

The Senate Committee on Athletic Policy Report

April 2004

We want the Senate to be aware of our discussions about joining the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) and our intention to bring recommendations for adaptation of the COIA Framework to the Senate early in the 2004-5 academic year. This memo is provided to help educate the University community about COIA and briefly to summarize our committee discussions to date.

“Joining” COIA would mean that Syracuse University would support the adaptation (not literally the adoption) of the COIA Framework for Division I-A athletics. Adapting the framework to the structure, size and culture of Syracuse University is very important since Division I-A institutions are quite different from one another. Most of the schools that have “joined” COIA (listed below) have adapted the Framework to fit their institution.

The COIA Framework provides guidelines for Academic Integrity, Athlete Welfare, Governance, Finances and Over-commercialization. After a thorough review of the first 3 categories, our committee’s general consensus is that Syracuse University has historically met or led the intent of most of the standards set forth in these parts of the COIA Framework.

The COIA Framework and related documents (with updates) can be found at:
<http://www.math.umd.edu/~jmc/COIA/COIA-Home.html>.

The remainder of this memo provides background on COIA itself, and also notes on the Senate Committee on Athletic Policy’s discussions this year. University members are encouraged to go to the website above and keep up with developments through the summer.

Background on COIA

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) was formed in 2002 as an email network of faculty leaders from over fifty Division I-A schools in Bowl Championship Series (BCS) conferences, including the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big-12, the Big East, the Big Ten, the Pac-10, and the Southeastern Conference. The Coalition functions through a Steering Committee of thirteen members, nominated by faculty leaders in each conference to advocate reform for intercollegiate athletics.

Together with the NCAA and the AGB (Association of Governing Boards), the COIA collaborated in the 2003 AAUP Governance Conference, which focused on intercollegiate athletics. Building on the work of that conference, Coalition leaders, in cooperation with the national Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, have drafted Principles, Proposed Rules, and Guidelines Concerning the Faculty Role in Campus Athletics Governance.

COIA STEERING COMMITTEE (as of 3/19/04)

Joel Cohen	University of Maryland	ACC
James Earl	University of Oregon	Pac-10
Gary Engstrand	University of Minnesota	Big Ten
Bob Eno	Indiana University	Big Ten
Michael Granof	University of Texas	Big -12
Fred Hashimoto	University of New Mexico	Mt. West
Ed Lawry	Oklahoma State University	Big-12
Linda Moore	TCU	C-USA
John Nichols	Pennsylvania State University	Big Ten
Curt Rom	University of Arkansas	SEC
Virginia Shepherd	Vanderbilt University	SEC
Kathleen Smith	Duke University	ACC
Mike Wasylenko	Syracuse University	Big East

Source: COIA website,

<http://www.math.umd.edu/~jmc/COIA/COIA-Home.html>

Schools that have joined the COIA through a faculty senate vote: as of: 3.23.04

ACC: Duke, Wake Forest

Big 12: Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma State, Texas

Big East: Rutgers

Big Ten: Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State

CUSA: TCU

MAC: Eastern Michigan

Mt. West: New Mexico

Pac-10: Arizona, Oregon, Stanford, Washington State

SEC: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Vanderbilt

Sun Belt: Idaho

WAC: CSU-Fresno, Hawaii

Independent: Connecticut, South Florida

(32 schools)

Summary of Discussion in the Senate Committee on Athletic Policy (SCAP)

SCAP has discussed this many times; we agree with (and already practice) much of what is proposed. Nonetheless, we note that the size, structure, and culture of Syracuse University make outright adoption of all of the proposed standards inappropriate.

Academic Integrity – support the spirit of this section recognizing that Syracuse University must make adaptations to reflect, among other things, our relatively small size.

Athlete Welfare – support the spirit of this section to the extent the proposed standards are within the control of any single university.

Governance Issues – agree that having a strong governance structure for Athletics is important. We also recognize that Syracuse University does exercise governance of its athletics programs. However, the structure and culture at Syracuse University, including the absence of a faculty Senate, have led to governance processes that are different in form, but not necessarily in intent, from those specified in this section.

Finances and Over-commercialization: Discussion not completed.