
Today's News

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Faculty Coalition Proposes Broad Changes for College Sports

By [BRAD WOLVERTON](#)

An influential group of faculty members plans to release a report today with more than two dozen recommendations for cleaning up problems they see in college sports.

The group, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, made up of 55 faculty senates from many of the country's largest and most-prominent collegiate sports programs, proposes ideas for improving admissions practices, developing more-effective campus governance of intercollegiate athletics, and ensuring that athletes are integrated more broadly into university life.

Not surprisingly, many of the ideas in the [report](#),

"Framing the Future: Reforming Intercollegiate Athletics," would give faculty members a more prominent role in overseeing athletics programs. The coalition suggests that each NCAA institution establish a campus athletics board made up mostly of tenured faculty members to monitor potential problems.

The board should have broad power to review the academic profiles of freshman athletes and of transfer students, the coalition says, to make sure they are similar to those of nonathletes. And faculty members should be involved in the recruiting process, it says, to ensure that athletes are admitted based on their potential for academic success, not just their athletic prowess.

The coalition also recommends that a campus athletics board, a type of panel some colleges already have, evaluate athletes' choices of major to make sure colleges do not design academic programs specifically for athletes or create majors primarily to keep athletes eligible.

And all athletes should have to maintain a 2.0 grade-point average, the report says. NCAA rules are not as stringent.

One of the more controversial proposals suggests that faculty members be involved in every major athletics decision, including hiring key personnel, evaluating capital projects, and cutting teams.

"We think there should be a larger group of people overseeing athletics, in addition to the president and the faculty athletics representative and the athletics director," Nathan Tublitz, a professor of biology at the University of Oregon and co-chair of the coalition, said in an interview on Sunday.

The coalition hopes to see many of its proposals adopted by the NCAA, either as new legislation or as part of the association's certification process, Mr. Tublitz said.

"By itself, each proposal may make a small difference," he said. "But taken together, they would really change the culture of intercollegiate athletics."

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