

## **COIA Report Faculty Senate Meeting, March 2, 2006**

In January 2005, NCAA President Myles Brand announced the creation of a Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Athletics with a focus on integrating athletics into the academic mission of colleges and universities by establishing collective presidential control within regional and national settings. The COIA was formally invited to work with the Task Force with the hope that it could mobilize broad faculty support for the work. A December meeting planned the agenda and the group met together in January. The publicity gained has been very positive and COIA has been quoted in several outlets. The key issues addressed to which COIA is responding are:

### **Commercialism in College Sports**

One of the ongoing challenges, as college sports continues to grow and develop a wider fan base, is how to maintain the collegiate model in the face of increased commercialism. Over-commercialization, a primary threat to the integrity of college sports, transposes the collegiate model into a system that more closely resembles the professional sports model. The biggest issue is television contracts and scheduling. Coaches salaries is another issue resulting from this.

### **Gender and Race Issues**

The lack of opportunities for women and ethnic minorities continues to be an issue within the Association. Problems of disenfranchisement exist with regard to women and minorities being appointed as athletics directors, and other high-level athletics administrative positions. Men and white men in particular continue to hold the vast majority of both administrative and coaching positions in college athletics. The positions in which women and ethnic minorities have increased most are lower paying entry and mid level positions.

### **Integration of athletics within the university community**

One of the key concerns in this area is the disenfranchisement of faculty in the athletics governance process. Another commonly held perception is that student-athletes also are afforded preferential treatment and many times may not be as academically prepared as the general student body.

### **Academic Progress Rate (APR)**

Academic progress rates hold teams and institutions accountable for the success of each student-athlete and provide strong incentives for coaches to recruit and support academically able students. TCU meets standards in all 19 teams and is at the 70-80th percentile.

Scholarship athletes who met the new initial eligibility standards but had lower test scores are dramatically outperforming academic qualifiers with low high school GPAs and test scores above 820.