



November 17, 2014

Mark Emmert
President, NCAA

Dear President Emmert,

The Big Ten Faculty Representatives recently reviewed the recommendation of the Division I Championships Cabinet regarding its continuance and composition in the new Division I governance structure. We agree that the Cabinet needs to continue in some form. We disagree, however, that it should be comprised exclusively of members who have “significant championships experience, with sports oversight.” We have been informed that the Cabinet did not intend to exclude the faculty voice from any new cabinet/committee and at least informally has asked NCAA staff to make that clear. Because we have seen no such clarification, and because we consider the matter of paramount importance, we have decided to write to share our concern that the newly formulated championships cabinet/committee may have insufficient faculty representation.

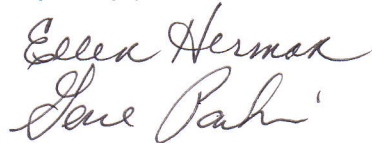
No matter that affects college athletics or student-athletes is exclusively athletic or exclusively academic. The championships cabinet/committee, for example, will be vested with oversight of several matters that have impact on the greater campus, student-athlete academic performance, and student-athlete well-being. These include scheduling, roster sizes, travel squads, and siting of championships.

The best decisions will come from a considered discussion between and among athletic administrators, who have broad-based responsibilities, and faculty athletic representatives, who reflect the perspectives and experiences of the faculty and the greater campus. In that light, we note that the new 20-member Committee on Academics includes ten athletic administrators (two conference commissioners, five athletic directors, and three senior associate athletic directors/SWAs). When matters under consideration primarily involve academics and the greater campus, NCAA cabinet and committee composition indeed demonstrate a full appreciation that both voices need to be represented. Unfortunately, that recognition often is absent when matters primarily affect competition, athletic performance, or amateurism concerns.

The need to have both perspectives at the same table when policy is initiated, developed, and finalized is not a matter of turf wars. Rather, it is a matter of fully vetting policy choices so that adopted policy best responds to the complex issues at hand with the fewest unanticipated or unintended consequences. It also is a matter of responding to the strongly negative external optics of college athletics, reflected in both the public perception and litigation, in which collegiate athletic competition and administration are seen to be increasingly divorced from the college, or academic, side of the equation. Division I Board chair Nathan Hatch recently commented that the Board’s commitment to a new Division I Council “reflective of the different perspectives in the division” is impelled by the recognition that inclusion of diverse viewpoints will lead “to better

decisions for the NCAA as a whole." We believe that this commitment should permeate appointments at all levels.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signatures of Ellen Herman and Gene Parkin. The signature of Ellen Herman is written in a cursive script, and the signature of Gene Parkin is also in cursive, appearing below the first signature.

Ellen Herman, Clinical Professor of Education, University of Iowa
Gene Parkin, Donald F. Bently Professor of Engineering, University of Iowa
Co-Chairs, Big Ten Faculty Representatives
on behalf of the Big Ten Faculty Representatives