

The Drake Group

A Voice for Faculty Charged with Educating College Athletes

www.thedrakegroup.org

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The Drake Group's Push for Government Intervention into Intercollegiate Athletics Continues

Attached: Recommendations for Sports Program Transparency and Reporting at the NCAA and Its Member Institutions. Also available online at

http://www.thedrakegroup.org/Splitt_Recommendations_for_Transparency.pdf

The Drake Group is continuing to advocate for a continuation of the congressional review of the NCAA and its tax-exempt status as a nonprofit institution of higher education – a follow up to the October 2006, inquiry by the House Committee on Ways and Means.

It is increasingly clear that the priority of NCAA institutions is to win games and generate revenue—at the expense of the educational mission of its member institutions and realistic educational opportunities for their athletes. Currently, members of The Drake Group are canvassing their respective congressional delegations, urging the implementation of recommendations that would hold the NCAA and its member institutions accountable for the substantial financial support they receive from America's taxpayers.

Attached to this release is a brief, but detailed plan being submitted to Congress to enable this review. The message to the NCAA is this—establish intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the institution or lose your non-profit status. The best way to accomplish this is through full disclosure/transparency and reporting mechanisms having the capability to expose suspect and fraudulent academic practices that permeate higher education and intercollegiate athletics today.

The message for this review is resonating through the halls of higher education and the government. Below is an excerpt of a recent article by syndicated sportswriter, Bob Gilbert:

“Tennessee Congressman John Duncan phoned last week to say he agrees with everything I said in a letter to him about the excessive commercialism and tax-exempt status of big-time college sports. Duncan favors Congress issuing subpoenas to university presidents, trustees and athletics directors to get at the truth of the collegiate sports arms race. Among those who've been pushing for congressional investigation are Dr. Jim Duderstadt, president emeritus of Michigan; Dr. Frank Splitt, former McCormick Faculty Fellow at Northwestern; and Dr. Dave Ridpath, president of The Drake Group.

The NCAA and its member schools shield troubling behavior in the form of academic corruption from public view by conveniently ignoring the fact that the Family Education Privacy Act (FERPA) allows them to make public academic records of students groups in sufficient number to protect the privacy of individual students. That from Splitt, a member of The Drake Group and a leader in the college sports reform movement.

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"Academic corruption not only allows the NCAA to sustain its phony student-athlete ruse with its derivative tax-exempt status, but also allows schools to recruit and (sign) academically unqualified blue-chip athletes...for their college sports entertainment businesses at the expense of America's taxpayers—a situation that is now being scrutinized by the U.S. Congress," Splitt said.