Conference
MPSF	Mountain Pacific Sports Federation
NAIA	National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletics Association
NWCCU	Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
UAC	University Athletics Council
WCHA	Western Collegiate Hockey Association
WCIAA	Western Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Association

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## **CONSIDERATION MEMORANDUM - ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

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In April 2008, the President, the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, and the Vice-President, Students established a Review Committee to consider the implications of a UBC move to NCAA Division II. The resulting Consideration Memorandum, released on March 19, 2009, contained three recommendations. Those recommendations and the actions taken since are reported below:

**1. That before making an NCAA application, UBC should seek an exemption from the requirement that all NCAA members receive academic accreditation from a U.S. regional accrediting agency.**

NCAA Division II bylaws specify that any institution seeking membership must first apply for accreditation from one of six US regional accrediting agencies – a requirement that the Review Committee had been led to believe was prohibitively expensive. (Early reports suggested that the University of Washington maintained a full-time, year-round staff of 22 to assist with its accreditation.)

Two new pieces of information suggest this recommendation must be updated or abandoned. First, the former President of the NCAA Division II Membership Council and the Northwest Commission on Colleges has rejected the request for exemption. Second, a detailed investigation by MMK Consulting indicates that accreditation costs are much less than originally estimated.

Simon Fraser University, which is currently seeking accreditation from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) presents a good guideline to both the expense and effort UBC may expect. SFU reports that its direct budget costs are expected to be \$600,000 and \$700,000 over a four-year period, which includes the equivalent of three full-time staff members.<sup>2</sup> On that basis, MMK Consulting estimated that UBC allocate between \$700,000 and \$1 million for the first two to three years, and an additional \$100,000 annually thereafter. (Athletics has indicated that it may recover a significant portion of the one-time cost from community partners.)

SFU reports that the work is labour-intensive, but is also helping the institution to clarify course/program outcomes and assess strategic themes. The NWCCU has been supportive, even while making it clear the process will be as comprehensive and rigorous as for any U.S. institution. Nothing has yet arisen as a challenge to academic freedom or curricular autonomy.

Both SFU and the NWCCU stress that this is a long-term process: full accreditation takes six to seven years. Every degree, program and unit must be accredited so that institutional reach of the exercise is extensive. All department Heads, and most Associate Deans will need to be involved in this process in some way.

At UBC, some of the “self-study” work may already be occurring in the form of on-going internal and external reviews and/or as part of curriculum renewal to meet Place and Promise commitments. Accreditation may also bring ancillary benefits in terms of recognition within the United States.

Four UBC programs<sup>3</sup> are already accredited under the US Council for Higher Education Accreditation. *Appendix I is an excerpt from the MMK Consulting report on academic accreditation (May 2009).*

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<sup>2</sup> The Director Academic Planning & Budget (Dr. Glynn Nicholls), allocated half-time as project leader; a full-time author (senior administrator from President’s Office); a part-time financial author (from the Financial Planning Office); a part-time academic author (retired professor); and a half-time administrative assistant

<sup>3</sup> UBC School of Library, Archival and Information Studies; UBC Sauder School of Business; UBC Department of Psychology; UBC School of Community and Regional Planning

**2. That UBC prepare a communication plan to disseminate information about the NCAA decision-making process.**

A public consultation conducted in 2008 revealed that the UBC Vancouver campus was polarized on whether to join the NCAA, but that misconceptions were common in both “camps.” Accordingly, the Review Committee called for a communications effort that would inform the campus community and wider community about the NCAA consideration and decision. To that end, the Review Committee’s Consideration Memorandum was publicized widely in 2009 and [posted online](#). This Issues Update will form the basis for a new round of public communications and consultation.

The further elements of consultation and communication planned are as follows:

- December – Review by University Executive
- January – Athletics Department (Vancouver) and Thunderbird Athletics Council (students)
- January – Committee of Deans
- January – AMS and GSS
- January – DVC Executive - Okanagan
- January – Thunderbird Council
- January – Alumni via UBCAA Board and the Graduate Gazette
- January/February – Round of information sharing and invitation for feedback from academic department heads (Vancouver)
- February – Open Meetings for UBC Vancouver campus community including alumni
- February – On-line consultations
- February – Vancouver Senate (for information)
- February – Board of Governors (for information)
- March – Committee of Deans (second discussion)
- March – Vancouver Dept Athletics and Recreation
- March – Heads up Group (Vancouver)
- March – Vancouver and Okanagan Senates (for comment)
- April – Board of Governors (for comment)
- April – Executive decision on membership direction

- 3. That regardless of any decision to join the NCAA, UBC appoint an advisor (ideally from faculty ranks) and/or create an advisory committee charged with building campus understanding of and support for the work of UBC Athletics and Recreation.**

Whether or not UBC decides to pursue NCAA membership, this discussion will likely increase the appetite for information about the role of UBC Athletics and Recreation and, ideally, for greater engagement.

Thus, an advisory committee, reporting to the President and to UBC Athletics and Recreation, would replace the existing University Athletics Council (UAC) at the time a decision is made to either remain in the CIS/NAIA or seek NCAA Division II membership. Proposed terms of reference and membership for such a committee are as follows:

**A. Terms of Reference**

1. Advise the university and Vancouver Department of Athletics and Recreation on matters regarding department programs, including varsity athletics.
2. Receive and discuss progress reports on inter-collegiate league activity (whether CIS/NAIA or NCAA)
3. Receive and discuss reports on the academic and campus life experience of student athletes in Vancouver
4. Help communicate the vision and values of UBC Athletics and Recreation and its funding, operations and outcomes to the campus community

**B. Potential Membership**

- Co-chairs - VP Students and Vice Provost & AVP, Academic Affairs
- Two Deans
- Two academic department heads
- Two students at large (AMS nominee and GSS nominee)
- Two student-athletes (from Thunderbird Athletics Council)
- Representative from Athletics Senior Management
- Representative from Athletics Coaching Staff
- One staff rep from Intramurals and Recreation
- Community representative (from Thunderbird Council)
- Representative from UBC Health and Wellness Program
- Representative from UBC Alumni Association
- University Neighbourhood Association (UNA)

## **EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ISSUES WITH CANADIAN INTERUNIVERSITY SPORT**

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In recommending that UBC should move from the CIS to the NCAA Division II, UBC Athletics and Recreation posted two concerns. First, CIS scholarship limits compromise UBC's ability to compete for the best Canadian student athletes. Second, the level of play in CIS/Canada West is being diluted to such an extent that UBC Varsity players can no longer expect a top calibre competition. Since March 2009, UBC has made the following efforts to resolve these concerns with the CIS.

### **CIS Joint Ad Hoc Working Group**

Stephen Toope engaged in formal discussions with the CIS and with presidents of other "like minded" CIS schools on athletic scholarships, tier structuring and, more recently, CIS governance. An initial meeting, organized through the AUCC, took place between select presidents (including Stephen Toope) and the CIS leadership. The goal was to open a dialogue on change in the CIS. As a result, a joint ad hoc working group of four CIS Athletic Directors (Victoria, Regina, Concordia and Carlton) and four CIS member institution presidents (Manitoba, Brock, McGill (VP) and St. Mary's) was formed to provide governance recommendations.

### **Scholarships**

The CIS, which aspires to be the "destination of choice" for Canadian student-athletes, nevertheless recognizes that it continues to lose Canadian student-athletes to the superior financial aid and enhanced competitive opportunities of the NCAA. (CIS Athletic Financial Awards Task Force Report, June 2010). Notwithstanding, CIS has resisted changing its scholarship policies. The Athletic Financial Aid (AFA) Task Force, formed after a special meeting in Ottawa in April, 2009, met for more than a year but brought no motions to the June, 2010 CIS AGM.

In his 2010 report to the membership, CIS President Clint Hamilton stated "our current policy continues to divide and polarize our organization." (CIS AGM minutes, June 2010).

### **Tier Structuring**

Unlike the NCAA, which groups like-minded institutions that share a similar commitment to the number of sports offered, the amount of scholarship money awarded, and the overarching philosophy of each member institution, the CIS has resisted any discussion of "tiering" in Canada.

At the same time, dilution continues. Within the Canada West conference in which UBC competes, the CIS has, since March 2009, granted full membership to Thompson Rivers and Fraser Valley (September 2010) and probationary membership granted to UBC Okanagan (September 2011). It rejected probationary membership to University of Northern BC (UNBC) and Vancouver Island University (VIU), but is fast tracking reapplications from both and soliciting applications from other small schools, including Mount Royal and Grant MacEwan in Alberta.

Canada West has also announced that it is working toward forming two conferences: one including Thompson Rivers, Fraser Valley, UBC Okanagan and potential new applicants UNBC, Mount Royal and Grant MacEwan; and one including UBC, Victoria, Trinity Western, Alberta, Calgary, Lethbridge, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Brandon, Regina and Winnipeg. This would address some scheduling challenges, but would not create "tiers;" the quality of competition would remain mixed.

Canada West members east of BC have also discussed grouping those eight schools into a conference, leaving BC schools to form another. A BC conference could include UBC Vancouver, Victoria, Trinity Western, Fraser Valley, Thompson Rivers, UBC Okanagan, UNBC, and Vancouver Island University.

Canada West has shown no willingness to raise commitment levels with respect to number of sports offered. Minimum level for full membership remains at four sports, and affiliate membership at two sports. All new members (Thompson Rivers, Fraser Valley, and UBC Okanagan) entered with the minimum. *(For an overview of Canada West/CIS see Appendix II)*

### **Governance**

As of this writing, the Joint Committee is drafting terms of reference for a new Presidential Advisory Board of the CIS, those terms to include the following:

- The Board would provide advice and policy direction to the CIS Board of Directors on strategic and substantive issues affecting CIS and regional associations;
- The Board would report to the CIS Board and to member Presidents;
- The Board would include nine voting members who are CIS Executive Heads;
- Two Executive Heads with a minimum of nine varsity sports would represent each of the four regional associations and one member at large with less than nine CIS varsity sports would also be chosen;
- Face to face semi-annual meetings would occur in conjunction with regular AUCC meetings.

It is expected the CIS will act on this recommendation at its June, 2011 AGM.

### **Dual Membership**

The 2009 Review Committee report anticipated that UBC Vancouver might pursue a dual membership, moving some of its teams to the NCAA Division II while keeping some in the CIS. The NCAA had shown a willingness to accept this solution, but in its June 2009 AGM, the CIS approved two motions, effective September 2011.

1. CIS student-athletes will not be permitted to play in the NCAA or the NAIA in sports that are offered by CIS.
2. CIS student-athletes will not be permitted to play in the NAIA in sports that are offered by CIS, unless they also compete in that sport within CIS.

The UBC Department of Athletics and Recreation has advised that this is virtually impossible, as schedules, bylaws, eligibility and financial aid requirements are quite different between the CIS and NAIA. Most UBC NAIA teams compete in sports that are not offered within the CIS. The exceptions are men and women's cross country teams, which have far more opportunities to compete in NAIA (the CIS offers only one meet per year).

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMPARISON: CIS/NAIA/NCAA DIVISION II**

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UBC Athletics and Recreation, which has yet to test the CIS scholarship limit, asserts that the more competitive and higher-profile NCAA Division II play would help it improve on an already strong record in raising money for scholarships, facilities and operating expenses. The UBC scholarship endowment fund has already reached \$8 million, due largely to the success of the Telus Millennium Breakfast. UBC Athletics is confident in reaching an ultimate goal of \$75 million in athletic scholarship endowments through the upcoming university-wide campaign.

The following provides more detailed information regarding athletic scholarships in the CIS, NAIA and NCAA Division II.

### CIS

Individual athletic awards are limited to the equivalent of tuition and fees (at UBC, \$5,500/year) with some additional support allowed based on the number of Academic all-Canadians in the previous academic year. Awards are also limited to 70 per cent of the members on any particular team. At UBC, that limits total annual financial aid limit to \$962,000 (equal to 175 awards x \$5,500). In 2008-09, UBC provided \$774,279, or 80 per cent of the CIS limit.

### NAIA

Individual awards can extend to all relevant student expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board and books (at UBC, \$16,000), plus additional support based on academic success. The total number of awards is also capped across all eight NAIA sports in which UBC competes, limiting total annual financial aid to \$1,056,000 (66 x \$16,000). In 2008-09, UBC provided \$341,448, or 32% of the NAIA limit.

In total in 2008-09, UBC provided \$1,115,727 in financial aid to CIS and NAIA student-athletes, plus \$90,000 to unaffiliated sports for a total of \$1,205,935.

### NCAA Division II

Individual awards can extend to all relevant student expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board and books (at UBC, \$16,000), plus additional support based on academic success. There are also limits by sport, such that UBC competitors would face a cap of 109 awards for male athletes and 97.5 for female, for a total allowable financial aid expenditure of \$3,256,000 (203.5 x \$16,000).

UBC easily exceeds the NCAA Division II minimum total expenditure requirement of \$250,000.

## **NCAA: CURRENT STATUS**

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### **NCAA Membership Process Timelines**

The next opening for an NCAA Division II Membership application is June 1, 2011.

The corresponding regional accreditation deadline is May 1, 2011. (The NCAA will consider a Division II application only if the applicant has already applied to a United States regional accrediting agency.) A decision regarding NCAA application acceptance would come in July 2011.

### **NCAA Membership Growth**

At its 2010 Convention, the NCAA decided to lift a Division I moratorium in 2011, but to restrict new Division I membership to institutions that have been NCAA Division II members for at least five years. Division II will be allowed to grow by no more than 10 members a year, from the current 293 members to a maximum of 330. Those totals will include current Division I members that drop into Division II because of stricter requirements at the higher level. Division II is also imposing stricter regulations to ensure new members have a demonstrated athletic history.

### **Great Northwest Athletic Conference**

The NCAA Division II Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) appears to offer the best fit for UBC's athletic program and GNAC presidents have expressed strong interest in welcoming UBC into the fold. However, the conference currently has 10 members (including SFU) and a proposed limit of 12, and four California schools (all larger, well-established NAIA members) have indicated their intention to apply for NCAA membership in the June 1, 2011 opening.

### **Organizational Implications**

Membership in the NCAA does not require any changes in the way UBC organizes or manages the Department of Athletics and Recreation and does not presume any particular relationship with academic units such as the School of Human Kinetics.

### **UBC Sports Not Offered in NCAA Division II**

Of the 29 varsity sports in which UBC Vancouver competes, the NCAA offers 25 – of which 22 are in Division II. The exceptions are men's and women's hockey and men's volleyball.

Hockey – Division II members are permitted to “play up” (into Division I) in one male and one female sport that does not offer a championship in Division II. (Two GNAC schools already take advantage of this offering.) NCAA Division I Hockey is recognized as the top echelon of collegiate hockey in North America and two conferences – the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) and the Central Collegiate Hockey Conference (CCHA) – have indicated interest in UBC.

Men's Volleyball – While most NCAA sports are divided into three divisions, all men's volleyball teams compete for a single NCAA Championship. Approximately 100 NCAA schools offer men's volleyball, in three regions. The Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) would be the best fit for UBC. Schools currently competing in the MPSF include UCLA, Stanford, Pepperdine and the University of Southern California. *(For an overview of NCAA Division II see Appendix III)*

UBC sports not offered in any NCAA Division - men's rowing, men's field hockey and men's rugby (women's rugby is to be offered) – would presumably continue to compete as at present. *(For a sport-by-sport analysis of the likely impact of moving from the CIS or NAIA to the NCAA, see Appendix VII.)*

## **UBC VANCOUVER: CURRENT STATUS and IMPLICATIONS OF CHANGE**

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### **Competitive Opportunities**

In addition to concerns about dilution in CIS/Canada West, UBC Athletics and Recreation report that the eight UBC teams currently competing in the NAIA also face some risk long-term. The NAIA has lost 45% of its 550 members to the NCAA since the mid 1970s. It currently has 300 members and, with new candidates mostly small, denominational schools that are just starting an intercollegiate athletic program, the NAIA has already requested a (2009) merger with the NCAA. The two organizations have not agreed so far on a timeline, but a merger within the next five years is considered likely.

Within the NAIA, UBC is a member of the Association of Independent Institutions – not a conference, but rather a group of schools that are excluded from conference play by their geography. It is therefore increasingly difficult to schedule sports such as softball, and increasingly expensive for travel for all NAIA teams.

The NAIA has also ruled that any member accepted to join the NCAA will no longer be able to participate in NAIA post-season championships after a grace year.

### **Facilities**

From an infrastructural standpoint, UBC Vancouver is well-positioned to stay with the CIS or move to the NCAA. Thanks to support from the University and from various external partners, UBC Athletics and Recreation has recently completed a range of projects, bringing UBC's facilities to a standard that meets or exceeds NCAA requirements. These projects include completion of the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre, two new artificial turf soccer fields, an artificial turf baseball practice facility and the Rashpal Dhillon UBC Track Oval. Recent upgrades to Thunderbird Stadium, home of UBC Football include a \$1.8 million state-of-the-art artificial turf field, a new \$150,000 roof, an \$80,000 locker room renovation, painting and general clean-up. Construction has begun on an \$8-million tennis centre, as well as new grass rugby fields. A partnership with the Vancouver Canucks also allowed provision of a weight-training room for varsity athletes. Finally, UBC Athletics and Recreation is weighing the costs of building a softball park on the former football practice field.

### **Staffing**

Varsity coaching staff now includes full-time assistant coaches and a strength and conditioning coach, positions that were added to increase competitiveness and enhance the student-athlete experience. UBC would require no additional coaching resources to qualify for NCAA Division II membership, but would have to add a full-time compliance officer.

### **Funding Implications**

The NCAA Division II Review Committee concluded in 2009 that UBC Athletics and Recreation is financially sound and can manage costs associated with NCAA membership. The varsity budget could absorb increased operating costs, including for those sports that might compete in Division I, by reinvesting the funds currently allocated to championship travel (the NCAA fully funds post-season travel) and from increased revenue anticipated from NCAA Division I Hockey.

<b>Incremental Financial Statement NCAA Division II Membership (GNAC)</b>			
<b>Area</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Revenue	\$ -	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Operating Expenses			
Travel	\$ 1,082,327	\$ 905,090	\$ (177,237)
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 2,422,266	\$ 2,487,266	\$ 65,000
Insurance	\$ 3,350	\$ 12,607	\$ 9,257
Membership Fees	\$ 98,042	\$ 30,400	\$ (67,642)
Officials	\$ 48,060	\$ 73,645	\$ 25,585
<b>Net Savings to UBC</b>			<b>\$ 153,537</b>

1. Comparison of *projected costs in NCAA Division II (GNAC)* to current (2008-09) varsity costs. Includes new compliance officer.
2. Assume 18 sports move into NCAA Division II; M/W Hockey, WRUG stay in Canada; Seven remain unchanged (club)
3. Revenue: Annual distribution of enhancement funds from Division II to members (approximately \$8,500 / school)
4. Savings arise mainly from reduced travel.

### **Eligibility - Impact on UBC Student-Athletes**

Academic standards for eligibility are higher in the NCAA than in the CIS. The NCAA requires 24 credits per year and a 2.00 GPA. In addition, the NCAA has an age limit rule that restricts competition to traditional university age (undergraduate) students. *(See Appendix V for detailed eligibility comparison)* NCAA and NAIA athletes are also eligible to compete for four years, as opposed to five in the CIS.

NCAA and NAIA require every first-year athlete to have written the SAT. Approximately 160 UBC student-athletes currently competing in the NAIA have written the SAT.

NCAA eligibility rules also exclude former Major Junior Hockey players, although those players are permitted to compete in the CIS.

### **Influence on UBC's Academic Mission**

The NCAA treats varsity athletics as an extension of learning that complements the academic mission and strengthens the university as a whole. NCAA Presidents are encouraged to provide leadership in establishing a place for sports in the academic missions of member universities.

NCAA officials have said that they are interested in UBC because of its high academic standards and high student-athlete graduation rates, in addition to the calibre of the inter-collegiate program. Academic reform is a major focus for the NCAA. Both the current and previous NCAA Presidents were former university presidents and advocates for academic reform, especially in football and men's basketball.

### **School Spirit**

UBC Athletics staff members attribute the recent decline in varsity fan attendance to the dilution of the competitive standard caused by an influx of small schools into the Canada West league. Varsity staff members have worked hard to keep UBC fans engaged, expanding the “Blue Crew” student-spirit group to more than 1,500 students in the past three years. UBC Athletics also reports high compatibility between Recreation and Varsity participants. Recreation participants serve as Varsity student staff and attend Varsity games, and Varsity athletes enjoy taking part in Recreation activities (e.g. Storm the Wall). Nevertheless, UBC Athletics believes that a move to the NCAA Division II would draw greater crowds and bolster school spirit.

### **Influence on UBC Okanagan**

The Okanagan Campus, which has been competing in the BC Colleges Athletic Association (BCCAA)/ Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA), has been accepted as a probationary member of CIS and Canada West, effective fall, 2011, so UBC would continue to be a member of Canada West/CIS even if Vancouver moved to the NCAA. For some sports, it will be possible for students admissible to both campuses to choose between the CIS or NCAA.

Vancouver, which has assisted the Okanagan Campus with its transition to CIS, will continue to provide advice and support. No negative effects have been identified for the Okanagan campus arising from Vancouver membership in NCAA Division II

## **THE SFU EXPERIENCE**

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In September, 2010, Simon Fraser University became the first Canadian school to join the NCAA Division II, where it is now competing in the GNAC conference. SFU will compete in both the NAIA and NCAA in 2010-11, but will not be eligible for NCAA championships until it is accepted as a provisional member in 2011-2012. Should the university meet all its requirements, it will receive full membership in 2012-13.

SFU reports some bumps in its transition, principally because a dispute with CIS/Canada West resulted in SFU making the switch a year earlier than planned. This created communication problems with student-athletes and left insufficient time to prepare, so some teams were not as competitive as they had hoped. SFU suggests that a UBC transition should be less challenging because there will be more time for advance planning.

Recruitment of new student-athletes has gone well, particularly in football, which enjoyed the biggest pool of recruits in recent history. In basketball, the late hiring of a coach, and in women's volleyball, a disappointing last season had a sufficiently negative impact on recruiting that SFU was unable to measure any NCAA advantage.

Student athletes have reported no issues with writing the SAT.

Community response has been very positive. Attendance is up for football, with parents and fans from visiting teams bolstering the crowd and enlivening the atmosphere. At the time of reporting, there had been only one basketball game, making it difficult to measure a trend in attendance or school spirit.

Administratively, the experience has been good. SFU reports a solid relationship with GNAC, which has been well-organized, professional and welcoming.

Media response has been "unbelievable," with positive coverage from the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Globe and Mail* and from various other Canadian newspapers.

### **Implications for UBC**

With SFU in the NCAA, UBC can no longer schedule regular season competition, ending a long-standing intra-city rivalry (i.e. the Shrum Bowl). SFU may also acquire a recruitment advantage over UBC because of the profile and allure of NCAA sport and the ability to award enhanced scholarships. Finally, there being no other "local" football opponents, UBC has had to schedule an extra "away" game, requiring an additional travel expenditure of approximately \$40,000.

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## **IMPACT ON CANADIAN SPORT AND THE CIS**

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As a founding member of the CIS, UBC has worked hard to resolve outstanding issues to protect its investment in the CIS and in Canadian sport. At the same time, UBC Athletics has a responsibility to ensure its (mostly Canadian) athletes have access to a high calibre of competition. In eight sports in which the CIS has little or no offerings, this has meant competing in the US-based NAIA.

The CIS has expressed little direct concern about the NCAA Division II Canadian pilot, about SFU's switch or UBC's expression of interest. In a January 2008 press release, CIS officials said: "The feedback from Canadian universities suggests that a very small number of universities might pursue the NCAA option. While CIS values all our members and does not want to lose any, the CIS membership has grown in recent years and indications are it will continue to do so. So from a simple number of members perspective, the potential loss of one or two members is offset by the recent expansion."

Given its standing, UBC is judged by global standards. Since the NCAA is the best intercollegiate athletic affiliation in North America, UBC and its competitive Canadian students may benefit from NCAA Division II membership. Given the high number of Canadians already competing in the NCAA, UBC membership in Division II would also allow students to enjoy that experience without having to study outside Canada.

Even if the Vancouver campus chose NCAA Division II membership, UBC would continue to support the CIS through participation of the Okanagan campus.

### **Canadians Playing in the USA**

While the NCAA tracks international students, it does not provide breakdowns by country, so the most recent reliable data on Canadians competing in the NCAA dates from 1996. The NCAA Study of International Students showed that of 8,851 student-athletes who responded to the survey, 2,514 (28.4%) were Canadian. For context, 10,000 student-athletes currently compete within the CIS.

A more recent study, conducted in 2010 by Ken Shields, former Athletic Director at the University of Victoria and past Canadian National Men's Basketball coach, found that 977 Canadians were competing in seven NCAA disciplines (not counting men's hockey or football). They were as follows:

- Basketball      144 (Women: 74 / Men: 70) – Division I only plus 99 Canadian men playing at US Prep schools
- Soccer            167 (Women: 112 / Men: 55)
- Swimming        132 (Women: 89 / Men: 43)
- Hockey            285 (Women only)
- Athletics         153 (indoor track & field only)
- Field Hockey    44 (Women only)
- Volleyball        52 (Women only)

Shields also found that 13 of 18 players on Canada's 2010 Women's Olympic Hockey team competed in the NCAA. Five attended CIS institutions.

MMK Consulting found that, as of November 2010, 349 Canadians were playing men's hockey at 23 institutions within two NCAA hockey conferences, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) and the Central Collegiate Hockey Conference (CCHA).

## **NCAA DIVISION I**

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In the 2008 public consultation, a number of respondents stated that Division I is the obvious fit for a campus with such a comprehensive varsity program. UBC's size and academic reputation are in keeping with Division I schools and, with the exception of an eligibility compliance staff member, Vancouver already meets the sports, scholarship, facility and staffing minimums of most Division I sports. UBC Athletics and Recreation at Vancouver reports that a number of UBC teams would be competitive at the Division I level (Baseball, Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Men's Swimming, Women's Swimming, Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Men's Track & Field, Women's Track & Field, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Men's Basketball). Women's Basketball, a core required sport, could be competitive after Division II experience. Football would require a major financial commitment to be competitive.

In the immediate term, Division I is not an option: new NCAA rules stipulate that all Division I applicants must have been in Division II for at least five years. In the event that proponents (or opponents) may be contemplating Division I as a longer term goal, the following describes some of the differences between the two divisions: (*See also Appendix VI*)

- Division I is the highest level of intercollegiate athletics sanctioned by the NCAA and considered the highest level of intercollegiate athletics in North America.
- Division I schools typically have larger athletics budgets, more elaborate facilities and higher numbers of athletic scholarships.
- Division I schools must field athletes in at least 14 sports; Division II schools must field athletes in at least 10 sports.
- Division II philosophy features an intentional balance between academics and athletics, where student-athletes are valued for their athletic contribution and for being an important part of the overall student body.
- Conferences typically require each member to compete in specific core sports.
- Members can participate in the NCAA without competing in football; most multi-sport conferences in all three divisions stipulate basketball as a core sport
- In Division II, GNAC Bylaws stipulate "each member institution is required to complete in the following sports: Women: Basketball, Cross Country, Volleyball/ Men: Basketball, Cross Country".
- There is a considerable emphasis in Division I on men's basketball and football because those sports drive NCAA revenues that fund all divisions.
- A successful Division II basketball program is key to acceptance into a Division I conference.

The level of competition in some Division I sports (football, basketball) and the tension that arises from the large amount of money that these sports generate would raise concerns about potential distortion of academic standards, financial pressures on coaching salaries, alumni influence and diversion of Board and Senior Executive attention. At the same time, Division I status could raise UBC's international profile, promote alumni engagement and school spirit, and help retain top student-athletes in Canada.

UBC is undertaking an extensive review and consultation in considering Division II membership. A similarly comprehensive and transparent process would precede any decision to move to Division I.

## **MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS SUMMARY**

### **Points in Favour of Remaining in CIS/NAIA**

- UBC student-athletes competing in the CIS would retain five years of eligibility, rather than four in the NCAA.
- UBC is spared the expense and logistical challenges of seeking US accreditation.
- UBC maintains traditional rivalries with Western Canadian universities other than SFU.
- Sport specific impact of NCAA membership is significant for some sports. For example, volleyball has a shorter season in the NCAA than in CIS; hockey players who played Major Junior retain eligibility in CIS, but are precluded in the NCAA.
- UBC is a founding member of Canadian Interuniversity Sport; switching to NCAA may be perceived as undermining the organization.
- NCAA membership requires student-athletes to write SATs.
- It's easier to stay; transition is challenging.

### **Points in Favour of Pursuing Membership in the NCAA**

- In the competition for student athletes, UBC could match scholarship offerings from SFU and other NCAA schools.
- Of the 29 sports in which UBC competes, NCAA offers 25; CIS offers 15.
- The eight sports currently competing in the (threatened) NAIA would be protected.
- The long-standing rivalry with Simon Fraser University would be retained.
- Membership in a US-based league builds international engagement.
- UBC's visibility will be heightened, both institutionally and for international student recruitment.
- It would protect a high competitive standard. (The level of competition in CIS/Canada West is being steadily diluted by the inclusion of small universities and colleges.)
- Creation of a BC Division could end UBC's traditional rivalries against large, like-minded universities in Western Canada.

### **Options for Change, Should the NCAA Division II Fail to Meet UBC Vancouver's Needs**

Option 1: Move to Division I

Option 2: Return to CIS

Under any circumstances, UBC will remain in the CIS through the Okanagan Campus and will continue its efforts to strengthen that organization. If competitive tiering, academic eligibility and athletic scholarships improve, Vancouver could apply to re-enter CIS.

Okanagan Campus

If Vancouver were to be in NCAA Division I, the Okanagan campus could apply for NCAA Division II membership, stay in CIS or return to the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA).

**APPENDIX I: A BRIEF HISTORY OF UBC ATHLETICS**

- 1945 – 1961 UBC participated in the US based Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference and later moved to the Evergreen Conference. The Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference included University of Oregon, University of Washington and Washington State. The Evergreen Conference included smaller schools such as Western Washington, Seattle Pacific and Pacific Lutheran.
- 1959 UBC moved its athletic program to the newly formed Western Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Association (WCIAA), now called the Canada West University Athletic Association (Canada West).
- 1961 The Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) was formed. Now called Canadian University Sport (CIS), this body has 54 member institutions and 10,000 student athletes competing in four conferences. UBC is a charter member of the Canada West Conference that stretches from Victoria to Winnipeg.
- 1998 UBC joined the U.S.-based National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in the sports of baseball, golf, track & field and cross country. In 2009, UBC added women’s softball.
- 2005 Okanagan campus of UBC established. Okanagan college students still eligible. Sports are men and women’s teams in soccer, volleyball and basketball. Teams play in the BC Colleges Athletic Assoc (BCCAA) and Canadian Colleges Athletic Assoc (CCAA).
- 2008 Okanagan campus varsity program re-named the Okanagan Heat.
- 2010 Okanagan campus accepted as a probationary member of CIS and Canada West, effective fall, 2011, in men and women’s basketball and volleyball.

UBC Vancouver currently offers 29 varsity sports:

- Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) 13 sports (7w / 6m)  
Basketball (m/w), Field Hockey (w), Football(m), Hockey (m/w), Rugby (w), Soccer (m/w), Swimming (m/w), Volleyball (m/w)
- National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) 8 sports (4w / 4m)  
Baseball, Cross Country (m/w), Golf (m/w), Softball (added in 2009), Track & Field (outdoor) (m/w)
- Unaffiliated (varsity club high performance sports) 8 (3w / 5m)  
Rowing (m/w), Field Hockey (m); Rugby (m); Nordic Skiing (m/w), Alpine Skiing (m/w)

## **APPENDIX II: CANADA WEST / CIS / NAIA OVERVIEW**

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UBC currently competes in Canada in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) and in the United States in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), the national governing body of university sport in Canada, is composed of the majority of degree-granting universities in the country. Fifty-four member institutions with more than 10,000 student-athletes vie for 19 national championships annually. From British Columbia to Newfoundland, the CIS is organized into four regional conferences: Canada West Universities Athletic Association (Canada West), Ontario University Athletics, Quebec Student Sports Federation and Atlantic University Sport. UBC is a founding member of the Canada West Conference, comprised of 13 teams from Victoria to Winnipeg. UBC's Okanagan Campus will join the Canada West conference in September 2011, competing in four sports (men's and women's basketball and men's and women's volleyball).

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is a completely autonomous association based in the United States that administers intercollegiate athletics for approximately 300 fully accredited colleges and smaller universities.

**APPENDIX III: NCAA DIVISION II OVERVIEW**

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is an association of approximately 1,300 institutions that organizes the athletic programs of many colleges and universities in the United States and now in Canada with the recent entrance of SFU. Its headquarters are located in Indianapolis, Indiana. The NCAA’s “core purpose is to govern competition in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner, and to integrate intercollegiate athletics into higher education so that the educational experience of the student-athlete is paramount.” (Excerpt from NCAA mission statement, January, 2010)

The NCAA is made up of three membership classifications that are known as Divisions I, II and III. Each division creates its own rules governing personnel, amateur status, recruiting, eligibility, benefits, financial aid, and playing and practice sessions, consistent with the overall governing principles of the Association. Every program must affiliate its core program with one of the three divisions.

Division II is currently made up of 293 institutions. Division II programs must offer at least 10 sports (at least five for men and five for women, or four for men and six for women). The institution must sponsor at least two team sports for each gender. The school must also have participating male and female teams or participants in the fall, winter and spring seasons, and must have at least the minimum number of participants and contests for each sport.

Division II institutions must offer a minimum amount of financial aid but may not exceed established maximums. Financial aid equivalencies are common in all Division II sports.

**Graduation Rates:** Division II student-athletes consistently graduate at a higher rate (nine per cent higher in 2009-10) than the overall student body.

**Diverse Membership:** Division II has a diverse membership, with two active members in Alaska, four in Hawaii, member institutions in Puerto Rico and one in Canada (Simon Fraser).

**Membership Facts:**

Total Members:	293	
Composition:	52% Public Institutions / 48% Private Institutions	
Undergraduate Enrolment:	Men 43% / Women 57%	
Student-Athletes:	Men 59% / Women 41%	
Average Number of Sports Sponsored per Institution:		Men 6.9 / Women 7.6
Average Number of Student-Athletes per Division II Institution (with football):		Men 234 / Women 136

**Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) member schools**

The league currently has 10 full members:

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Founded</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
University of Alaska Anchorage	Anchorage, Alaska	Seawolves	1954	Public	16,242
University of Alaska Fairbanks	Fairbanks, Alaska	Nanooks	1917	Public	9,380
Central Washington University	Ellensburg, Washington	Wildcats	1891	Public	10,145
Montana State University Billings	Billings, Montana	Yellowjackets	1927	Public	4,600
Northwest Nazarene University	Nampa, Idaho	Crusaders	1913	Private	1,630
St. Martin's University	Lacey, Washington	Saints	1895	Private	1,628
Seattle Pacific University	Seattle, Washington	Falcons	1891	Private	3,773
Simon Fraser University	Burnaby, British Columbia	Clan	1965	Public	32,940
Western Oregon University	Monmouth, Oregon	Wolves	1856	Public	5,654
Western Washington University	Bellingham, Washington	Vikings	1893	Public	13,070

**Football-playing members**

- Central Washington University
- Dixie State College of Utah - Competes primarily in the Pacific West Conference
- Humboldt State University - Competes primarily in the California Collegiate Athletic Association
- Western Oregon University
- Simon Fraser University

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## **APPENDIX IV: SUMMARY OF THE US ACCREDITATION SYSTEM**

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*The following draws on a report from MMK Consulting regarding their research on the US Accreditation System.*

The accreditation requirement for NCAA is for institutional accreditation from one of the six regional accreditation agencies. All programs are reviewed as part of the evaluation of the institution.

The most logical accreditation agency for UBC is the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). NWCCU is an independent, non-profit membership organization, recognized as the regional authority on higher education institutions in the seven-state Northwest region of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. It establishes accreditation criteria and evaluation procedures by which institutions are reviewed.

As of December 1, 2009, the NWCCU website stated that it oversees regional accreditation for 163 institutions, including University of Washington, Western Washington, and Portland State. This total also includes two international institutions: Simon Fraser University (listed as an Applicant, first stage, in 2009) and Capilano College (listed as a Candidate, intermediate stage, in 2008). NWCCU has no international institutions that are accredited at this time.

The initial step in applying for accreditation with the NWCCU is to seek recognition as a Candidate for Accreditation. While Candidacy does not ensure accreditation, it is a status of affiliation with the Commission that an institution has achieved initial recognition and is progressing toward accreditation.

The application process begins once the Board of Governors of an institution believes that all requirements have been met. An Application for Consideration consists of a letter of application, a \$2,500 fee, and the following documents:

1. Thorough written response to each of the 20 Eligibility Requirements;
2. Plans for institutional development;
3. Current course catalogue;
4. Current budget and audited financial statement; and
5. Articles of incorporation and bylaws (or charter), and proof of government authority to operate and grant degrees.

If NWCCU judges that the institution meets the conditions of eligibility, the institution is advised to proceed with an analytic self-study for Candidacy, and to set tentative dates for an evaluation committee onsite visit. The self-study report and evaluation for Candidacy are to be completed between one and three years following the acceptance of the Application for Consideration.

Successful completion of these steps will lead to Candidacy status. Further self-study and campus visits are required to achieve full accreditation – a process that takes about seven years from commencement.

**This initial brief review led to the following tentative conclusions:**

- The institutional evaluation by NWCCU can be expected to require a level of effort that is moderately high. All units of the university would be involved.
- Leadership and support from the Board and the President are essential.
- A self-study candidacy committee would need to be formed, with the target of completing the self-study report in a period of 12-18 months. This committee would be also required for the subsequent self-studies to achieve full accreditation.
- Some of the required documents and exhibits already exist within the university, and could be brought together and harmonized into a cohesive self-study report.
- Every faculty and department would be involved, and details would be required on every degree or program. Requirements for written objectives and educational outcomes at the degree or program level impose a certain level of work load on faculty in this process.

With these initial conclusions in hand, we moved on to meeting with both Simon Fraser University and Capilano University, as the two Canadian schools are currently working their way through the NWCCU accreditation process, to see how their experiences mesh with our conclusions above.

**Feedback from SFU and Capilano**

At these two schools, we met in person with Dr. Tim Rahilly, Acting AVP Students, Simon Fraser University and Mr. Stephen Williams, Accreditation Committee Co-Chair, Capilano University.

The meetings with these two schools are highly informative and bring out a number of common themes. The self-study process is significant, and the workload is not to be underestimated. The self-study process can be expected to need up to three dedicated FTEs for about two years for the initial self-study, and for a shorter time period for subsequent self-studies. These two people will be the workhorses for a self-study committee that will likely be in the order of 18 – 20 people.

At this point, we also contacted University of Washington regarding their staffing of accreditation. We spoke with Mr. Norm Arkans, Associate VP Media Relations and Communication. He advised that U of W does not have any permanent staff assigned to NWCCU accreditation. When the five-yearly interim report and ten-yearly self-studies come around, ad-hoc working committees are formed to deal these reports. A number of 22 staff is about right for the total number of individuals sitting on a self-study committee; however, for virtually all of these committee members, this is a limited part-time commitment as part of their broader duties. With NWCCU now moving to a seven-year accreditation process (with rolling components of the self-study done every two years), U of W has not yet determined how these will be developed or the staffing/committee structure that will support it. From the information obtained from U of W, it appears that the claim made in the UBC NCAA Review Committee Report (p. 22) that “the University of Washington, a public research university, reports maintaining a full-time, year-round staff of twenty-two to assist with its accreditation” represents a misunderstanding of committee volunteers versus paid staff.

Accreditation of Canadian schools still appears to have significant “novelty value” for the NWCCU and its accreditation team members, and the Commission is still on a learning curve, as it deals with Capilano and SFU as its first two non-US schools.

Both schools started the accreditation process with NWCCU without giving any consideration to other US regional accreditation agencies, as NWCCU appears to be the logical choice based on geography. Both schools commented that the proximity of NWCCU headquarters in Seattle has been beneficial.

Given this last point raised by SFU and Capilano – the consideration of other regional accreditation agencies – we extended our research to briefly review each of the other five regional agencies to see whether any other than NWCCU may offer an advantage to UBC. Among the six US regional accreditation agencies, SACS (Southern) and WASC (California) are the two agencies where the process to accreditation may offer UBC some benefits over the standard NWCCU seven-year process.

**APPENDIX V: Selected Academic Standards for Student-Athletes**

**NCAA Division II Review Committee for UBC Vancouver**

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>NCAA Division II</b>	<b>CIS</b>
Minimum SAT score	A minimum combined score of 820 on the SAT verbal/critical reasoning and math sections.	SAT score not required.
High school academic performance requirements	Minimum 2.00/4.00 Grade Point Average (GPA) with minimum of fourteen core curriculum courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- three years for English</li> <li>- two years each for Mathematics, Natural sciences and Social sciences,</li> <li>- two years of additional courses in any of the above, and</li> <li>- an additional two years of any of the above or a foreign language, computer science or non-doctrinal religion.</li> </ul>	Minimum of 60% on courses used to determine university entrance.
Minimum academic enrolment	Minimum enrolment of twenty-four (24) semester hours per academic year.	Nine (9) credit hours minimum during term in which student competes within CIS.
Minimum academic performance for continuing eligibility	Minimum 18 credits earned and minimum GPAs follows: 1.80/4.00 after the first 24 semester hours 1.90/4.00 after the first 48 semester hours 2.00/4.00 after the first 72 semester hours.	Successful completion of eighteen (18) semester hours during the academic year. (CIS bylaw 40.10.3.3.1)

Sources: Canadian Interuniversity Sport (2008a, p.p. 40-7, 40-15), National Collegiate Athletic Association (2008, July, p.p. 130, 134).

**APPENDIX VI: NCAA Division I & II Comparison Chart**

<b>REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>DIVISION II</b>	<b>DIVISION I</b>
<b>Sport Commitment Level</b>	Minimum 10	Minimum 14
<b>Scholarships</b>	Minimum \$250,000 (excluding football and basketball)	Minimum \$1,049,222 (excluding football and basketball)
<b>Eligibility</b>	4 years	4 years
<b>Membership</b>	293 active members	345 active members
<b>General Membership Requirements</b>	3 season requirement (1 sport per gender, per season); schedule requirement (must meet minimum contests and participant requirements); minimum financial aid requirement (\$250,000)	Football Scheduling requirement, according to football classification (if school sponsors football); football attendance requirement depending on classification; men's & women's basketball scheduling requirement; schedule requirements in sports other than football and basketball; minimum financial aid requirement (\$1,049,022)
<b>Scholarships - Equivalency (Total)</b>		
<b>Football</b>	36	63 - 85 (depending on Div)
<b>Men's Basketball</b>	10	13
<b>Women's Basketball</b>	10	15
<b>Women's Volleyball</b>	8	12
<b>Baseball</b>	9	11.7
<b>Softball</b>	7.2	12
<b>Soccer, M</b>	9	9.9
<b>Soccer, W</b>	9.9	14
<b>Golf, W</b>	5.4	6
<b>Golf, M</b>	3.6	4.5

**APPENDIX VII: UBC & NCAA Division II Membership**

**UBC and NCAA Division II Membership**

**Varsity Sport Situational Analysis**

August 2010

<b>VARSITY SPORT</b>	<b>CURRENT Affiliation</b>	<b>CURRENT SITUATION - CIS / NAIA</b>	<b>NCAA</b>
Basketball, M	CIS	Dilution of competition with new members joining Canada West; concern of long-term scenario of BC only conference; lost rivalry with SFU; loss of consistency of traditional rivalries with long-time members	Ability to attract top Canadian athletes; enhanced scholarships; rivalry with SFU intact; sport offered in GNAC; championship costs covered
Basketball, W	CIS	Dilution of competition with new members joining Canada West; concern of long-term scenario of BC only conference; lost rivalry with SFU; loss of consistency of traditional rivalries with long-time members	Potential to attract top Canadian athletes; opportunity for enhanced scholarships; rivalry with SFU intact; sport offered in GNAC; championship costs covered
Field Hockey, W	CIS	No foreseeable growth in CIS; concern of longevity in CIS due to lack of university interest in Canada (only 12 CIS schools, 4 in Canada West)	Enhanced scholarship opportunities; large base of teams; enhanced competition; north / south better weather conditions; California conference would be a good fit; championship costs covered
Football	CIS	Costly travel, especially without SFU; increase in travel costs (\$40k per trip); every trip is a plane trip - lost rivalry with SFU; annual Shrum Bowl in jeopardy due to scheduling conflicts; football schools in Canada West are long time university rivals (Alberta, Sask, Calgary, etc.)	Enhanced scholarship opportunities; ability to attract top Canadian athletes; rivalry with SFU and ability to continue tradition of Shrum Bowl; north / south better weather conditions; GNAC would be lower travel costs per trip; 2 local games / year vs. SFU; championship costs covered
Hockey, M	CIS	Dependent on recruitment of major junior hockey players - not students first; must use older players to be competitive; limited fan appeal	Division I opportunity; highest level of university competition in North America; minimum 25% of players drafted to the NHL come from NCAA; enhanced scholarships; attraction of hockey players (17 years +) whose primary goal is academics; natural fit for new arena; huge upside for fan and alumni support vs. Division I competition; championship costs covered
Hockey, W	CIS	Difficult to compete - losing top Canadian players to US because of lure of scholarships;	Division I opportunity; highest level of university competition in North; ability to attract top Canadians who are going to US; enhanced scholarships; huge upside for fan support vs. Division I competition; championship costs covered
Rugby, W	CIS	Limited schedule in Canada West with only 4 teams; difficult to recruit players	Considered an emerging sport; high upside for sport in NCAA; ability to attract top athletes with increased scholarships; profile of NCAA beneficial to sport

UBC and NCAA Division II Membership

*A Review of the Issues*

Soccer, M	CIS	Dilution of quality competition with new members joining Canada West; potential of becoming BC only league; compete in fall months in Alberta / Saskatchewan in poor weather conditions;	GNAC Conference; will have rivalry with SFU; loss of some traditional rivals in Canada West; ability to give scholarships and attract top athletes; benefits of playing soccer in fall months north / south vs. east / west; enhanced competition; championship costs covered.
Soccer, W	CIS	Dilution of quality competition with new members joining Canada West; potential of becoming BC only league; compete in fall months in Alberta / Saskatchewan in poor weather conditions	GNAC Conference; will have rivalry with SFU; loss of some traditional rivals in Canada West; ability to give scholarships and attract top athletes; benefits of playing soccer in fall months north / south vs. east / west; enhanced competition; championship costs covered.
Swimming, M / W	CIS	Limited to 2 official meets per year (CW / CIS)	Would compete in independent schedule; more meaningful competition for same cost; broader base of schools to compete against; ability to give more scholarships; championship costs covered
Volleyball, M	CIS	Risk of dilution of competition with new members joining Canada West; loss of consistency of traditional rivalries with long-time members	Excellent opportunity to play Division I volleyball; one championship offered in NCAA; opportunity to play UCLA, Pepperdine, Stanford, etc.; huge upside; enhanced fan support; ability to offer scholarships; change to one season (spring sport); championship costs covered.
Volleyball, W	CIS	Risk of dilution of competition with new members joining Canada West; loss of consistency of traditional rivalries with long-time members; high quality of competition in Canada	GNAC Conference; ability to give more scholarships; championship costs covered; earlier and more compact season (fall semester); concern of Canadian student-athletes choosing to play CIS vs. NCAA Division II due to length of season in CIS and high quality of competition in CIS compared to DII
Baseball	NAIA	Baseball not offered in CIS. NAIA considered a lower calibre league than NCAA in terms of branding and competition; road to nationals is very expensive due to being in the Association of Independents	GNAC Conference; ease of schedule; cost effective; higher profile, branding; ability to give full-ride scholarships; level of competition is higher; championship costs covered
Cross Country, M / W	NAIA	Independent. Member of CIS or NAIA will lose athletes to SFU over time; multiple meets and better quality competition; NAIA better than CIS; NCAA better than NAIA. New CIS dual membership bylaw may force UBC to play in CIS which will be detrimental to program. UBC moved from CIS to NAIA in 2002.	GNAC Conference; ease of schedule; cost effective; higher profile, branding; ability to give full-ride scholarships; level of competition is higher; championship costs covered

UBC and NCAA Division II Membership

*A Review of the Issues*

Golf, M / W	NAIA	Golf is not offered in CIS. Compete as an independent; difficult and costly travel to quality events; will lose athletes to SFU; can give full scholarships; very successful in raising funds for golf; SFU poses big threat to keeping golf viable because of the NCAA brand.	GNAC Conference - Men's Golf; Women's Golf would play an independent schedule; higher level of competition; continue to offer full scholarships; continue to stay ahead of SFU; continue to grow program; easier qualification for post season; most cost effective; championship costs covered
Softball	NAIA	Softball not offered in CIS; new sport at UBC; lots of support from alumni; ability to give scholarships; No conference play in geographic area = no home games; SFU moving to NCAA will put program at risk; very costly for post-season travel	GNAC Conference; high profile; ability to play a quality league schedule, with guaranteed home games; cost effective; NCAA playoff costs are covered; ability to give full scholarships
Track & Field, M / W	NAIA	Outdoor sport is suitable for UBC; multiple meets in NAIA; similar to cross country; ability to give full scholarships; CIS offers indoor T&F only; UBC not affected by new CIS dual membership bylaw	GNAC Conference; higher level of competition; better brand; in a quality conference; qualification is less burden for travel; championship costs covered
Field Hockey, M	Unaffiliated	Competes in a premier league in BC; not offered in CIS	Not offered in CIS, NAIA or NCAA - will stay status quo as a high performance sport
Rowing, M	Unaffiliated	Not offered in CIS, NAIA, NCAA; is bound by CIS rules; has few intercollegiate competitions within Canada; takes part in the annual Canadian University Rowing Championship (CURC) that is hosted by the Canadian University Rowing Association	Moving to NCAA, no league but ability to offer full scholarships; will have ability to compete against Canadian schools; will make schedule better; higher profile; all competition will be against universities
Rowing, W	Unaffiliated	Not offered in CIS, NAIA, NCAA; is bound by CIS rules; has few intercollegiate competitions within Canada; takes part in the annual Canadian University Rowing Championship (CURC) that is hosted by the Canadian University Rowing Association	Huge boost to women's rowing. Ability for quality schedule; opportunity to qualify for national championship; ability to attract top Canadian rowers; opportunity to give full-ride scholarships; championship costs covered
Rugby, M	Unaffiliated	Competes in a premier league in BC; also has annual competition against some of the top US schools; not offered in CIS; CIS/Rugby Canada looking at a university championship for Rugby 7's; has large endowment; large alumni following	Not currently offered as a championship sport; new in 2011, a US Rugby / NCAA combined championships; would provide opportunities to compete against NCAA schools; higher profile for sport;
Skiing, Alpine, M / W	Unaffiliated	Not offered in CIS; competes in an unaffiliated United States ski association	NCAA offers one championship for alpine and Nordic skiing combined; no conference affiliation but an opportunity to compete at a bone fide national championship
Skiing, Nordic, M / W	Unaffiliated	Not offered in CIS; competes in one or 2 competitions per year in Canada; there is an unaffiliated university championship each year	NCAA offers one championship for alpine and Nordic skiing combined; no conference affiliation but an opportunity to compete at a bone fide national championship

Notes:

1. UBC supports the higher academic standards of the NCAA / NAIA. Athletic awards are based on eligibility to compete. However, academic standards needed to compete are minimum 24 credits and a minimum 2.00 GPA. CIS academic standards are 18 credits, with no GPA requirement.

**CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE JANUARY 2011 REVIEW OF THE ISSUES (Issued 25 March 2011)**

**Competitive Structure Within the Canada West Conference of the CIS**

One of UBC Vancouver's concerns is that recent expansion of the Canada West conference has, and will continue to, dilute the level of competition for UBC Vancouver varsity athletes. Since 1998-99, Canada West has expanded from its six founding members to 13 members. In 2001, the Great Plains Athletic Conference was dissolved and four of its members joined Canada West (Regina, Manitoba, Winnipeg and Brandon). One member, SFU, has left the organization, and UBC's Okanagan campus is currently a probationary member (bringing total participating membership to 14 institutions).

The most recent new members, prior to UBCO, are Thompson Rivers University and the University of the Fraser Valley. In the same round as UBCO, UNBC and Vancouver Island University also applied to be probationary members but their applications were not accepted at that time.

Newer members generally compete in fewer sports than does UBC:

<b>School</b>	<b>Year of initial Probationary status</b>	<b>CIS Sports participation</b>
Thompson Rivers University	2005	Men's and Women's Volleyball and Basketball
University of the Fraser Valley	2006	Men's and Women's Basketball and Soccer
UBCO	2011	Women's and Men's Basketball and Volleyball

Canada West has been concerned about how growth in the conference will affect competition. Its Committee on the Future Competitive Structure reported in 2010. At the Canada West AGM in 2010 this report was approved and a motion was passed agreeing to transition to two regional associations once 19 universities have joined. One of these associations will be made up of the first 11 members of Canada West, the newest 8 members will form a second association.

It is not clear when this transition will occur as there are not five potential applicants on the horizon. Only two new applications for membership (by UNBC and Mount Royal) will be considered in 2011. In the interim, competition schedules are being adjusted because of the growing membership. It appears likely that over the next 2 to 5 years at least, UBC Vancouver will play more games against the geographically proximate schools, and fewer against the original members of Canada West. Scheduling for competition within Canada West is currently organized 'divisionally' for game schedules on a sport by sport, year by year basis. A 'BC only' schedule may emerge for a given sport in a given year, where only a few 'interlocking' games would be played with other divisions.

In 2010, CIS commissioned a feasibility study of aligning with the Canadian Colleges Athletics Association. The benefits of such a collaboration might include cost savings, greater participation rates, and opportunities for creating various levels, or 'tiers', within the competitive structures. This feasibility study did not make it to consideration at the AGM because of concerns raised by several university presidents about the approach taken to alignment and about tiering. CIS has not conducted a study of tiering within the existing organization.

## **Scholarships for Athletes**

Funding for student athletes in Canada includes Athletic Financial Awards (AFAs), academic merit awards, and 'other' awards, an important sub-set of which are considered 'leadership' awards for which all students at an institution are eligible. CIS rules limit AFAs, as outlined in the January 2011 report. CIS is concerned that its scholarship rules are not well adhered to and is bringing forward a compliance program for consideration at the June 2011 AGM.

For several years now, UBC has advocated for the ability to give 'full ride' scholarships to student athletes in order to retain more top level student athletes in Canada. UBC felt that that 2009 CIS flexible scholarship proposal did not move either fast enough or far enough in this direction, but in any case this model was rejected by CIS. The compliance program will not address this issue. UBC is concerned that the new proposal will constrain flexibility in 'leadership' awards, a very small number of which do support student athletes at UBC. CIS states that it has no intention of constraining the award of leadership awards to student athletes at UBC.

UBC does not award nearly as many AFAs as it could under CIS rules. The January 2011 report erroneously stated that UBC awarded 80% of the CIS limit last year. The 80% figure included non-AFA awards to student athletes, AFA awards at UBC were only 11% of the CIS limit. Most UBC student athletes who receive scholarship funding, do so on the basis of academic merit alone. UBC Athletics believes that moving to the NCAA will open up fund raising opportunities that will bring more money to fund athlete scholarships.

## **CIS Governance**

A proposal for Presidential oversight in CIS governance will be considered at the 2011 CIS AGM. If this proposal is successfully ratified, the CIS Executive will propose that the first item of business for the Presidents to address is scholarship policy. Other items of concern to UBC such as membership and tiering would likely also be considered by this presidential group.

## **International Competitive Opportunities**

If UBC were to join the NCAA Division II, all competitors except SFU teams would be 'international' in the sense of being based in another country. On the other hand, some opportunities, in some sports, to represent Canada internationally would be reduced because in some cases CIS has the right to represent Canada (for example at the world university games) or the right to appoint coaches for Canadian teams. At the 2011 winter world university games (known by the French acronym 'FISU' games) only CIS athletes were eligible to compete in the sports of ice hockey and curling. In the selection of athletes for the Canadian men's basketball team for the upcoming summer FISU and Pan Am games, athletes must be intending to compete in the CIS in autumn 2011 in order to be eligible. Students competing in CIS, CCAA, NAIA and NCAA, as well as those who are university students but whose sports have no university competitive structure, are (or were, in the case of the winter games) eligible to compete in the world university games (winter and summer) in 2011.