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February 28, 2017

Professor Karl Idsvoog,
Professor Dave Foster,
Professor Max Grubb
The Athletic Academic Integrity Project
The Drake Group

Via e-mail to AcademicIntegrity2017@gmail.com

Dear Professors:

As Official Records Custodian of the University of Kentucky, I respond to your recent letter to the University's Provost. In your letter, you invoke the Kentucky Open Records Act and request the following 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.

For purposes of the Kentucky Open Records Act, the University responds that there are no documents responsive to Requests 1 and 2.

With respect to Request 3, the University responds that you have a fundamental misunderstanding of how the University and many other NCAA Division I Power Five Conference institutions monitor academic integrity of the intercollegiate athletics program.

The primary responsibility for monitoring academic integrity belongs to the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative—Dr. Joseph Fink. Dr. Fink, who is

appointed by and reports to the University President, is a forty-two year member of the faculty of the University's nationally ranked College of Pharmacy. Before being appointed the NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. Fink served in various administrative positions—including Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of Admissions. Although Dr. Fink has served in various capacities under five different University of Kentucky presidents, he has never had a position within the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Among his duties as NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. Fink does the following:

- Reviews the majors chosen by UK's student-athletes to guard against any clustering in a particular college or major
- Reviews class composition numbers to insure a reasonable balance between student-athletes and non-student-athletes in a given class
- If any UK student-athlete receives a grade change (as many students do for various reasons), Dr. Fink contacts the professor directly (faculty member to faculty member) to make sure the change was made for legitimate reasons that would be available to any student and that no contact was made with the professor from the athletics department.
- Every student-athlete who competes for the University of Kentucky must successfully complete an eligibility certification process every year. This process includes documents, from the college which contains a particular student's major, that certify the number of hours passed, those that are applicable toward their degree and the cumulative GPA. Dr. Fink then reviews those documents to make sure the student-athlete meets the requirements of the NCAA for continuing eligibility. He also reviews similar documents for transfer and freshman student-athletes.
- Conducts exit interviews with student-athletes who are transferring or have completed their eligibility. During those interviews, he asks questions directly related to academic integrity based on the student-athlete's experience at the University.
- Speaks to every team at the beginning of the academic year to explain who he is, what his position is, and how they can reach him. During that presentation, he makes it very clear that this University and this athletics department are committed to academic integrity and provides specific examples of what that means.

The Drake Group
February 28, 2017

Additionally, Dr. Fink chairs the Academic Integrity Group, which has been a standing committee of the University since the early 1990's. The Academic Integrity Group includes four persons who directly report to the Provost and another who works in the Provost's area but reports directly to the President. Dr. Fink regularly consults with the Academic Integrity Group and provides information he has learned in his review of student-athlete's academic performance. The Academic Integrity Group ensures that the Provost's senior staff is regularly and actively involved in the decision-making and monitoring of the academic integrity of the athletics department.

In describing the University of Kentucky's efforts to ensure academic integrity, I trust that your report will fully and completely describe the efforts of Dr. Fink, the role of the Academic Integrity Group, and the involvement of the Provost's senior staff in the Academic Integrity Group. If you have any further questions, please contact the University's General Counsel, William Thro.

Sincerely,


Bill Swinford
Official Records Custodian