

COIA Outline for Faculty Senate
1-27-05

1. Admissions

- Campuses should examine the processes by which scholarship athletes are granted admission.
- Senates & administrations should work together to develop policies concerning these processes, and have procedures to inform Senates of their implementation.
- Campuses should collect and analyze data on the academic performance of all athletes, to assess admissions qualifications appropriate to athletes, including athletes who enter as transfer students.

2. Scholarships.

- NCAA standards should require a presumption of scholarship renewal for a period of five years, or until graduation, and scholarships be revocable only by the chief academic officer. [NCAA bylaw proposal, Section 2.1]
- Because the rationale for merit scholarships based on athletic, rather than academic qualifications is not strong, the Coalition recommends that a reassessment be made of the feasibility of converting athletics scholarships to a need basis.
- “Pay for play” proposals to compensate athletes beyond scholarship support are inconsistent with the principles of amateur sports on which intercollegiate athletics is based.

3. Curricular Integrity.

- Campuses should collect data on the academic performance of athletes by course section, and convey that information to the Senates, protecting the anonymity of individual student records. [NCAA bylaw proposal, Section 3.1]
- Policies against academically prejudicial treatment of athletes should consistently be applied.
- Senates should scrutinize courses taught by athletics department staff and develop policies to manage conflicts of interest when athletes are enrolled in them. The amount of academic credit awarded for varsity sports participation should be determined by the faculty and strictly limited.

4. Time Commitment, Missed Class Time, and Scheduling of Competitions.

- Training or competitions should not take priority over class attendance and coursework.
- Campuses should have performance assessments of coaches and close monitoring to ensure that coaches emphasize academics.
- Faculty Athletics Representatives and campus athletics boards should be meaningfully involved in the design of season schedules to ensure that academic priorities guide planning.

- The Coalition recommends that an FAR-led task force be commissioned by the NCAA to assess the current length of competition seasons for each sport.
- Coalition supports an NCAA bylaw change that would eliminate divided competitive seasons. [NCAA bylaw proposal, Section 4.3.2.]
- The NCAA and the conferences should reverse the trend towards expanding seasons at the beginning and at the end, in particular post-season tournaments, as well as reversing the increased reliance on athletic events scheduled on weekdays
- Efforts should be made by schools and conferences to ensure that athletes do not have competitions scheduled during final exams.

5. Policies Concerning the Office of Academic Advising for Athletes (OAAA).

- Faculty should understand the role of the OAAA, and be assured that it is structured to operate with integrity.
- The OAAA should be structured to manage the tension between academic accomplishments and eligibility successfully. The Coalition recommends that the OAAA report to the chief academic officer of the campus.
- Qualifications for the director and the advising staff should be set at the high levels.
- Advising staff, rather than coaches, should have primary responsibility in the athlete's selection of major and specific courses, and advisors alone should have authority to contact instructors with regard to individual students.