



## President's Message



First, we hope you are able to spend as much time as possible at home and when you are out, are practicing social distancing, mask-wearing, and encouraging others to do the same. We are each others' keepers. We also hope you are letting your local, state, and national leaders know that we must have testing, tracing, and quarantine of COVID-positive individuals as the new normal until we get a vaccine. Opening up for education, sport, or business without a comprehensive testing program in place will only allow asymptomatic individuals or others who have the virus to spread COVID-19. We must be strong during this difficult time. Second, thanks to all of you for your continued support of The Drake Group and your commitment to advocating for academic integrity and protecting the health and well-being of college athletes. Third, thank you for contacting your U.S. Congressperson to sign on as a co-sponsor of H.R. 5528, a bipartisan bill to establish a Congressional Advisory Commission to address the need for intercollegiate athletics reform. If you haven't done so yet, we will be in touch when Congress reconvenes and begins to address normal business. At that time we will continue our efforts to work on the passage of this bill. Last, if you haven't renewed your membership yet and you think Drake is doing good work, please renew your Drake membership (January to December is our membership year) by [clicking here](#). Stay safe!

-- B. David Ridpath, President

## Consider Standing for Election to The Drake Group Board of Directors



Our annual elections are coming up in June. The Drake Membership, Development and Advancement Committee is soliciting nominations. All Drake members are asked to think about serving as a member of the Board of Directors or standing for election to the office of President-Elect (who is also a member of the Board). If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate another member to serve, e-mail Committee Chair Donna Lopiano ([Donna.Lopiano@gmail.com](mailto:Donna.Lopiano@gmail.com)) with your name (or the name of your nominee), contact information and a 250-word biography that would be published as part of the ballot if the nominee is advanced by the Nominating Committee to candidate status. See Policy 3.3 in the [Drake Policy Handbook](#) for a description of the responsibilities of Board members.

## Over 30 States Considering Legislation Giving College Athletes Rights to Monetize Their Own Names, Images and Likenesses (NILs)

## We Need You!



Learn about H.R. 5528, a bipartisan Congressional Bill to establish a Congressional Advisory Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics

[Click here to help...](#)

## NEWS

### Dave Ridpath at COIA Annual Meeting

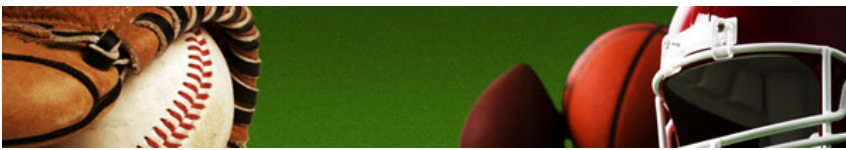
Drake President David Ridpath attended the February 2020 conference for COIA, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. COIA is an organization representing the elected faculty governance bodies of FBS universities in activities related to the administration and governance of intercollegiate athletics.

### "Sports Hiatus Gives NCAA An Opportunity to Rethink the Structure of College Sports"

Board members Gerald Gurney, Donna Lopiano, and Andrew Zimbalist challenged college and university presidents to take advantage of the pandemic financial crisis hitting athletics to accomplish a major "reset" that places athlete health, financial sanity and academic integrity at the forefront.

[Read more](#)

**TDG Urges Students-First Approach to COVID-19 Athletics**



The Drake Group is assisting staff members in over 50 U.S. House and Senate offices to understand all of the issues related to giving college athletes the same rights as non-athlete students regarding outside employment, including the right to seek endorsement work and pursuing their sport-related businesses. The NCAA currently forbids such employment under outdated and overly restrictive 'amateur status' rules. We are maintaining a [Drake tracking database](#) of 35 state-level bills granting college athletes such rights. The Drake Education Working Group developed a detailed [Drake NIL position statement](#) describing how Congress could step in with a federal bill that would prevent the chaos of conflicting state laws.

## Continuing to Object to Actions Not in the Best Interests of College Athletes...



On April 29, the NCAA issued [guidelines](#) for its Division Councils to develop legislation for more permissive rules related to college athletes being able to monetize their own names, images and likenesses. [Drake issued a scathing criticism](#) of NCAA proposals. Drake was not alone. U.S. Senators Corey Booker (NJ) and Christopher Murphy (CT) sent NCAA President Mark Emmert a [letter](#) to express their "concern that this framework still does not come close to providing college athletes with the rights and opportunities they deserve."

## TheDrakeGroup.org Features Member Opinions



Check out the newest area of the Drake web site - 'Member Opinions.' Drake Co-Founder and first president Jon Ericson writes on [Saving College Football](#) and [Lock Up the Coaches \(Make Football Fun Again\)](#). Frank Splitt, 2006 Drake Hutchins Award Winner, takes on college and university trustees and regents for their failure to control commercialized athletic programs in [An Ongoing American Tragedy in Higher Education: Where is the Outrage and Where Are the Governing Boards?](#)

## Budget Cuts

Drake called for athletic departments to follow sound management principles to cut expenses as athletic departments panic in the face of revenue shortfalls.

[Read more](#)

## More Drakes!



## Encourage Colleagues to Join!

Share this newsletter with faculty colleagues or sports management students. [Membership](#) is only \$50 for professional, \$35 for faculty and \$10 for students. Be a part of making change happen!

## Thanking our Institutional Sponsor



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