

Resolution:

Be it resolved that the TCU Faculty Senate endorse the Framework for Comprehensive Athletics Reform developed by the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) with the recognition that the document is a work in progress that reflects the need for reform in athletics without mandating specific reforms for each school.

Faculty Senate endorsement does not imply acceptance of the Framework in all its details but rather the concept that there is a need for reform in athletics to emphasize the academic mission of each institution and the goal of educating student-athletes to become successful citizens. The Framework is a working document, open to revisions by the Coalition membership. Endorsement allows the TCU Faculty Senate to suggest changes and revisions based on our experience on this campus.

Rationale:

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) was formed in 2002 through the cooperative efforts of over fifty faculty senate leaders from NCAA Division I-A schools. The Coalition works with the leadership of other groups interested in athletics reform, including the NCAA, the AGB (Association of Governing Boards, representing trustees and regents), and the AAUP, to achieve long-range, comprehensive reforms in intercollegiate athletics. In particular, it seeks to represent the faculty voice in the national debate over the future of college sports. TCU has chosen to become a part of the coalition because the Faculty Senate recognizes that reform of intercollegiate athletics is an urgent priority and successful reform will require a broad consensus and a comprehensive approach

The COIA developed a Framework for Division I-A (key points outlined below) that discusses major issues and calls for flexible strategies for implementation. The goal is to bring out the positive aspects of intercollegiate athletics, which contribute to the personal development of athletes and enhance college life on campus and off, while reforming those areas that are detrimental to the academic and personal development of athletes.

Key Points:

Academic Integrity. Colleges should admit only students with realistic prospects of graduation. Admissions practices should confirm that high schools must prepare athletes to meet such standards. Continuing eligibility standards should ensure that only academically engaged students compete in athletics. Faculty must take responsibility to ensure academic integrity in all programs. Athletics advisors must be closely integrated with academic advising to ensure prioritization of academic goals and integrity.

Athlete Welfare. The design and enforcement of limits on athlete participation in non-academic activities must be improved; assessment of coaches must reflect

commitment to athletes' academic opportunities. Optimal season schedules for each sport should be designed and adopted. The terms and bases of scholarships should be reexamined so as to support student academics, and athletes should be fully integrated into campus life.

Governance. Shared oversight of athletics between governing boards, administrations, and faculty should involve clear communication and complementary responsibilities. Best-practice designs for the interaction of faculty athletics representatives, campus athletics committees, and faculty governance should be designed nationally, and adapted locally. Uniform reporting standards for athletics budgets should be established, to provide more financial transparency. Stable athletics conferences should support the linkage of athletics and academics, and become the basis for intercollegiate relationships beyond athletics competitions and finances.

Finances. The link between winning and financial solvency undermines the values of college sports and contributes to the athletics arms race. Broadened revenue sharing, and limits on budgets and capital expenditures should be implemented. Amateur goals appropriate to each sport should determine standards of expectations. Cost cutting in the areas of scholarships, squad size, season length, and recruitment should be explored.

Over-commercialization. Excesses in marketing college sports impair institutional control and contribute to public misperception of the nature and purpose of higher education. Schools must step back from over-commercialization by cutting costs and setting clear standards of institutional control and public presentation of college sports.

Additional information can be found at the Coalition's web site:
<http://www.math.umd.edu/~jmc/COIA/COIA-Home.html>