Rawlings Report Recommendations Related to Faculty Governance or Educational Policy


September 9, 2013

3. Clarify the role and responsibility of any other institutional officer or board or committee that has responsibility for issues relating to intercollegiate athletics, or that plays an advisory role in intercollegiate athletics, Faculty committees in particular should have clearly-defined charges, roles and responsibilities.

6. Insure that the unit that provides academic support services for student/athletes operates without any undue influence by athletics officials and staff, including coaching staff.

8. Insure that the admissions process for student/athletes is essentially the same as that for other applicants with special talents; that the same office that admits other undergraduate applicants to the institution also has final decision-making authority for the admission of student/athletes; and that all communications regarding prospective student/athletes between the athletics department staff and the admissions office are routed through the athletics director or his/her designee(s). Assure that, in the final analysis, one individual or office is responsible for the admission of student/athletes.

9. Insure that student/athletes are subject to general disciplinary rules and codes of conduct applicable to other students at the institution, including the same procedures and sanctions; assure as well that all athletics department policies are applicable specifically to all student/athletes, and that all communications regarding student/athletes between athletics department staff and student disciplinary staff are routed through the athletics director or his/her designee(s).

22. UNC-CH should insures that the quantitative academic performance of “special admits” in athletics is representative of the performance of “special admits” in other categories of admission.

23. Qualitative assessments of “at-risk” prospective athletes should be conducted by admissions officials during the recruitment process.

24. As stated in the recommendation for a framework for protecting institutional integrity, the final decision-making authority for the admission of student/athletes must reside with the academic and admissions officials who make decisions for all other students.

25. UNC-CH should consider requiring a “year of readiness” for student/athletes admitted under the “special admissions” category, and consider advocating for this reform nationally. During this year, these students would be ineligible to participate in varsity competition (though they would retain four years of athletic eligibility) and would have limited practice participation.

26. In the interest of further improving academic outcomes for all students participating on intercollegiate teams, UNC-CH should consider reducing the number of hours student/athletes devote to sports activities, both locally and on conference/national levels.