

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** Appointment of a Priority Study Group on Athletics  
**Date:** July 7, 2000

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the appointment of a Priority Study Group on Athletics.

**Executive Summary:**

At its June 1999 meeting, the Board of Regents reviewed a report by the Knight Commission (established in 1989) and formally reaffirmed its adoption of the 1992 "Statement of Principles" by the Knight Commission regarding intercollegiate athletics. The Board urged each university to adopt the ten principles. As part of that review, the Board also reaffirmed its Policy on Athletics, *Procedural Guide* § 10.21 (Attachment B).

A Regent Priority Study Group on Athletics was formed in the late 1980s, and continued meeting through 1998. This group drafted an athletic policy statement, adopted by the Board in 1992. During its years of service, the Study Group examined and reported on admissions policies, financial aid practices, and graduation and retention rates of student athletes.

Recently, the Knight Commission was reestablished, with the task of reviewing its principles in light of developments in college sports during the 1990s. It is timely for the Board to again establish a Priority Study Group on Athletics to review its policies regarding oversight of athletics at the universities.

The new Priority Study Group will consist of four Board members: Roger Lande as convenor, David Neil, Beverly Smith, and Deborah Turner. It will also include Executive Director Frank Stork; and Board Office staff as needed. University presidents and others may be invited to participate as needed.

The primary charge for the Priority Study Group is to review the status of the "one-plus-three" model of the Knight Commission at the Regent universities. In that model, the "one" is presidential control of athletics, the "three" refers to athletic programs that have academic integrity, financial responsibility, and a certification process that monitors both.


**Background:**

The Knight Commission, established by the Knight Foundation in 1989, developed a series of three reports which were the impetus for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to adopt the "one-plus-three" model for athletic programs. While the Knight Commission has no legal status relative to the NCAA, many of the Knight Commission members were heads of institutions with voting rights in the NCAA. These three reports were issued from 1991 to 1993.

At its February 1992 meeting, upon the recommendation of a Regent Priority Study Group on Athletics, the Board adopted policies and procedures on athletics which reflected the ten principles of the Knight Commission, as found in its second report. See Attachment A.

During the late 1980s, the Regents formed a Priority Study Group on Intercollegiate Athletics. In September 1998, the convenor of the Study Group reported that its concerns included: academic achievement of students, student financial aid assistance, compliance with NCAA regulations, financing of athletic programs, and the relationship of athletic programs to academic programs and the total university structure.

It is timely to review with the institutions their integration of the principles of the Knight Commission into athletic programs, especially as the Commission is reexamining its earlier statements.

  
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Charles R. Kniker

Approved:

  
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Owen J. Newlin

## KNIGHT FOUNDATION COMMISSION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

### *Statement of Principles*

**Preamble:** This institution is committed to a philosophy of firm institutional control of athletics, to the unquestioned academic and financial integrity of our athletics program, and to the accountability of the athletics department to the values and goals befitting higher education. In support of that commitment, the board, officers, faculty and staff of this institution have examined and agreed to the following general principles as a guide to our participation in intercollegiate athletics:

- I. The educational values, practices and mission of this institution determine the standards by which we conduct our intercollegiate athletics program.
- II. The responsibility and authority for the administration of the athletics department, including all basic policies, personnel and finances, are vested in the president.
- III. The welfare, health and safety of student-athletes are primary concerns of athletics administration on this campus. This institution will provide student-athletes with the opportunity for academic experiences as close as possible to the experiences of their classmates.
- IV. Every student-athlete – male or female, majority and minority; in all sports – will receive equitable and fair treatment.
- V. The admission of student-athletes – including junior college transfers – will be based on their showing reasonable promise of being successful in a course of study leading to an academic degree. That judgment will be made by the admissions officials.
- VI. Continuing eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics will be based on students being able to demonstrate each academic term that they will graduate within five years of their enrolling. Students who do not pass this test will not play.
- VII. Student-athletes, in each sport, will be graduated in at least the same proportion as non-athletes who have spent comparable time as full-time students.
- VIII. All funds raised and spent in connection with intercollegiate athletics programs will be channeled through the institution's general treasury, not through independent groups, whether internal or external. The athletics department budget will be developed and monitored in accordance with general budgeting procedures on campus.
- IX. All athletics-related income from non-university sources for coaches and athletics administrators will be reviewed and approved by the university. In cases where the income involves the university's functions, facilities or name, contracts will be negotiated with the institution.
- X. Annual academic and fiscal audits of the athletics program will be conducted. Moreover, this institution intends to seek NCAA certification that its athletics program complies with the principles herein. This institution will promptly correct any deficiencies and will conduct its athletics program in a manner worthy of this distinction.

## **10.21 Policy on Athletics**

### **A. Policy Statement**

Integrity in the administration of intercollegiate athletic programs is one of the highest priorities of the Board of Regents. In July 1991, the Board of Regents adopted the "one plus three" concept of intercollegiate athletics that asserts presidential control of athletics at the institutions, as well as academic integrity, financial integrity and accountability through certification. The Board now wishes to provide additional policy emphasis on integrity in athletics by clarifying the Board's position on the consequences for serious infractions of the rules and regulations of the NCAA, athletic conference or institution and adopting a reporting procedure. All violations of NCAA, conference or institutional rules that could result in punitive, corrective or disciplinary action will be reported to the Board Office. Sanctions, including but not limited to, reprimand, suspension, and/or termination of employment (following due process) will be given in response to significant violations.

### **B. Procedure**

#### **1. Notification of Possible Violation**

The Board Office will be notified of all violations that could result in corrective, punitive or disciplinary action by the NCAA, athletic conference or institution. The form of the notification will be as follows:

- a. if the NCAA has initiated an investigation, a copy of the letter from the NCAA, and a letter of explanation will be forwarded to the Board Office.
- b. if the institution is self-reporting an alleged violation to the NCAA, a copy of the letter will be forwarded to the Board Office.
- c. if conference or institutional rules are at issue, the Board will be notified as soon as a factual basis for the rule violation is known.

The Board Office will be notified of the nature of the alleged violation; the NCAA, conference, or the institutional rule involved; and the plan for investigating the allegation.

#### **2. Notification of Status of Investigation**

The Board will be notified periodically of the status of the institution's investigation. The form of notification will be a letter to the Board Office from the institutional official charged with overseeing the investigation.

3. Notification of Outcome of the University Investigation

The Board Office will be notified of the outcome of the University's investigation, including its factual conclusions and sanctions (if any). A summary of reports and documents submitted to NCAA, athletic conference or institutional officials will be provided to the Board Office.

4. Notification of Outcome of NCAA, Athletic Conference or Institutional Investigation

The Board Office will be notified of the results of any investigation undertaken by NCAA, athletic conference or institutional officials. This notification will include the conclusions and sanctions (if any).

C. Additional Actions

1. Clauses shall continue to be included in all coaches and athletic administrators contracts that will provide that significant violations of NCAA, conference or institutional rules will result in sanctions including, but not limited to, reprimand, suspension, and/or termination of employment (subject to the Board of Regent procedures in due process).
2. Future contracts for appropriate athletic department officials shall include reference to this policy.
3. In cases where this policy is not followed, the institutional president is to request an executive session with the Board of Regents to discuss the situation.

(February 19-20, 1992, p. 563)