



26 November 2008

Dr. Myles Brand  
President, NCAA  
One NCAA Plaza  
700 Washington Street  
Indianapolis IN 46204

Mr. Dan Guerrero  
Director of Athletics  
Chair, NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Academic Enhancement Group  
University of California at Los Angeles  
PO Box 24044  
Los Angeles CA 90024-0044

Dear Dr. Brand and Mr. Guerrero:

We write this letter on behalf of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) to voice our strong support for the views expressed in the two letters you recently received from the PAC-10 Faculty Athletic Representatives (3 November 2008) and the Division 1A (D1A) FARs (19 November 2008). Both groups raised significant concerns about the proposed recommendations contained in the 15 September 2008 "Progress Report of the Division I Men's Basketball Academic Enhancement Group" (BAEG). In particular, the PAC-10 and D1A FARs point out the potential negative ramifications of implementing several preliminary recommendations proposed in the 15 September 2008 BAEG report. The D1A FAR letter also raises important concerns about the recruitment of academically under-prepared basketball players and the negative academic impact of the current basketball schedule which traverses academic-year semesters.

Under Dr. Brand's leadership, the NCAA has been deeply involved in improving the academic performance of our student-athletes by working towards gradual and positive changes in the behavior and culture within intercollegiate athletics. The FAR letters point to ways in which many BAEG proposals conflict with the NCAA's expressed goal of raising the academic achievement levels of our athletes. COIA, an alliance of 56 Division 1A faculty senates whose aim is to better integrate intercollegiate athletics into the institutional academic mission, believes that the centerpiece of any NCAA academic effort must be focused on increasing the opportunities for our young student-athletes to succeed academically. Toward this goal, COIA strongly endorses the comments contained in the PAC-10 and D1A FAR letters and hopes the BAEG will carefully consider the views expressed in the FAR letters when finalizing their recommendations.

**Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics**

C/O Carole Browne, Biology Department, PO Box 7325, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem,  
North Carolina 27109

Sincerely,

Carole Browne (Wake Forest)

Joe Kotarba (Houston)

Nathan Tublitz (Oregon)

COIA co-chairs

(N.B. This letter has been [unanimously] approved by the COIA national Steering Committee)

