

Dear Professor Tanzer,

I'm writing to you as the chair of the University of Florida Faculty Senate on behalf of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, or COIA, an alliance of faculty senates at schools that belong to the NCAA's Division 1A. Last year Professor Ramond and I exchanged several messages concerning the Coalition, and I'm copying him here because he may be able to provide more background.

COIA was formed in 2002 as a way to link representative faculty governance on many campuses and articulate a faculty voice on athletics reform on the national level. Currently, fifty of the 115 Div. 1A faculty senates have joined, and COIA has become a partner with the NCAA, the Div. 1A Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, the AAUP, the Association of Governing Boards, and other national groups in searching for ways to address problems in intercollegiate athletics and help college sports achieve their full potential as educational enhancements for athletes and campuses.

This message renews our invitation to you and your senate colleagues to consider joining the Coalition and helping to shape the future of college sports. Our direction is determined by our member senates, and we welcome any senate that votes to join on the basis of a general agreement with the principles the Coalition has laid out in several policy documents adopted over the past three years, all posted on our website at:

<http://coia.umd.edu>

For an independent view of COIA and assessment of our latest policy statement, covering issues such as athletics and admissions standards, scholarships, curricular integrity, and advising, please see the May 23 issue of the "NCAA News Online" at:

[http://www2.ncaa.org/media\\_and\\_events/association\\_news/ncaa\\_news\\_online/2005/05\\_23\\_05/front\\_page\\_news/4211n01.html](http://www2.ncaa.org/media_and_events/association_news/ncaa_news_online/2005/05_23_05/front_page_news/4211n01.html) COIA was founded by a group of faculty senate chairs and is guided by a Steering Committee, most of whose members have served as senate chairs. The senate representatives who participate in our online discussions and national meetings and who determine the initiatives COIA will take include the chairs of all member senates. We are an ad hoc group, and we operate without a staff or budget. Despite these disadvantages, the willingness of our members to keep open minds, listen to knowledgeable groups, such as FARs, Athletics Directors, and the NCAA leadership, and bring a faculty perspective to complex policy and advocacy work has allowed the Coalition to make significant contributions. For example, the Coalition has been invited by the NCAA to meet next week with a legislative committee of the Association to convey bylaw proposals developed by the COIA membership. Those familiar with NCAA procedures will recognize how exceptional such an invitation is. Our agenda for the coming year centers on advocacy work rather than policy formation. The NCAA has commissioned a task force of forty Division I school presidents to address a broad set of reform questions, including issues of financial responsibility and commercialization in college sports, balancing internal and external constituencies, articulating values, and strengthening athlete welfare. Later this month, at the invitation of Division 1A Athletics Directors, Coalition representatives will join

a meeting of AD and FAR leadership with the presidents guiding the task force. As more senates join the Coalition in thoughtful advocacy of significant reform, we hope that this reform-minded task force will be empowered by broad faculty support to tackle issues more complex and politically difficult than it might otherwise feel ready to address. For this reason, and in light of the contributions that many senates have worked hard to make over the past three years, we hope that you and your senate colleagues will consider devoting a portion of your busy calendar this fall to discussion of joining the Coalition. The fifty senates that have joined, listed on our website, have tried hard to represent the perspective of faculty at all Division 1A schools, but our effort will only be truly successful when all of us are taking part and contributing our ideas and views. There are no obligations to membership, though we hope for active participation. There are no dues, and participation in our annual meetings is completely voluntary. Nor do we require lockstep agreement - it is likely that no single member senate agrees with every one of the many proposals and best practice standards the Coalition membership has adopted. We work through flexible consensus, guided by values and principles that we feel the major policy documents on our website make clear. When COIA was first forming, we drafted our "Framework" document on reform as a prospectus for senates considering membership. That document still expresses our general approach; however, as we now indicate on our website, many of its specific points have been modified or developed further by our member senates in subsequent policy papers. We'd be very grateful if you would give consideration to our standing invitation to join the Coalition, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have, either by email (eno@indiana.edu) or phone (812-855-0856). Best, Bob Eno Co-Chair, Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics  
<http://coia.umd.edu>