



Report of the Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Workgroup to the Full Board of Regents June 27, 2014

The workgroup is charged with reviewing materials submitted by System institutions in accordance with the newly revised Board of Regents Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics, reporting out issues to be addressed or resolved by standing committees, and identify opportunities for enhancement in Board oversight. Between my own long-standing interest, and the expertise of the workgroup and chancellor, we've made tremendous progress the past two years in improving the information going to the Board, as well as establishing a road map for where we think the policy, and oversight, can be improved.

The workgroup has been meeting quarterly to review materials, and discuss new initiatives and information needs as they have arisen. One meeting a year is devoted to direct discussions between the workgroup and each Division 1 institution president and their athletic directors. As regents, we respect the president's authority to manage their institutions; these meetings are the workgroup's opportunity, short of recommending the establishment of new policy requirements, to share our views and values about particular aspects of the management of intercollegiate athletics.

I'd like to share some highlights of what the workgroup has accomplished this past two years:

1. Reviewed and analyzed the financial results and health of each of our Division 1 institutions, including reviewing commitments and contingencies each program faces.
2. Monitored summary level academic progress data and individual teams data on academic progress and performance, both against NCAA standards, as well as against the student body of the institution as a whole.
3. Consulted with a nationally-renowned Title IX expert to better understand the current issues, and alternatives for approaching Board of Regent oversight responsibilities.
4. Informally made clear the Board's value that academic achievement for student-athletes is as important as success on the playing field.
5. Directed staff to begin developing a new Board of Regents policy that will require a better balance of incentives in coaches and athletic director contracts.

The workgroup was planned as a temporary group of regents that would have a limited duration or life. We still are working with institutions, and the Office of the Attorney General to establish a practical and effective allocation of the oversight responsibilities for particular issues of focus to the permanent standing committees, and expect that over the coming year, the workgroup will begin to report out financial information to the Board's Finance Committee, as well as potential risks to the Audit Committee, and compensation matters to the Board's Organization and Compensation Committee. In meeting their obligations under the System's By-laws, the Education Policy and Student Life committee has been considering academic progress and performance data for some time now.