

Jennifer Heppel

EDUCATION

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Bachelor of Arts Degree, June 1990

- Distinguished Alumna Award recipient (2020)
- Member of the Athletics Advisory Council (2011-2015; co-chair 2012-2015)
- Member of the Wesleyan University Athletics Hall of Fame selection committee (2007-2012)
- Varsity women's ice hockey (1986-1990); captain (1989-1990); Jones Award recipient (1989-1990)

Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh, PA

Master of Business Administration Degree, December 1993

ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

PATRIOT LEAGUE

Commissioner (2015-present)

- Serve as the public face, spokesperson, official representative and principal administrative officer of the Patriot League, a 24-sport NCAA Division I conference composed of 10 highly selective colleges and universities (American University, Boston University, Bucknell University, Colgate University, College of the Holy Cross, Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Loyola University Maryland, United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy).
- Report directly to the League's Council of Presidents/Superintendents and work closely with the Council to develop and execute a strategic plan for the League that serves and advances its mission and values.
- Engage the League membership in dialogue and effective decision-making practices to advance the League's strategic and operational initiatives; supervise the planning, coordinating and conducting of the inter-institutional business of the League; oversee all regular season and championship competition for the League's 24 sports.
- Negotiate and administer digital and linear multi-media rights agreements; seek and obtain corporate support for League activities in a manner consistent with the League's values; manage a media relations and communications program that promotes the academic and athletic achievements of the League's student-athletes and the prestige of its member institutions.
- Prepare and monitor the League's operating budget and investment funds; oversee the annual audit of the financial activities of the League; hire, supervise and evaluate the League office staff.

Committee Service:

- NCAA Committee on Academics (2017-present); NCAA Div. I Council (2018-present); NCAA Div. I Legislative Committee (2018-present); NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (2017-2021); NCAA Working Group on Transfers (2020-2021); NCAA Officiating Review Steering Committee (2019-2020); NCAA Interpretive Process Review Working Group (2019-2020); NCAA Student-Athlete Support and Degree Completion Working Group (2018).
- Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) Executive Committee (2020-2022); Chair, CCA Football Championship Subdivision (2020-2022); Chair, CCA22 (2021-2022).

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Associate Commissioner, Governance (2010-2015)

Policy/Governance:

- Serve as primary liaison to the Big Ten Faculty Representatives, Joint Group (Faculty Representatives, Athletics Directors and Senior Woman Administrators) and Joint Group Executive Committee.
- Coordinate the development of agendas for all conference business meetings of the Big Ten Council of Presidents/Chancellors, Joint Group, Joint Group Executive Committee, and Faculty Representatives, including the organization of meeting materials, minutes, and the maintenance of official records. Requires the ability to synthesize complex and diverse information sets for these Big Ten governance groups, anticipation of potential issues and foresight to take corrective measures before problems arise.
- Liaison for the three Big Ten student-athlete representatives in the Div. I Autonomy Structure.
- Hold the position of Secretary of the Big Ten Conference, Inc.

Sport Administration:

- Serve as Big Ten Commissioner of Men's Ice Hockey, representing the Conference nationally on the boards of the Hockey Commissioners' Association, and College Hockey, Inc.
- Oversee all aspects of men's ice hockey as a Conference sport, including operations of the neutral site postseason conference tournament, marketing and branding campaigns, development of the regular season schedule, and television scheduling and coverage for regular and postseason contests.
- Assist with the management of the Big Ten Football Championship Game, and Big Ten Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments.
- Liaison to the Big Ten women's lacrosse (2013-present) and women's golf coaches (2010-2012). Duties include oversight of all issues related to the Conference tournaments and business conducted at annual meetings.
- Represented the Conference at postseason football bowl games: Capital One Bowl (2012), Outback Bowl (2013), Texas Bowl (2014).

Committee Service:

- NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Well-Being Working Group (2013-2014).

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Associate Athletics Director for Administration (2005-2010)

Senior Woman Administrator (2008-2010)

Administration:

- Provided employee services to the Athletics staff in the areas of staff recruiting, hiring, compensation, gender-equity analysis, performance management, and orientation. Served as a member of the Athletic Department's senior staff.
- Served as the NCAA designated Senior Woman Administrator (SWA), the highest-ranking female administrator involved with the conduct of Georgetown's intercollegiate athletics program. Represented the University at BIG EAST, NCAA and other related conference meetings
- Served as liaison to the Department of Human Resources and General Counsel's Office on policy/personnel issues.
- Coordinated the administration of coaches' employment contracts, including renewals and initial offers. Managed the NIKE Elite program.
- Assisted in reorganizing the structure of the athletics organization to embrace leadership, academics and student welfare initiatives, foster productive and meaningful relationships with the campus community, optimize the financial structure and support governance.
- Supervised the directors of the Sports Medicine Department/Athletics Training Room and the Strength and Conditioning program.
- Program administrator for the sports of women's volleyball, men's soccer, women's lacrosse, men's rowing (heavy and lightweight), women's rowing (open and lightweight), and men's and women's tennis. Responsibilities included the formal evaluation of coaching staffs, budget construction and adherence, long-range planning and goal development, oversight of practice and competition schedules. Worked closely with the head coaches to create and manage an environment conducive to both academic and competitive success.
- Secondary sport administrator for men's basketball. Served as the liaison to the BIG EAST Conference in regard to scheduling and Conference men's basketball championship administration. Served as the primary team administrator for NCAA men's basketball postseason competition, including the 2007 Final Four.
- Tournament Manager, 2006 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, Regional and 2008 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, First/Second Rounds at the Verizon Center, Washington, DC.

Committee Service:

- Georgetown Women's Center Advisor Board (2008-2010); Georgetown University Faculty-Staff Committee on LGBT Issues (2008-2010); Athletics Standing Group of the Georgetown Institutional Compliance and Ethics Program (2008-2010).
- BIG EAST Conference Championship & Competition Committee (2006-2010); Chair, BIG EAST Women's Lacrosse Committee (2005-2008); BIG EAST Women's Rowing Committee (2009-2010).
- NCAA Peer Reviewer (Harvard University (2006), St. Francis University (PA) (2009)).
- NCAA Olympic Sports Liaison Committee (2008-2010).

BIG TEN CONFERENCE (1998-2005)

Associate Commissioner for Compliance and Enforcement (2001-2005)

Assistant Commissioner for Compliance and Enforcement (2000-2001)

Director of Legislative and Eligibility Services (1998 – 2000)

Administration:

- Primary staff liaison to the Big Ten Senior Woman Administrators and co-liaison to the Big Ten Administrators Council (athletics directors and senior woman administrators). The Administrators Council is responsible for all issues related to the management of the Conference athletics program.
- Conference office sport liaison to the women's basketball coaches and Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament Director (2004-2005).
- Conference office sport liaison to the men's soccer coaches (1998-2005) and women's swimming and diving coaches (2000-2004). Duties included oversight of all issues related to the Conference championships/tournaments and business conducted at annual meetings.
- Tournament Manager, 2007 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship, First/Second Round at the United Center, Chicago, IL.
- Represented the Conference at postseason football bowl games: Capital One Bowl (2005), Outback Bowl (2004), FedEx Orange Bowl (2003), Wells Fargo Sun Bowl (2002), MicronPC.com Bowl (2001).
- Member of the Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament management team.

Compliance and Enforcement:

- Served as primary liaison to the Big Ten Academics, Compliance and Eligibility Committee. The committee is responsible for all matters impacting the academic and eligibility status and reinstatement of eligibility of Conference student-athletes under Conference legislation, and for determining compliance by institutional staff members and representatives with NCAA and Conference legislation.
- Coordinated and wrote the Big Ten "Integrity Report," a Conference-wide effort to identify regulatory and cultural challenges posed by intercollegiate athletics. Continued to work directly with the Big Ten Commissioner in on-going efforts to implement the resulting recommendations.
- Assisted institutions in the investigation and self-reporting of violations of NCAA and Conference legislation.
- Conducted institutional compliance reviews.
- Served as Conference office liaison to the Big Ten Compliance Coordinators.
- Assisted Big Ten institutions, parents, student-athletes and the media in understanding the application of NCAA and Big Ten legislation.
- Coordinated rules education on Big Ten campuses via written, electronic and in-person presentations.

Committee Service:

- NCAA Initial-Eligibility Waiver Subcommittee – Foreign Student-Athlete (2001-2005 (chair 2003-2005)); NCAA Division I Regulatory Culture Working Group (2002-2003); NCAA Peer Reviewer (University of Notre Dame (2005)).
- Collegiate Commissioners Association – Compliance Association (1998-2005 (co-chair (2000-2002)))

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (1996 - 1998)

Membership Services Representative

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD (1994-1996)

Assistant Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator