

THE COALITION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS (COIA)

October 30, 2003

Dear SEC Colleagues:

The AAUP Governance Conference in Indianapolis earlier this month was devoted to intercollegiate athletics reform. The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) took part in the conference, where representatives of more than fifty schools participated in our work-sessions. This letter is in response to those discussions.

The COIA was formed last year through the cooperative efforts of over fifty faculty senate leaders from NCAA Division I-A schools; we hope that faculty leadership at all Division I-A schools will become participants. The Coalition is one of several groups working together for long-range, comprehensive reforms in intercollegiate athletics. In particular, it seeks to represent the faculty voice in the national debate over the future of college sports. Its goals are set forth in its "Framework for Comprehensive Athletics Reform." This document and further information about the Coalition are available on our website (note the new URL):

<http://www.COIA.umd.edu>

The Coalition works with the leadership of other stakeholder groups interested in athletics reform, including the NCAA, the AGB (Association of Governing Boards, representing trustees and regents), and the AAUP. All these groups took part in the Indianapolis conference. One result of our discussions is an improved Framework document, attached to this letter. Note that in response to Coalition feedback, a provision calling for the restriction of sports seasons to a single academic term has been removed. The Framework is a working document, open to such revisions by the Coalition membership.

It is our hope that each faculty/university senate/council in Division I-A will pass a resolution endorsing the Framework during the current academic year. As the Framework itself indicates, senate endorsement does not imply acceptance of the Framework in all its details. Local circumstances vary, and a senate may need to modify it in certain respects. We appreciate feedback about any such adaptations. A number of faculty senates have endorsed the Framework this term; their support has strengthened our ability to engage other stakeholder groups.

Senate leadership typically changes every year. In addition to endorsement of the Framework, therefore, we ask you to designate a faculty member as an ongoing liaison to the Coalition, and advise us of his or her e-mail address.

Member institutions will be consulted about and kept informed of Coalition reform initiatives, including "best-practices" recommendations. Two best-practices documents were forged in our work-sessions in Indianapolis, both dealing with governance structures for faculty oversight of athletics. They will be circulated soon, and senates are urged to consider their adaptability to the local situation.

Thank you very much,

The COIA Steering Committee:

Bob Eno, past Senate President, Indiana Univ., Bloomington (co-chair)

Jim Earl, past Senate President, Univ. of Oregon (co-chair)

Joel Cohen, Senate Chair, Univ. of Maryland

Phil DiStefano, Faculty Athletics Rep., Univ. of Colorado, Boulder

Gary Engstrand, Secretary to the Faculty, Univ. of Minnesota

Michael Granof, past Faculty Council Chair, Univ. of Texas

Ed Lawry, Faculty Council Chair, Oklahoma St. Univ.

John Nicols, past Senate Chair, Penn. State Univ.

Curt Rom, Senate Chair, Univ. of Arkansas

Ginny Shepherd, past Senate Chair, Vanderbilt Univ.

Kathleen Smith, Faculty Athletics Rep., Duke Univ.

Mike Wasylenko, Faculty Athletics Rep., Syracuse Univ.