

Student participation in competitive sports is a valued and valuable experience, and few deny that sport will always have a place at universities. But after three years of scandal and controversy related to our University's athletic program, it is incumbent upon UNC-CH faculty, students, and administrators to debate openly and honestly the University's commitment to NCAA Division-I competition. We call for **a multi-year, broad-ranging agenda of town hall meetings, to begin this March**, between the faculty, students, athletic department administrators, and University leadership. We must restore faith on campus, across the state, and around the country that our University operates an athletic enterprise that is just, honest and in line with the academic ideals and standards of UNC-Chapel Hill.

For its part, and following its "Statement of Principles" of 2012, the **Athletics Reform Group (ARG)** also asserts:

**Honesty** means:

- a) acknowledging openly what the current collegiate model of athletics denies athletes (the moral autonomy afforded other adults),
- b) admitting that their ability to generate wins and revenue is the prime 'special talent' that leads the University to accept academically challenged students,
- c) admitting that the admission of under-prepared but "profit-generating" athletes poses huge challenges and may compromise the moral integrity of the University, and
- d) admitting that the concern for player eligibility and team APR scores creates pressures that subordinate educational choices to institutional needs and threaten academic standards.

**Justice** means:

Compensating athletes for their contributions to Carolina in the best way we can. Within a system that denies salaries to the athletes whose athletic talents fuel the current collegiate model of athletics, the University needs to ensure that the education delivered to its admitted athletes—and their equal and open access to it—measures up to what all Carolina students expect.

**In line with University standards** means:

- a) using transparent and published standards of admission in evaluation of applicants and recruits
- b) referring to academic expectations of this campus for appraising the suitability of league expansion, travel commitments, practice time commitments, and other obligations that may affect the academic performance of athletes.

The **ARG** offers the following specific changes as examples of reforms that would be consistent with the above-stated principles:

- 1) **Guarantee athletes their rights of due process, and promptly provide funding for independent legal counsel to any athlete accused of wrongdoing by UNC or the NCAA.**
- 2) **Fulfill the now several year-old commitment to increase the number of literacy and learning specialists available to help under-prepared athletes.**
- 3) **End weeknight football games.**

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