



## Faculty Alliance Wants More Control Over College Athletics

By Curtis Eichelberger

June 18 (Bloomberg) -- Standardized admissions policies and one-year renewable athletic scholarships are among more than two dozen proposals by a group of U.S. professors seeking to overhaul college sports.

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, an alliance of 55 faculty senates at some of the biggest U.S. universities, proposed changes in areas of academic integrity, athletic welfare, governance and finance.

The report, "Framing the Future: Reforming Intercollegiate Athletics," aims to give faculty a greater role in everything from enforcing academic standards to controlling the hiring and firing of athletic directors and coaches.

"A lot of groups say they are interested in change who really have a vested interest in keeping the status quo," said Nathan Tublitz, co-chairman of the group and a biology professor at the University of Oregon in Eugene. "This is a major undertaking."

Erik Christianson, a spokesman for the National Collegiate Athletic Association, didn't immediately return a message left at his office in Indianapolis. The NCAA governs most aspects of college sports.

The group wants schools to have blanket admissions policies, regardless of whether the student is an athlete. The alliance's 28 proposals also include the elimination of classes specifically designed for athletes.

Annual scholarships, instead of awards guaranteed for several years, would encourage athletes to maintain their grades and steer clear of disciplinary problems, the group said.

### Proposals

Other proposals include oversight of academic advising by the university, rather than the athletic department, and the creation of a Campus Athletic Board run mostly by tenured faculty. The group also wants schools to align growth in sports spending with that of the overall university, and to have the university incorporate athletics fundraising into its own program.

Tublitz said that, while school presidents are expected to stand up to popular athletic directors and well-heeled boosters, few are able to withstand the pressure.

He said that university presidents are in office for five years on average and that long-term goals are rarely achieved or never attempted.

"University presidents are very similar to legislators, in that they are interested in maintaining their positions or returning for a second term," Tublitz said in a telephone interview. "Meanwhile, they need to stand up for what's right for their institution in the face of pressure to be successful on the athletic field."

Because of that, he said, long-term goals often are never met or never tried. His group will work with the NCAA over the coming months to try for adoption of as many of its proposals as possible.

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*Last Updated: June 18, 2007 14:23 EDT*

