Oliver Luck is the NCAA’s first-ever executive vice president for regulatory affairs. In this new role, Luck will bring together all the regulatory functions of the NCAA under one umbrella – enforcement, academic and membership affairs and the eligibility center. He oversees the day-to-day operations of these three vital areas of the national office and is charged with strengthening the collaboration between those groups and increasing efficiency. Developing stronger relationships with member schools is a key part of his job.

As Director of Athletics at West Virginia University, Luck’s accomplishments were impressive. In 2013-14, he successfully guided the start of construction on a new $21 million baseball park, which will open in 2015 and provide the Mountaineers with one of the best facilities in the Big 12. Add in his tireless efforts to secure a $75 million bond, start a $25 million fundraising effort and proceed with a $6 million new football team room and Luck’s efforts will show $106 million in facility improvements in the coming years to bring WVU’s aging facilities into the modern times.

His work on the national level is equally impressive and equally valuable to West Virginia University. He was named in 2013 to a three-year term on the inaugural College Football Playoff committee, which will change the face of the college football national championship. He serves on the NFL Player Safety Advisory Committee, chairs the Big 12 Budget and Finance
Committee, serves on the board of American Campus Community, Inc., and in May, 2014, was one of the featured speakers at the White House at the Healthy Kids and Safe Sports Concussion Summit through his work with the organization Practice like Pros. Before 2014, his previous three years at WVU were equally impressive and busy. He has hired new coaches to bolster WVU’s level of success. He guided the completion of major capital projects such as the $25 million WVU basketball practice facility for men’s and women’s basketball and the women’s soccer training complex. He also led WVU into the Big 12 Conference, presided over the best fundraising year in school history (2012), implemented several safety and crowd enhancements at Mountaineer sporting events, increased overall department revenue, continued a master plan for facility upgrades and watched his football program gain its third BCS bowl victory.

Luck’s journey to the big chair at WVU began in his native Cleveland, where in 1977 he was named the Cleveland Touchdown Club Player of the Year at St. Ignatius High. Luck chose WVU over Ivy League schools Harvard and Yale, embarking upon a career that saw him establish school records for touchdown passes and completions during his playing days, while also leading the Mountaineers to a 26-6 upset victory over Florida in the 1981 Peach Bowl. His best season came as a senior in 1981 when he completed 216 of 394 passes for 2,448 yards and 16 touchdowns. He passed for a career-high 360 yards in a 27-24 loss to Syracuse at the Carrier Dome in the final regular-season game of his career. Luck ended his college career with 5,765 yards and 43 touchdown passes, both figures still ranking among the best in school history. Luck was a two-time team MVP in 1980 and 1981, and also received the Louis D. Meisel Award for the WVU football student-athlete with the highest grade point average. The two-time ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American was the recipient of Today’s Top Five, presented for scholastics by the NCAA and was selected by the National Football Foundation as one of its 10 scholar-athletes to make a keynote speech at its annual banquet in 1982.

Selected in the second round of the NFL draft by the Houston Oilers (44th overall pick), Luck spent four years with the Oilers from 1982-86. His most extended action came in 1983 when he started six games and finished the season completing 124 of 217 passes for 1,375 yards and eight touchdowns. After retiring from football, Luck became vice president of business development for the NFL and later was appointed general manager of the Frankfurt Galaxy of the newly created World League of American Football. He spent the ’95 season as general manager of the Rhein Fire before being named President and CEO of NFL Europe in 1996. Luck totaled more than 10 years with the NFL, before becoming chief executive officer of the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority in 2001. In that role, Luck oversaw the development and
management of a $1 billion professional sports and entertainment complex for the city of Houston that included Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros, Reliant Stadium, home of the Houston Texans, the Toyota Center, home of the Houston Rockets.

In 2005, Luck was appointed as the first president of Major League Soccer’s Houston Dynamo, helping that organization to a pair of MLS Cup titles in his first two years at the helm. Luck secured the funding for an $80 million soccer complex to house the Dynamo when the call came to return to his alma mater. BBVA Compass Stadium was built and opened in 2012 adding to Luck’s legacy with the professional soccer team, and the overall Houston sports facility complexes. He returned to Houston in May, 2012 for the opening ceremony of the soccer stadium that he fought so hard for.

The Rhodes Scholar finalist graduated Phi Beta Kappa from WVU in 1982. He also earned a law degree from Texas, graduating cum laude in 1987. In 1997, Luck was inducted into the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2000, he was inducted into the CoSIDA Academic All-America Hall of Fame.

He is married to the former Kathy Wilson. They have two sons and two daughters: Andrew, a former All-American quarterback and two-time Heisman Trophy finalist at Stanford and No. 1 overall pick of the 2012 NFL draft by the Indianapolis Colts; Mary Ellen, a standout volleyball player and graduate of Stanford; Emily, a current student at Stanford and Addison, who attends Morgantown High.