

COALITION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

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The Steering Committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) has voted to endorse recommendations of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics for strengthening accountability of college athletics by requiring greater financial transparency and maintaining academic integrity and refers these proposals to its member senates for affirmation.

The Knight Commission is widely recognized by universities, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and the national media as a leading voice for intercollegiate athletics reform and is a long-time ally of COIA. At COIA's 2010-11 annual meeting, Amy Perko, Executive Director of the Knight Commission, presented selected recommendations from the Commission's recent report Restoring the Balance: Dollars, Values, and the Future of College Sports (2010) and requested coalition endorsement. COIA representatives present at the meeting informally but unanimously voted to support the commission's recommendations and asked COIA's Steering Committee to prepare a document articulating that endorsement. This is that document.

Both COIA and the Knight Commission believe that clear, comparable and complete financial data must be publicly accessible to improve accountability in intercollegiate athletics and foster meaningful, long-term reform. Therefore, the COIA Steering Committee voted to endorse the Knight Commission recommendations that all Division I institutions should: 1) make NCAA financial reports public, 2) publish additional information about long-term debt and capital spending in athletics, and 3) report annually on growth rates in academic and athletic spending. Further, COIA Steering Committee seconded the Knight Commission's call for the presidents serving on the NCAA Board of Directors to adopt rule changes to implement these recommendations.

Also endorsed by the COIA Steering Committee were specific Knight Commission recommendations designed to reward practices that make academic values a priority: 1) strengthen the standards for postseason eligibility by requiring teams to be on track to graduate at least 50 percent of their players in order to be eligible for postseason competition, and 2) incorporate an academic component in the revenue distribution formulas for football and basketball postseason revenues. (U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan endorsed these recommendations on March 17, 2011.)

Details of the recommendations can be found at http://www.knightcommission.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=503&Itemid=166

The COIA Steering Committee believes that these Knight Commission recommendations are consistent with and further the coalition's guiding principles and deal with matters of importance to the university faculties that COIA represents. Consequently, the Steering Committee asks COIA member senates to consider these recommendations independently and to discuss ways to enhance greater financial transparency and academic integrity in intercollegiate athletics at their local campuses. To the extent that it is locally appropriate, member senates are encouraged **to affirm the Steering**

Committee's endorsement and to communicate their support for the recommendations to their presidents, faculty athletic representatives, and athletics directors. (Within COIA, the official vote of each member senate shall be cast by either the senate president/chair or the institution's COIA representative. While consideration by the full senate or its appropriate committee is desirable, it is not required under COIA's by-laws for this affirmation.)

Questions may be directed to John S. Nichols (jsn2@psu.edu) or Kenneth A. Struckmeyer (kast@wsu.edu), COIA Co-Chairs, or Amy Perko (aperko@nc.rr.com), Knight Commission Executive Director.

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