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2013-14 Adjusted Graduation Gap Report: NCAA D-I Basketball

Columbia, SC – March 12, 2014...The College Sport Research Institutes at the University of South Carolina released the 4th annual Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) Report for NCAA Division I women’s and men’s basketball. The 2013-14 report reveals – once again – NCAA D-I men’s basketball players (especially in “major” conferences) graduate at rates much less than other full-time male students. The overall AGG for major conferences was -31.5, with Black male players having a -37 AGG and White players -22.3.¹ The women’s AGG within major conferences was -13.6, with Black female players having an -11.5 AGG. White females in major conferences had a -15.6 AGG.

Once again the men’s major conferences’ AGG average is larger than -30, continuing a consistent trend of large overall negative AGGs in major conferences (-30.8 [2010], -32.4 [2011], -30.1 [2012]). Once again, women’s

¹ A negative AGG means that the athlete graduation rate is less than the general full-time student body rate.

conferences' AGGs are much less, but there is not a significant difference in White and Black AGGs.

Mid-major AGGs are once again less in both men's and women's basketball, but there are some troubling findings among men's mid-major basketball conferences. Specifically, the largest Black player AGG in all D-I was -55.3 in the Big Sky. In addition, many mid-major conferences have overall negative AGGs in excess of -20, with no real closing of these gaps.

The continuing large double-digit negative AGGs for almost all conferences suggest this is a systemic issue, requiring policy and governance responses by NCAA member universities.

Report Highlights

- Across all D-I men's basketball conferences, AGGs increased -1.8 points from last year to -21.8.
- Women's basketball D-I AGGs increased slightly -.3 to -9.7.
- Men's Major conference AGGs increased -1.4 to -31.5.
- Women's Major conference AGGs increased slightly -.2 to -13.6.
- Men's Mid-major conference AGGs increased -1.6 to -17.2
- The American Athletic Conference had the largest overall AGG in NCAA D-I (-43.5), followed by the Big Ten (-36.8), ACC (-35.1), Big West (-34.7), and SEC (-34.3) all with AGGs greater than -30.
- The largest Black male D-I AGGs were the Big Sky (-55.3), Big Ten (-47.8), American (-45.3), WAC (-41.6), and Pac-12 (-41.2).
- The largest Black female D-I AGGs were in the America East (-35.7), Summit (-30.2), MVC (-22.9), Atlantic Sun (-21.2), SunBelt (-21.0), and Big Ten (-20.2).
- The largest White male D-I AGGs were in the American (-47.4), Big West (-45.6), and America West (-41.1).
- The largest White female D-I AGGs were in CUSA (-33), MWC (-24.9), American (-22), Northeast (-16.6), and A-10 (-15.9)

NCAA Division-I Adjusted Graduation Gap Tables for NCAA D-I basketball conferences are found in the Appendix. Previous AGG Reports are available at <http://csri-sc.org/research/>

CSRI Research-Team Statement:

In light of recent attention paid to college sport – especially FBS football – in the mainstream media, this study’s results highlight the degree to which NCAA Division I men’s players, both Black and White are not graduating at rates comparable to other full-time male students. These data call into question the degree to which NCAA D-I men’s basketball players have access to a meaningful education leading to a degree from the school to which they initially enroll. This access may be compromised as the pressures associated with the college-sport entertainment industry continue to encroach: training and competition schedules akin to a full-time job (NCAA, 2011).

The College Sport Research Institute calls on university and athletic-department administrators to address the increased proliferation of late-night, mid-week basketball games, which results in extensive cross-country travel and increased missed class time for over-worked players

NCAA President Mark Emmert has articulated “...two very simple, complicated, but simple propositions” (NCAA, 2011, p. 10) related to the NCAA’s Collegiate Model of Athletics.

1. College athletes have to be students in all the ways the NCAA professes
2. NCAA member universities have to behave with integrity, consistent the organization’s professed values (NCAA, 2011).

Four year's of AGG data reveals these two simple propositions are not being met. CSRI calls upon NCAA D-I conference commissioners, university presidents, athletic directors, university faculty, students and fans to openly and honestly ask themselves whether to educational bargain at the heart of the collegiate model is being met.

The AGG Report suggests maintaining the status quo is no longer acceptable. Innovative policies and strategies for addressing widespread large negative graduation gaps throughout NCAA D-I men's basketball must be implemented.

CSRI and Adjusted Graduation Gap Background

The College Sport Research Institute is dedicated to conducting and supporting independent data collection and analysis related to college-sport. CSRI is housed within the Department of Sport and Entertainment Management (SPTE) in the College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management (HRSM) at the University of South Carolina. In keeping with its mission and goals, the institute sponsors an annual conference dedicated to providing college-sport scholars and intercollegiate athletics practitioners a forum to discuss research related to pressing college-sport issues, publishes a peer-reviewed scholarly journal: *Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics (JIIA)*, and releases periodic research reports related to college sport issues.

In 1990, Congress mandated full disclosure of graduation rates at schools that award athletic grant-in-aid and receive federal financial aid. The Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) reports the percent of athletes and students who graduate within six years from the school they entered as first-year students. As a result, the FGR provides a measure of the extent to which

colleges and universities retain and graduate students (including athletes) who begin their college career at that school. The strength of the FGR is its focus on student retention.

This College Sport Research Institute (CSRI) Adjusted Graduation Gap (AGG) Report, compares an Adjusted Graduation Rate (AGR) for full-time students and with published Federal Graduation Rates (FGRs) for National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division-I Men's and Women's Basketball players in major and mid-major conferences.

A comparison of published FGRs of NCAA athletes and the general student population includes a significant number of part-time students at many schools. This is problematic because NCAA athletes must be "full-time." Consequently, it makes sense to compare full-time college athletes with other full-time students. Without adjusting for the possible downward "part-timer bias" in the student-body rate, any comparison may be distorted – or somewhat skewed. Because part-time students take longer to graduate, reported general student-body FGRs may be significantly reduced, making the relative rate of college athletes at many schools and conferences appear more favorable. Using regression-based adjustments for the percentage of part-timers, the 2013-14 CSRI Division-I Men's and Women's Basketball AGG Report utilizes the latest published FGR 4-class average graduation rates and addresses this "part-timer bias." These estimates then become the basis for a realistic comparison of reported NCAA Division-I basketball player graduation rates with adjusted full-time student graduation rates.

This research is not intended to challenge, refute, or replace any other graduation-rate reports or methods currently used. Instead, it is a way to

compare college-athlete graduation rates to full-time student bodies at schools, conferences, and college athletics in general.

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2013-14 NCAA Division-I Adjusted Graduation Gap Tables

Table 1

MEN'S BASKETBALL: 2013-14			
NCAA D-I "MAJOR" CONFERENCES			
Conference	B+W AGG	Black AGG	White AGG
Big East	-22.6	-28.7	-29.9
Atlantic-10	-24.3	-30.8	-15.3
Mountain West	-25.7	-33.1	-17.6
Big 12	-29.1	-36.9	-7.3
PAC-12	-31.1	-41.2	-23.1
Conference-USA	-32.1	-31.1	-29.3
Southeastern	-34.3	-35.9	-22.1
Atlantic Coast	-35.1	-38.7	-18.1
Big Ten	-36.8	-47.8	-13.2
American	-43.5	-45.3	-47.4
Average	-31.5	-37.0	-22.3

Table 2

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: 2013-14
NCAA D-I "MAJOR" CONFERENCES

Conference	B+W AGG	Black AGG	White AGG
Southeastern	-0.1	0.6	1.9
Big East	-10.9	-13.0	-12.3
Big 12	-11.4	-13.3	-9.8
Atlantic-10	-12.1	-12.1	-15.9
PAC-12	-14.4	-12.9	-9.8
Conference-USA	-15.7	-12.9	-33.0
Atlantic Coast	-16.8	-15.6	-15.6
Big Ten	-17.7	-20.2	-14.5
American	-17.8	-14.1	-22.0
Mountain West	-19.0	-1.4	-24.9
Average	-13.6	-11.5	-15.6

Table 3

MEN'S BASKETBALL: 2013-14			
NCAA D-I "MID-MAJOR" CONFERENCES			
Conference	B+W AGG	Black AGG	White AGG
Southwestern	-3.5	-3.1	N/A
Northeast	-9.9	-14.6	-6.0
Patriot	-10.2	-5.4	-18.6
Southern	-10.3	-15.7	-2.0
Horizon	-11.4	-10.5	-9.4
Mid-Eastern	-12.6	-14.2	N/A
Southland	-12.7	-22.5	-3.5
Metro Atlantic	-13.5	-13.6	-10.2
West Coast	-13.7	-17.4	-14.2
Missouri Valley	-15.2	-17.5	-3.8
Mid-American	-18.2	-22.9	-16.6
Atlantic Sun	-19.3	-21.9	-14.4
Ohio Valley	-21.7	-18.0	-21.6
Summit	-22.4	-19.7	-27.2
Sun Belt	-22.9	-31.0	-6.3
Colonial	-23.8	-30.7	-23.8
Big Sky	-26.0	-55.3	2.3
America East	-29.1	-24.2	-41.1
WAC	-29.3	-41.6	-14.4
Big West	-34.7	-35.3	-45.6
Average	-17.2	-20.6	-15.2

Notes:

Mid-major per insider.com

No White AGGs calculated for MEAC and SWAC, too few schools reporting White FGRs

Ivy League is excluded because of unreported BB graduation rates for both men and women.

Military academies are excluded. Universities with unreported FGRs are excluded.

Table 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: 2013-14			
NCAA D-I "MID-MAJOR" CONFERENCES			
Conference	B+W AGG	Black AGG	White AGG
Southwestern	+9.5	+11.0	N/A
Metro Atlantic	+4.9	-2.4	+4.9
Mid-Eastern	+3.6	+4.0	N/A
Horizon	-1.0	-10.5	+1.1
Big South	-2.7	-8.1	0.0
Southern	-2.9	+4.2	-6.7
Patriot	-3.5	+2.0	-3.5
Mid-American	-4.6	-14.0	+0.5
Southland	-7.3	-8.7	-13.2
WAC	-8.1	-8.2	-10.3
West Coast	-8.1	-9.4	-0.8
Missouri Valley	-8.4	-22.9	-0.1
Colonial	-8.9	-1.9	-15.1
Summit	-12.0	-30.2	-6.2
Northeast	-13.0	-17.6	-16.6
Ohio Valley	-14.3	-19.2	-12.8
Atlantic Sun	-15.7	-21.2	-15.7
Big Sky	-15.9	-11.6	-11.4
Sun Belt	-18.4	-21.0	-14.1
America East	-18.6	-35.7	-13.6
Average	-7.9	-12.1	-7.7

Notes:

Mid-major per insider.com

No White AGGs calculated for MEAC and SWAC, too few schools reporting White FGRs