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from **THE COALITION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS (COIA)**

<http://www.neuro.uoregon.edu/~tublitz/COIA/index.html>

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In the fall of 2003, the NCAA instituted the Academic Progress Rate (APR) as a measure of the academic success of an institution's division I athletic teams. The APR takes into account two factors, eligibility and retention. An APR score of 925 out of 1000 corresponds roughly to a 50% graduation rate. The purpose of the APR is to provide an incentive for division I schools to focus on the student-athlete's education, and not just his or her athletic performance. Teams failing to reach 925 may receive NCAA sanctions, including loss of scholarships and restrictions on practice time for short term violations and banishment from post-season competition for repeat violators.

This spring the NCAA released the first four-year APR scores for all Division I teams. Substantial progress has clearly been made. The number of teams with failing APR scores has declined since the NCAA began collecting data four years ago.

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), an alliance of faculty governance bodies from 56 Division IA schools, strongly supports the efforts of the NCAA to promote student-athlete academic welfare through the APR, and applauds the progress that has been made.

We strongly believe, however, that in order for the APR to continue to function as intended, penalties must be imposed on those teams failing to meet the 925 minimum standard. Only 107 or 30% of the division I football, basketball and baseball teams with APR scores below 925 received penalties. That means that 70% of teams with failing APR scores avoided penalties. The mere threat of penalties is not sufficient to produce the desired increase in student-athlete academic performance. The threatened penalties must be consistently imposed on teams not meeting the APR minimum. Moreover, questions of fairness are appropriately raised when some teams are penalized, but not others.

Since its inception in 2002, COIA has been a faculty voice promoting the integration of athletics into the academic values and goals of higher education. Faculty support is critical for the NCAA as it receives pressure to lighten or eliminate sanctions for underperforming schools. At the same time, it is imperative that the NCAA support faculty efforts to maintain the academic integrity of intercollegiate athletics.

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This statement has been approved by the Steering Committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (<http://www.neuro.uoregon.edu/~tublitz/COIA/SC.html>)

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