

Proposition: 9-16/17

Title: Memorial in support of ideas to reduce incidents of sexual violence on university and college campuses.

Date Submitted: 8/25/2016

Sponsor(s): Brown (A&S)

Proposed Committee:

Assigned Committee:

Prior Approvals: None – N/A

Background:

In the past few years, the NCAA Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) has worked diligently to explore how best to help curb the increasing number of incidents of sexual violence that many universities and colleges have experienced. In this work, the Coalition has reached out to Dr. Mark Emmert, the president of the NCAA, and shared with the leadership of the NCAA various ideas on how campuses can effectively deal with this growing problem. In a letter to Faculty Senate Chairs written by Dr. Michael Bowen, Chair of the COIA, we learned that President Emmert and the Executive Committee of the NCAA issued a resolution entitled, “Sexual Violence Prevention and Complaint Resolution,” in which several very positive ideas are proposed. (Copy of the letter from President Emmert to Dr. Bowen and the NCAA Resolution are attached to this memorial).

More recently, Dr. Bowen sent a letter to President Emmert to advance a proposal to ban student-athletes who are found guilty of committing acts of sexual violence from the privilege of participating in intercollegiate athletics. This request was in direct response to a petition that Mr. Darius Adams made to the NCAA to implement this ban in response to an act of sexual violence that was committed against Mr. Darius’ mother. (Copies of Dr. Bowen’s letter and Mr. Adams’ petition are attached to this memorial).

Proposal:

By this memorial, we respectfully request that NMSU Chancellor Garrey Carruthers and Athletic Director Mario Moccia do three things:

- Formally endorse efforts by the NCAA COIA and the NCAA Executive Committee to reduce instances of sexual violence on campus,

- Work together to fully implement the actions recommended by the NCAA resolution at NMSU, and
- Formally request that the NCAA Executive Committee and NCAA President Emmert implement the ban that is proposed in both Mr. Adams' petition and Dr. Bowen's letter, whereby student athletes that are found guilty of acts of sexual violence be banned from the privilege of participating in intercollegiate athletics.

Rationale:

Sexual violence is a very serious issue on many campuses in the US, and several very high profile instances have occurred whereby leadership at the universities and colleges involved have been slow to respond to these incidents, failed to respond to these incidents, or actually hindered responses to these incidents. By this memorial, NMSU faculty, as represented by the NMSU Faculty Senate, request that senior leadership at NMSU do all it can to reduce instances of sexual violence on campus, including endorsing ideas proposed by the NCAA COIA and the NCAA Executive Committee, working to implement the actions recommended in the NCAA resolution, and formally requesting the NCAA leadership implement the ban discussed above. This memorial is in no way alleging that NMSU has failed to adequately respond to these incidents; rather we are asking senior leadership at NMSU to endorse efforts of the NCAA, and to do all that is possible to reduce the number and severity of sexual violence incidents that may occur on university and college campuses.