

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Reaffirmation of the Knight Commission Principles
Date: October 8, 2001

Recommended Action: Reaffirm the “Statement of Principles” identified by the Knight Commission (Attachment A) and recommend that each Regent university adopt the principles.

Executive Summary: The Board of Regents reaffirmed the Knight Commission principles on integrity in intercollegiate athletic programs at its June 1999 meeting. Its fundamental principle is that university presidents must bear responsibility for athletic policies and practices at the institution. A new Knight Commission issued a report in June 2001, which recommended its ten Statements of Principles be continued.

By reaffirming the principles, the Board and its institutions indicate their commitment to academic integrity, fiscal integrity, and certification of Regent university athletic programs.

Link to Strategic Plan: The proposed action relates most directly to the fourth Key Result Area of the Board of Regents’ Strategic Plan, Accountability. One of the objectives under Accountability, 4.4.0.0, states “strengthen public understanding and confidence in the Board of Regents, its governance authority, and the programs and services of the institutions under its jurisdiction by measurable indicators of legislative outcomes and public support to be annually reported to the Board.”

Background: The Knight Commission, established by the Knight Foundation in 1989, developed a series of three reports that were the impetus for the NCAA adoption of the “one plus three” model for intercollegiate programs. While the Knight Commission had no legal status relative to the NCAA, many of the first Knight Commission members were presidents of institutions with voting rights in the NCAA.

Previous Knight Commission

Previous Knight
Commission
(continued)

By adopting or affirming the Knight Commission principles, the Board and its institutions support the following concepts and practices:

- The “one” in this model refers to the one head of the participating institution, its president, who will exercise management control over the three aspects of the model.
- The “three” refers to the academic integrity, financial integrity, and independent certification of intercollegiate athletic programs.
- To be in compliance as an NCAA member, that organization first required a member institution’s athletic program to be certified every five years. In 1997 the NCAA changed the certification process to an examination once every ten years, with an interim evaluation every five years.
- ISU and UNI were certified in 1996. SUI was certified in 1998.
- The Board of Regents voted in June 1999 to reaffirm the Knight principles. A copy of the ten principles is found on pages 4-5, Attachment A.

Violation
Notification
Procedure

Consistent with Knight Commission principles, the Board has a policy (Section 10.21 of the *Procedural Guide*) requiring notification of the Board Office of all possible violations that could result in corrective, punitive, or disciplinary action by the NCAA, an athletic conference, or an institution.

The Board policy sets forth a comprehensive procedure for reporting possible violations to the Board Office:

- 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 Office will be notified as soon as a factual basis for the rule violation is known.

In each case, the Board Office is to be notified of the nature of the alleged violation; the NCAA, conference or the institutional rule involved; and the plan for investigating the allegation.


In addition to immediate reporting of possible NCAA, conference, or institutional rule violations, semi-annual reports on minor NCAA violations and their disposition are to be reported to the Board Office no later than March 1 (for the previous July 1 through December 31) and September 1 (for the previous January 1 through June 30).

Analysis: In light of what it perceived to be continuing or in some cases, increasing intercollegiate athletic problems such as gambling on collegiate games, the Knight Foundation organized a new Knight Commission in 2000. Its members included President Mary Sue Coleman of the University of Iowa.

Board policy on contracts In light of the recent report of the Knight Commission (June 2001), and its discussions on the "arms race," i.e., the growing expenditures for coaches' salaries and athletic facilities, the Board believes it is important to restate its policy regarding contracts. Clauses shall continue to be included in all coach and athletic administrator contracts to 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 Regents procedures on due process). 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. (Board of Regents *Minutes*, February 19-20, 1992, p. 563).


Charles R. Kniker

Approved:


Robert J. Barak

Statement of Principles

The Commission concluded its first report in 1991 with this Statement of Principles. Upon review, we find these principles to be just as applicable today as they were 10 years ago. We commend them to campus administrators and boards of trustees for their consideration and support.

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 and 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 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.

Appendix E

VII. Student-athletes, in each sport, will be graduated in at least the same proportion as nonathletes 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 nonuniversity sources for the 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. We will conduct annual academic and fiscal audits of the athletics program. Moreover, we intend to seek NCAA certification that our athletics program complies with the principles herein. We will promptly correct any deficiencies and will conduct our athletics program in a manner worthy of this distinction.