

## COALITION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

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### For immediate release

#### **COIA Steering Committee Supports the 1A FAR Statement on the FBS Football Post Season**

The Steering Committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) expresses its strong support for the [March 1 1A-FAR statement](#) to the FBS conference commissioners and the Bowl Championship Series school presidents who are currently deliberating the creation of a national football playoff system. The 1A-FAR statement correctly addresses the principal issue: the effects of a playoff system on the physical and academic well being of the students who play FBS football.

The 1A-FAR group is an association of FBS faculty appointed as NCAA Faculty Athletics Representatives by their presidents and chancellors. COIA is an alliance of fifty-nine faculty senates at FBS schools. Both groups share the belief that all decisions concerning college sports must reflect the best interests of the student-athletes.

Discussions about a proposed national football playoff system have focused on two issues: public demand for championship entertainment and the revenue potential of a playoff. Lost in these discussions are the physical consequences and academic interests of the students who play FBS football. The 1A-FAR statement eloquently articulates the ways in which any playoff system will increase the physical and academic risks for students who play football.

Intense pressures on schools to prioritize public entertainment and revenue concerns over the needs of student-athletes, particularly in the sports of football and men's basketball, represent the greatest threat to the integrity of intercollegiate athletics. These pressures have triggered unusual conference re-alignments, the addition of a 12<sup>th</sup> football game, scheduling of weekday football games, and conference championships. This over-commercialization has provided legitimacy to rising calls for the professionalization of college sports, calls that will only intensify if the talents and enthusiasm of our student-athletes are further employed to satisfy public demand and revenue needs. As the 1A-FAR statement points out, even though the smallest possible playoff system, confined to four teams, may have minimal initial negative impact, history provides overwhelming evidence that once instituted any playoff system will expand until it optimally satisfies public demand and revenue potential.

NCAA Faculty Athletics Representatives are appointed to ensure that the perspective of faculty is well represented in all NCAA deliberations. Our 1A-FAR colleagues have shown the importance of this perspective and have convincingly demonstrated that our schools cannot fulfill their responsibilities towards students who play FBS football by pursuing a national playoff system. Their well reasoned statement clearly articulates the values of higher education. We encourage the presidents and chancellors to support the position of their appointed FARs.

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(March 5, 2012)