

ACADEMIC SENATE
of
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Item 3

AS-2688-05/AA
March 10-11, 2005

Support for the Framework for Comprehensive Intercollegiate Athletics Reform by the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) (2003)

- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU) endorse in principle the *Framework for Comprehensive Intercollegiate Athletics Reform* developed by the faculty-based Coalition on University Academic Senates; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU urge CSU campus senates to support the principles contained within the framework and its guidelines on academic integrity, athletic welfare, governance, finances, and over-commercialization; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate CSU encourage all senates to ensure faculty participation in the governance of intercollegiate athletics on their respective campuses.

RATIONALE: The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), formed in 2002, is an alliance of faculty senates of Division 1A schools (<http://www.math.umd.edu/~jmc/COIA/>). Its goals are “to become a faculty voice in the national debate over the future of college sports”. Its founding goals are stated in “A Framework for Comprehensive Athletics Reform,” which is appended to this resolution. Also appended are summaries of two statements that supercede part of the Framework: “Campus Athletic Governance, the Faculty Role: Principles, Proposed Rules, and Guidelines,” and “Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics: Principles, Rules and Best Practices, Executive Summary.”

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY – May 5-6, 2005

A Framework for Comprehensive Athletics Reform Coalition On Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), Fall 2003

Executive Summary

<http://www.math.umd.edu/%7Ejmc/COIA/Framework.html>

Reform of intercollegiate athletics is an urgent priority. Successful reform will require a broad consensus and a comprehensive approach. Some issues may be resolved quickly, others may require much more time, but national agreement on a comprehensive plan in the near future is essential to accomplish meaningful reform; the piecemeal approach has not succeeded. The COIA Framework, aimed at Division I-A, outlines essential features such a plan should include, and calls for the NCAA and national academic constituencies to develop detailed, appropriately flexible strategies for implementation. The goal of reform is not negative; it is to bring out the positive aspects of intercollegiate athletics, which contribute to the personal development of athletes and enhance college life on campus and off.

I. Academic Integrity. Colleges should admit only students with realistic prospects of graduation. Admissions practices should confirm that high schools must prepare athletes to meet such standards. Continuing eligibility standards should ensure that only academically engaged students compete in athletics. Faculty must take responsibility to ensure academic integrity in all programs. Athletics advisors must be closely integrated with academic advising to ensure prioritization of academic goals and integrity. **[Detailed proposals regarding issues noted in Sections I and II are being drafted for membership review in Fall 2004.]**

II. Athlete Welfare. The design and enforcement of limits on athlete participation in non-academic activities must be improved; assessment of coaches must reflect commitment to athletes' academic opportunities. Optimal season schedules for each sport should be designed and adopted, limiting competition in each sport to a single term. The terms and bases of scholarships should be reexamined so as to support student academics, and athletes should be fully integrated into campus life.

III. Governance. Shared oversight of athletics between governing boards, administrations, and faculty should involve clear communication and complementary responsibilities. Best-practice designs for the interaction of faculty athletics representatives, campus athletics committees, and faculty governance should be designed nationally, and adapted locally. Uniform reporting standards for athletics budgets should be established, to provide more financial transparency. Stable athletics conferences should support the linkage of athletics and academics, and become the basis for intercollegiate relationships beyond athletics competitions and finances. **[Portions of Section III have been superseded by "[Campus Athletics Governance, the Faculty Role](#)," approved by the COIA membership in April 2004]**

IV. Finances. The link between winning and financial solvency undermines the values of college sports and contributes to the athletics arms race. Broadened revenue sharing, and limits on budgets and capital expenditures should be implemented. Amateur goals

appropriate to each sport should determine standards of expectations. Cost cutting in the areas of scholarships, squad size, season length, and recruitment should be explored.

V. Over-commercialization. Excesses in marketing college sports impair institutional control and contribute to public misperception of the nature and purpose of higher education. Schools must step back from over-commercialization by cutting costs and setting clear standards of institutional control and public presentation of college sports.

Campus Athletics Governance, the Faculty Role: Principles, Proposed Rules, and Guidelines

SUMMARY STATEMENT

This document was adopted by the COIA membership on April 12, 2004, as a Coalition contribution to campus athletics governance at Division IA schools. It was developed by a team of faculty drawn jointly from the leaderships of the Coalition and of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, working from an extensive compilation of successful governance practices developed by Scott Kretchmar, the FAR at Penn State. The proposal is designed to provide models of successful campus athletics governance structures involving faculty that could be useful to campuses in assessing their own local policies and procedures. It rests on a vision of governance that sees effective and complementary contributions to athletics governance by university presidents, governing boards, and faculties as an essential feature of intercollegiate athletics programs that realize their potential to contribute to the missions of schools and the welfare of students.

Our proposal discusses three campus governance institutions where faculty play key roles related to athletics: the Faculty Athletics Representative, the Campus Athletics Board, and the Faculty Governance Body. It sets forth general principles that can help faculty fulfill their responsibilities effectively and constructively, and it enumerates a considerable number of specific best-practice features. A small number of these features are recommended for adoption as NCAA bylaws for Division I schools, because we believe athletics governance is severely handicapped without them. Most features are recommended as options for local adaptation that in many cases may have the potential to improve the effectiveness of athletics governance. These detailed items are not meant to be prescriptive for all campuses; we have included them because this document is intended as a resource that campuses can consult when assessing whether their athletics governance structures are satisfactory or could be improved. In these respects, the premise of the proposal is that local faculty are best able to design governance structures for their campuses, but that all of us are helped when successful ideas are shared.

Our understanding of governance issues and best practices is not static, and this document should not be seen as an exhaustive and unchanging blueprint. It will be subject to revision in future iterations as new circumstances and new knowledge arise.

Academic Integrity in Intercollegiate Athletics: Principles, Rules, and Best Practices

Executive Summary

There are three primary rationales for intercollegiate athletics: it can contribute to personal development reinforcing academic excellence; it can contribute to community and institutional loyalty; it can broaden positive interest in and public support for higher education. The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics strongly supports these goals. However, these values cannot be realized if we abandon the principle that personal development through athletics participation and academic achievement are inextricably linked. The Coalition, as a faculty-governance based alliance devoted to athletics reform, has developed proposals and guidelines to help faculty and others on campus fulfill their responsibilities with regard to the impact of athletics on academic standards and integrity. Some of the basic principles and major proposals are summarized in this brief overview. (All proposed NCAA bylaw changes are noted as such below.)

1. Admissions.

- At many schools, there is a different admissions process for athletes, and faculty may not have adequate information to confirm its academic integrity. The Coalition recommends that campuses examine the processes by which scholarship athletes who do not meet minimal academic criteria are granted admissions.
- Faculty governance bodies should work with their administrations to develop policies concerning these processes, and procedures through which faculty governance bodies can be informed of their implementation.
- Campuses should collect and analyze data on the academic performance of all athletes, to better assess the range of admissions qualifications appropriate to athletes, including athletes who enter as transfer students.

2. Scholarships.

- Under the current one-year renewable structure of athletics scholarships, athletes may be legitimately concerned that their continued access to education depends on sports success. This can create a conflict of incentives that may lead to an emphasis on athletics at cost to academics. The Coalition recommends that NCAA standards require that there be a presumption of scholarship renewal for a period of five years, or until graduation, and that scholarships be revocable only by the chief academic officer. [NCAA bylaw proposal, Section 2.1]
- Because the rationale for merit scholarships based on athletic, rather than academic qualifications is not strong, the Coalition recommends that a reassessment be made of the feasibility of converting athletics scholarships to a need basis.
- The Coalition believes that “pay for play” proposals to compensate athletes beyond scholarship support are inconsistent with the principles of amateur sports

on which intercollegiate athletics is based; it is concerned that the conduct of college sports in other respects may be creating a context in which maintaining amateur values will not be possible

3. Curricular Integrity.

- The campus faculty bears primary responsibility for ensuring that academic programs conform to high standards of integrity in curriculum and student evaluation. Reports of differential academic treatment of athletes by faculty have persisted for years and occasionally been confirmed, but without detailed data on athlete enrollment patterns and grades, faculty governance bodies have no way of routinely assessing the integrity of campus programs in this regard or remediating problems that may exist. The Coalition therefore proposes that campuses collect data on the academic performance of athletes by course section, and convey that information to their campus faculty governance bodies, protecting the anonymity of individual student records. [NCAA bylaw proposal, Section 3.1]
- Academically prejudicial treatment of athletes is of equal concern, and we recommend that policies against this be consistently applied.
- The Coalition recommends heightened scrutiny of courses taught by athletics department staff and controls to manage conflicts of interest when athletes are enrolled in them. The Coalition also recommends that the amount of academic credit awarded for varsity sports participation be determined by the faculty and strictly limited.

4. Time Commitment, Missed Class Time, and Scheduling of Competitions.

- In no way does a school more clearly signal an inappropriate prioritization of athletics over academics than when it sends the message that training or competitions take priority over class attendance and coursework.
- Because coaches have great leverage to guide their athletes to place academics first, the Coalition recommends performance assessments of coaches and close monitoring that creates incentives for coaches to use that leverage constructively.
- The competition scheduling decisions that campuses make directly affect the challenges athletes face in the classroom. The Coalition recommends that Faculty Athletics Representatives and campus athletics boards be meaningfully involved in the design of season schedules to ensure that academic priorities guide planning.
- It is not clear that the current length of competition seasons is designed so as to ensure that the basic goals of amateur college sports are fulfilled with the least possible interference with academic goals. The Coalition recommends that an FAR-led task force be commissioned by the NCAA to assess this issue for each sport.
- Because the growth of non-traditional seasons in many sports have significantly extended overall competition seasons, the Coalition supports an NCAA bylaw change that would eliminate divided competitive seasons. [NCAA bylaw proposal, Section 4.3.2.]

- The Coalition recommends that the NCAA and the conferences reverse the trend towards *expanding seasons* at the beginning and at the end, in particular post-season tournaments, as well as reversing the increased reliance on athletic events scheduled on weekdays
- Efforts should be made by schools and conferences to ensure that athletes do not have competitions scheduled during final exams.

5. Policies Concerning the Office of Academic Advising for Athletes (O&AA).

- The success of athlete advising is critical for the academic integrity of campus sports programs. Faculty have a responsibility to understand the role of the OAAA, and to be assured that the office is structured to operate with integrity.
- The single most difficult issue that confronts the OAAA is to maintain a focus on maximizing the academic accomplishments of athletes, given their athletics *commitments, rather than* on maintaining their athletic eligibility. The OAAA should be structured in such a way as to maximize its ability to manage this tension successfully. The Coalition recommends that the OAAA report to the chief academic officer of the campus; this does not rule out a secondary reporting line to the athletics department, whose engagement with the OAAA can contribute substantially to its strength, but the chief academic officer must bear primary responsibility for ensuring the integrity of the OAAA.
- Qualifications for the director and the advising staff should be set at the high levels *towards* which the profession of academic advising has evolved.
- Structures should ensure that advisors are not placed in disadvantageous positions with regard to coaches; for example, the Coalition recommends having multiple advisors share team advising duties, rather than have individuals serve as sole advisor assigned to work with a specific team. Advising staff, rather than coaches, should have primary responsibility in the athlete's selection of major and specific courses, and advisors alone should have authority to contact instructors with regard to individual students.
- Coalition guidelines *include* a *checklist* of elements that characterize many successful academic advising programs, as well as a list of athlete support functions that can enhance the overall effectiveness of the OAAA.