



Karl Idsvoog <academicintegrity2017@gmail.com>

2016_12_22_Drake Group Request

Lisa Hull <lisa.hull@wisc.edu>

Thu, Feb 16, 2017 at 2:21 PM

To: "AcademicIntegrity2017@gmail.com" <AcademicIntegrity2017@gmail.com>

Cc: Claire Dalle Molle <claire.dallemolle@wisc.edu>

Dear Drake Group,

I write in response to your public records request of Dec. 22, 2016, in which you ask for "Every analysis conducted by the university provost's office (or outside contractor/consultant hired by the provost's office) since January 1, 2011 designed to check for academic corruption in your athletic department."

The university has determined that we have no records responsive to this request. A photograph of Provost Mangelsdorf is available here: <http://photos.news.wisc.edu/photos/18648/view>

Sincerely,

Lisa Hull

Public Records Custodian

Office of Compliance

University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Karl Idsvoog [<mailto:academicintegrity2017@gmail.com>]**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2016 3:05 PM**To:** UW-Madison Provost <provost@provost.wisc.edu>**Subject:** Request for the Provost

Attached is a records request for the Provost. We look forward to receiving your information. Thank you. Athletic Academic Integrity Project

The Drake Group

December 22, 2016

Public Records Request to the Provost

via email to: provost@provost.wisc.edu

Sarah Mangelsdorf

Provost

University of Wisconsin

150 Bascom Hall

500 Lincoln Drive

Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Provost Mangelsdorf:

The Drake Group is contacting the provost of every university (except UNC) in the Big 5 Conferences - ACC, Big 12, Big 10, PAC 12, SEC on a project we plan to launch this March: The *Athletic Academic Integrity Project*. Your response will be included in its entirety on the *Athletic Academic Integrity Project* website. We understand provosts are busy people; that's why we've allowed plenty of time for you to respond. The deadline for your response for the public records we're requesting is March 1, 2017. And please send any additional comments you wish. We will post your letter. If we receive no response, we will report that you did not respond.

Please send your response and attached documents to:

AcademicIntegrity2017@gmail.com

As you are aware, when it comes to academic integrity there have been serious problems at universities across the country when it comes to college athletes. At the University of North Carolina, athletes for years had been receiving high grades and full academic credit for what were basically fake classes. More than a thousand athletes over an [18-year period took classes where they could do little to no work and get high grades that kept them eligible to play ball](#). And of course, this is at a university that like all NCAA Division I universities has an athletic department compliance officer who year after year assures compliance.

The [Wainstein Report](#) provides a detailed examination of the problems at UNC. The Wainstein Report notes the Athletic Department was fully aware of what was going on and that athletic staff "knew that these were easy courses that required no class attendance and that they resulted in consistently high grades for the student athletes."

Any provost wanting to check for academic corruption would not rely on the assurances of the athletic department but would conduct an independent analysis.

At the University of Michigan, a professor in addition to his full teaching load in just a few semesters taught 294 independent study courses, most taken by athletes. The list of top universities found guilty of academic corruption when it comes to athletics over the past several years is long.

As Richard Southall, director of the College Sport Research Institute, explains in this [video](#), finding out what your athletes are doing academically and pinpointing possible problems is easy. Are there indications of eligibility courses? Are there professors giving all A's semester after semester in classes mostly attended by athletes? Are there professors teaching an unusually high number of independent study courses attended by athletes? Is there a normal distribution of majors for your athletes, or are your football and basketball players for some reason ending up in only two or three majors?

*When it comes to academic corruption in the world of college athletics there have been lots of alarm bells. **The Athletic Academic Integrity Project is examining how the provosts at the nation's top universities have responded to those alarms.***

Under Wisconsin Public Records Law we are requesting electronic copies of the following public records.

1. Every analysis conducted by the university provost's office since January 1, 2011 designed to check for academic corruption in your athletic department.
2. Every analysis conducted since January 1, 2011 by an outside contractor/consultant hired by the provost's office designed to check for academic corruption in your athletic department.
3. *If the provost has **never made** a specific check for **academic corruption in the university's athletic department**, please so indicate so we can report that fact.*

If there are student names exempt from disclosure due to FERPA or due to other state student privacy laws, please redact the names and provide the remainder of the document. As you know, under state public records law if a portion of a document is exempt from disclosure the remainder of the document is still public record and must be made available upon request.

We ask that any fees be waived as this material will be used for news and educational purposes on a topic of utmost importance to the public. Certainly, little time would be involved providing the requested material as your office would be immediately aware of the reports we're requesting. Those reports are on computer. Providing them is as simple as selecting the report, hitting attach,

and sending it to AcademicIntegrity2017@gmail.com If there are names in need of redaction, that is fast and easy with electronic records.

Picture Request

Would you please send either a picture or the url where we can download the picture of the provost you would like us to use for this project.

Send your material to: AcademicIntegrity2017@gmail.com

We look forward to getting your material and being in touch with you for follow up interviews. If you have any questions, please call or email.

Very Best Regards,

Professors Karl Idsvoog, Dave Foster, Max Grubb

The Athletic Academic Integrity Project

AcademicIntegrity2017@gmail.com

phone: [513-646-4953](tel:513-646-4953)