

Class C Resolution: Resolution resigning the University of Washington Faculty Senate from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics

Rationale:

In 2004 the Faculty Senate approved support for the Framework for Comprehensive Athletics Reform as recommended by the [Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics](#) (COIA) and agreed to authorize a representative from Faculty Senate to COIA. COIA is an organization established to represent the elected faculty governance bodies of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) universities in activities related to the administration and governance of intercollegiate athletics.

This resolution responds to concerns about the COIA leadership and the process of changes made to the bylaws as well as the assessment that there is no longer any clear benefit of participation. On January 19, 2017, the UW faculty Senate Chair, Zoe Barsness (UW's COIA representative at the time), received notice of proposed revisions to the COIA bylaws that included significant reduction in the representation on the steering committee. The changes were determined to be substantive in nature. However, the proposed revisions were not sent with adequate time for the appropriate review, despite requests by participating institutions. In response, UW's COIA representative, the UW Faculty Senate Chair, voted no on the proposed bylaws although they were subsequently adopted by a vote of the full COIA membership in February 2017. Additionally COIA leadership has turned to other priorities outside of the regular purview of the UW faculty including, coaches' salaries, establishing a presidential commission on athletics, pay-for-play lawsuits, the structure of NCAA committees among other such issues.

In light of concerns about COIA's responsiveness, procedural legitimacy and effectiveness, UW Faculty Senate leadership asked the UW Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (ACIA) to review the rationale for and benefits secured by our COIA membership. The ACIA conducted this review in April 2017, and at the completion of their review of our COIA membership, members of the ACIA unanimously endorsed the following statement on April 12, 2017:

It is the view of the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics that our continuing membership in COIA does nothing to improve the lives of athletes at the University of Washington and adds nothing to our efforts to enhance the primacy of the academic experience. We therefore recommend that the University of Washington Faculty Senate drop its membership in COIA.

After withdrawal from COIA of several founding members, such as the University of Arkansas, Indiana University and Michigan State University on the basis of concerns consistent with the findings and recommendations of our own ACIA, senate leadership proposes this resolution.

Resolution:

WHEREAS in 2004 the Faculty Senate approved a [Class C resolution](#) to support the framework for comprehensive athletics reform (COIA) addressing such issues as academic integrity, student athlete welfare, governance, finances, and over-commercialization, and;

WHEREAS the goal of the resolution was to bring out positive aspects of intercollegiate athletics; and

WHEREAS COIA historically focused exclusively on enhancing the academic experience of student athletes, its focus in recent years has shifted strongly to issues outside of faculty purview; and

WHEREAS the tone of its interactions with the NCAA has been quite combative and has prevented COIA (and thus by extension faculty voice) from having a seat at the table; and

WHEREAS the newly approved steering committee is considered to be less representative than the previous structure and is unlikely to address ongoing ACIA and UW faculty leadership concerns about lack of member input in COIA decision making; and

WHEREAS we have access to other, well-established and proven avenues for faculty voice to assure consideration of faculty, non-athlete student and student-athlete interests in matters related to college sports. These avenues include the ACIA, our Faculty Academic Representative (FAR) to the NCAA and conference level bodies, as well as our institutional membership in the PAC12 Council of Presidents and the PAC12 Academic Leadership Coalition, an organization of shared governance leaders from PAC12 institutions that meets bi-annually; and

WHEREAS the ACIA has worked effectively to enhance student athlete well-being at the UW and has served to strengthen faculty engagement and governance in regards to the primacy and health of the academic mission as it relates to college athletics; and

WHEREAS the original charge of COIA has shifted, and it is the view of the ACIA that continuing membership does nothing to improve the lives of student athletes, and adds nothing to our efforts to enhance primacy of University of Washington student athletes' academic experience; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Washington Faculty Senate recommends withdrawal of its COIA membership.

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
October 2, 2017

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
October 19, 2017