



University at Buffalo
The State University of New York

Department of Chemistry

October 18, 2011

Dr. Michael Adams
Chair, Resource Allocation Working Group
President
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear President Adams:

The 1A FAR is very interested in changes of the NCAA to enhance the student athlete collegiate experience. My sub-group of the 1A FAR Board is assigned to offer comments to the Resource Allocation Working Group. We provided the preliminary suggestions of your Working Group to the 1A FAR list serve and collected their responses. Not surprisingly, the responses divide somewhat into institutions that have more resources or fewer, but are in general supportive of the changes suggested by the Resource Allocation Working Group. Specific suggestions on each bulleted point from the Working Group are provided in the following paragraphs.

Elimination of non-traditional competition and examination of reducing mandatory out-of-season practice. While a couple of FARs questioned the financial savings from this recommendation, the predominant opinion expressed was that this would be good for the student athlete even if it did not save money, by reducing competition time and leaving more time for academics and the collegiate experience. Concern was expressed over schedules extending over both semesters, not giving student athletes one semester to focus on academics.

Reduction in competition. This suggestion received the same sentiments as did non-traditional competition. The 1A FAR supports consideration of a reduction in competition.

Eliminate Foreign Travel. The majority of responses received opposed eliminating foreign travel, pointing to the educational value of international travel and that student athletes miss other study abroad opportunities of college students. If this is enacted, which the FARs are against, be sure to define "foreign travel" as certain colleges/universities can find sport competition more economically in Canada and Mexico than in the USA.

October 18, 2011
Dr. Michael Adams
Page 2 of 2

Reductions of Scholarships. This suggestion sparked the most division, especially among FARs from programs with larger and smaller budgets for athletics. The responses opposed to this proposal, arising from institutions with larger budgets, speak to lost opportunities for student athletes, the need for these scholarships and that men's basketball and football are the biggest revenue generators. FARs from smaller budget institutions support these proposals, both for cost savings and to level the "playing field".

Reduction in staff within our programs. This proposal was unanimously and strongly endorsed by the 1A FARs, as long as the reductions were not taken from trainers and academic support personnel. Several persons suggested that the Working Group also look at reductions of coaching staff.

The 1A FAR appreciates the efforts of the Resource Allocation Working Group and your opening dialogue on difficult issues for college athletics. We have generated a "rapid response system", if you ever would like FAR input for your discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim D. Atwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim D. Atwood
1A FAR Board
University at Buffalo

JDA/pc