



5 May 2009

TO: NCAA Division I Board of Directors
FROM: The Steering Committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)
RE: MEMBERSHIP OF DIVISION I GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) Steering Committee writes this letter to strongly endorse the content of the 22 April 2009 Division IA Faculty Athletics Representatives (FARs) letter to you. That letter raised the twin, overlapping issues of faculty underrepresentation and skewed distribution of FARs in the councils, cabinets, and committees forming the NCAA Division I (DI) governance structure. At present, FARs fill 17% of the slots on DI leadership and legislative councils and cabinets (33 of 193). The low percentage of FARs on these committees seriously diminishes faculty input and the quality of discussion at the NCAA on the integration of athletics into academics at our universities. As a coalition based in DIA faculty senates, our membership shares the view of many faculty that trends in athletics such as over-commercialization, escalating salary and facilities cost structures, and improprieties in recruitment and advising further threaten the amateur model of collegiate athletics. We count on the leadership of the Division IA Board of Directors to ensure that a strong faculty voice committed to the integrity of the academic mission is heard within the NCAA.

COIA strongly endorses the proposals raised by the FARs to deal with the issues of under- and skewed representation. These are: 1) increasing FAR participation on DI councils and cabinets to at least 25% (49 out of 193 available slots); and, 2) filling with FARs from DI FBS schools the majority of FARs slots on the Leadership, Championship/Sports Management, Amateurism and Recruiting Cabinets, and the Football Issues and Men's and Women's Basketball Issues Committees. To implement these changes, the DIA FARs propose revising the current re-appointment guidelines for councils, cabinets and committees to make at least one-third of the current members ineligible for reappointment thereby opening available slots. They also suggest a redistribution in the number of FARs and senior level athletics administrators currently serving on the major cabinets. We support both suggestions.

The national fiscal crisis currently enveloping our country has seriously harmed academic programs at our universities and colleges. The crisis has also affected the way business is conducted in athletic departments. Difficult decisions are being made every day in the way athletics exist in a positive fashion within our universities. It is important that faculty, the historic stewards of academic standards and quality, be involved in these decisions at all levels including the NCAA. We strongly encourage you to strengthen the faculty voice by increasing the representation of FARs throughout the DI governance structure as proposed by the DIA FARs.

Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics

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