

10 REASONS WHY YOUR FACULTY SENATE SHOULD JOIN THE [COALITION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS \(COIA\)](#)

- 1) We are a national, grass roots faculty governance organization whose goal is to promote comprehensive reform of intercollegiate sports. The COIA emerged in 2002 out of discussions between PAC-10 and Big Ten Senate Presidents.
- 2) Our membership consists of Division 1A campus faculty governance bodies (*i.e.*, faculty senates or equivalent), not individual faculty. The COIA is the only national organization of campus faculty governance bodies on any issue. Our [current membership](#) includes faculty senates from 56 out of 114 Division 1A institutions with faculty senates.
- 3) There are no obligations to membership, though we hope for active participation. The COIA has no dues, and participation in our annual meetings is completely voluntary.
- 4) We work through flexible consensus, guided by the values and principles articulated in our [policy papers](#). We generally present our recommendations as best practices that campuses can use to guide their local athletic governance.
- 5) A hallmark of the COIA is that we are respectful of our institutional differences and embrace our differences as strength rather than a weakness. We do not require lockstep agreement – it is likely that no single member senate agrees with every one of the many proposals and best practice standards the COIA membership has adopted.
- 6) Our internal governance structure is informal. The two [co-chairs](#) and 15 member national [steering committee](#) work together as a group to provide direction for the COIA on a day-to-day basis. Papers, major issues and policies are discussed and decided by the entire membership.
- 7) An important COIA work product has been our [papers and reports](#) on intercollegiate sports reform. These have demonstrated our commitment to sports reform issues and have generated broad interest at the local, conference and national levels.
- 8) Our most recent paper, [“Framing the Future: Reforming Intercollegiate Athletics”](#) adopted by the general COIA membership in June 2007, lays out a comprehensive reform agenda and proposes 28 specific reforms aimed at the local, conference and/or national levels.
- 9) We have developed strong working ties with the NCAA, the Knight Commission, the Division 1A Faculty Athletics Representatives and many other national groups involved in intercollegiate sports. We are currently working closely with the NCAA to put forward several proposals from the [“Framing the Future”](#) White Paper for adoption by the NCAA through its legislative and/or certification processes.
- 10) Our 2007 efforts include: holding a national meeting of our membership at Stanford (May 2007); adopting current White Paper (June 2007); collaborating with the NCAA to implement a subset of the White Paper proposals; working with the Knight Foundation to develop a web cast symposium on the myths of intercollegiate athletics (Oct 2007); and partnering with the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) on an educational program to assist institutions in understanding the NCAA Academic Performance Program (Jun-Dec 2007).

For additional details about joining the COIA, please see our [website](#) and/or contact our current [co-chairs](#).