

March 1, 2017

Dear Sirs:

# ATHLETIC MONITORING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

#### **OVERVIEW**

The president of the University of Virginia has ultimate responsibility for the institution's intercollegiate athletics program and exercises appropriate administrative and fiscal control over it.

The UVA Department of Athletics submits both the expenditure budget and the revenue budget to the executive vice president and chief operating officer for review and to the University Budget Office for analysis.

The associate director of athletics for compliance has a dual reporting role — to both the director of athletics and the president.

These two faculty have the independent responsibility to review all grades, and they have the authority to investigate any anomaly they encounter. The FAR and the AD have access to department chairs, academic deans, the Athletic Director, and the Provost in resolving anomalies. For these purposes, their reporting line is to the President and they operate under her authority.

### START OF SEMESTER

The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Academic Programs (AD for UAP) review the percentages of student-athletes in all classes. An explanation is sought in any class where the enrollment of student-athletes exceeds 60 percent. If the explanation is unsatisfactory, the situation is reported to the Dean of the School or College for remediation of the situation.

The FAR and the AD for UAP review all student-athletes enrolled in an independent study class. Both request a syllabus, review the syllabus and ultimately approve or deny the student's enrollment.

The FAR and the AD for UAP review classes that are added "late" (i.e., once the semester has begun). Student-athlete enrollment is reviewed in these classes. If necessary, the FAR and the AD for UAP follow up with the faculty member to seek information and clarity on the course offering. If explanation is unsatisfactory, the situation is reported to the Dean of the School or College for remediation of the situation.

## MIDDLE OF SEMESTER

The FAR and the AD for UAP contact the faculty members who serve as an advisors to student-athletes. Below, is a sample letter that has been sent to those faculty.

Dear Faculty,

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With the advising period underway, we are reaching out to every faculty member who advises a student-athlete — major and non-major. The violations of academic integrity at our sister institutions have made us aware of the potential pitfalls facing us all as we advise these students and work with them in class. We therefore thought we would take a few minutes to remind you of the importance of keeping your eyes and ears open as you advise student-athletes and to offer to act as a sounding board when you hear of issues that you think the University should be aware of and responding to as we work to protect our student-athletes and ensure that they receive the education they deserve.

First, please scrutinize the proposed course selections by these students to ensure that while they are working to stay eligible to compete they are also aware of the long term implications of course choices. Second, if you see patterns of enrollment in particular courses emerging in a given semester that give you pause or raise questions about academic integrity we would hope you would let one of us know so we can gather some information on the situation. Finally, if students report any unusual class activity (or lack of class activity!) please do let us know of those situations.

Thank you for your assistance	
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END OF SEMESTER	

The FAR and the AD for UAP review all grades and look for classes in which the distribution of grades for student-athletes is higher than that for non-athletes. Based on the outcome of this analysis, the FAR and AD for UAP follow-up with the appropriate faculty and academic leaders to seek greater information or an explanation. This additional detail, in turn, informs any next actions to address or investigate the matter.

The FAR and the AD for UAP review the majors of student-athletes. Based on the outcome of this analysis, both follow-up with the appropriate faculty and academic leaders to seek greater information or an explanation. This additional detail, in turn, informs any next actions to address or investigate the matter.

# AS NEEDED

The FAR and the AD for UAP frequently craft joint responses to inquiries from faculty regarding tutoring, study hall, the role of the academic coordinator, etc., in athletics.

# **Grade Change Process**

(a) College of Arts and Sciences: All grade changes that flow through the College must be approved by a Dean. After approval by a dean the grade changes are forwarded to the FAR and the University Registrar for approval. If a grade change looks unusual (e.g., significantly large adjustment, invalid or no reason provided) or would change the status of a student-athlete's eligibility status, the FAR contacts the instructor for an explanation. Based on the explanation provided the FAR has the authority to approve or reject the grade change.

(b) Other Schools: The same process as described above is followed with a designated Dean in each school reviewing the request for the change of grade and granting the initial approval.

We believe that this process helps assure academic integrity and provides early warning if a situation requires inquiry or remedy.

Very truly yours,

Keresa A. Sallwin

Teresa A. Sullivan