

From: Bob Eno [eno@indiana.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2003 11:21 AM
To: Jean Larson
Cc: abrennan@ufl.edu; ramond@phys.ufl.edu
Subject: Re: ACC Expansion

Jean,

Thanks for your response. Your points are well taken, and although I'd naturally have been happier had you felt the statement appropriate, I appreciate your position. While the response among those on our email lists has generally been positive, if we do feel the level of support warrants releasing the statement, we will be sure to indicate that not every faculty leader contacted was in agreement.

Best,
Bob

On Mon, 9 Jun 2003, Jean Larson wrote:

> Dear Bob Eno,
>
> I do not endorse the proposed news release by the Coalition on
> Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) on the proposed ACC expansion. Like
> the NCAA, I view this plan as a conference matter, and feel it is
> inappropriate to take a position. In addition, it is not clear to me
> that the proposed plan increases travel time, with two of the teams in
> one league already far apart: Boston and Miami.
>
> Regards,
> Jean Larson, Past Chair
> University of Florida Faculty Senate
>
> >X-Envelope-From: eno@indiana.edu
> >X-Envelope-To: <jal@math.ufl.edu>
> >Date: Mon, 2 Jun 2003 08:30:26 -0500 (EST)
> >From: Bob Eno <eno@indiana.edu>
> >X-Sender: eno@lear.ucs.indiana.edu
> >To: "SEC -- David Rock (Mississippi)" <rockd@olemiss.edu>, "Dennis
> >Brewer
> (Arkansas)" <dbrewer@uark.edu>, "Jean Larson (Florida)"
> <jal@math.ufl.edu>,
> "Jeffrey Dembo (Kentucky)" <senate@uky.edu>, "Jim Augustine (South Carolina)"
> <AUG@gw.med.sc.edu>, "John Mason (Alabama)" <jomason@cba.ua.edu>, "John
> Mouton
> (Auburn)" <moutojo@auburn.edu>, "Laurie Anderson (LSU)" <glande@lsu.edu>,
> "Mark
> Rieger (Georgia)" <mrieger@uga.edu>, "Michael Combs (Tennessee)"
> <mcombs@utk.edu>, "Peggy Pierce (Tennessee)" <ppierce@utk.edu>, "Robert Wilcox
> (South Carolina)" <robbie@law.law.sc.edu>, "Steve Miller (Alabama)"

> <smiller@slis.ua.edu>, "Virginia Shepherd (Vanderbilt)" <shephev@aol.com>,
> "Walter Diehl (Mississippi State)" <wjdiehl@ra.msstate.edu>
> >cc: "Curt Rom (Arkansas)" <crom@uark.edu>
> >Subject: ACC Expansion
> >MIME-Version: 1.0

> >

> >Dear SEC Colleagues,

> >

> >As mentioned in the update message you received last week, the
> >Steering Committee of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics
> >(COIA) recommends that the faculty leaders who constitute the
> >Coalition endorse a public statement concerning the proposed
> >expansion of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

> >

> >Early in May, by a 7-2 vote, presidents of schools in the ACC agreed
> >to invite three members of the Big East Conference to join an
> >expansion of the ACC to twelve teams, creating an intercollegiate
> >athletics "super-conference," with prospects of adding features such
> >as conference tournaments, and earning the increased national
> >visibility that can lead to favorable media contracts and increases
> >in football and basketball program revenues. Should the plan go
> >through, the Big East will have to reconfigure or dissolve. The NCAA
> >has indicated it will take no position on what it regards as a
> >conference issue. These events have generated a great deal of public
> >comment, much of it available on media and newspaper websites, with
> >news stories appearing every few days.

> >

> >The ACC plan follows a growing trend towards the creation of
> >super-conferences that the Steering Committee believes is
> >inconsistent with the goal of intercollegiate athletics reform. The
> >current reform movement has been inspired, in part, by positive
> >initiatives launched by ACC and other Division I-A presidents. The
> >COIA has supported these presidents in their reform efforts; now, the
> >Steering Committee believes the Coalition should indicate publicly
> >that initiatives such as the ACC plan undermine those efforts. While
> >it is doubtful that a statement of any kind will determine whether
> >the plan goes forward, this is an important point to draw attention
> >to the conflict between the current trend and reform goals, in order to influence
subsequent events.

> >

> >We are asking you now to consider and endorse a statement proposed by
> >the Steering Committee for press release. The statement is below.
> >It enumerates the problems the committee sees with the plan, and
> >indicates criteria the committee believes should govern any
> >reconfiguration of conferences. We welcome your comments, and hope
> >that you will agree that this is an important point at which to urge

>>all schools to take a step back from the arms race.

>>

>>Best,

>>Bob Eno

>>Indiana University

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>>*****

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>>PROPOSED STATEMENT ON THE ACC EXPANSION PLAN (2 June '03)

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>>The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics urges the presidents of

>>universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference to reconsider their

>>recent decision to invite three schools currently in the Big East

>>Conference to join the ACC, creating a "super-conference" with

>>enhanced tournament schedules and marketing opportunities.

>>

>>The Coalition has joined recent initiatives for reform of college

>>sports, refocusing attention on the primacy of the academic mission,

>>and the need to step back from an "arms race" that has blurred the

>>line between college and professional sports. We see the ACC

>>proposal and other moves towards the consolidation of

>>super-conferences as in direct conflict with reform goals in the

>>following respects:

>>

>>1) The plan represents a strong endorsement of the growing

>>commercialization of college sports, which is a major target of

>>reform. Attempts to increase revenues and balance budgets through

>>national marketing have led to a cycle of rising expectations and the

>>growing arms race in college sports. Over the full range of higher

>>education institutions, these expectations generate such features as

>>sharp increases in capital investment, rising athletics salaries, and

>>inflated athletics staffs.

>>

>>2) The consolidation of college sports into "major league" type

>>structures that can raise the quality of competitive play accelerates

>>the spread of professional standards of competition in college

>>sports; this contributes to the widening gap between academic and

>>athletics missions, and pervasive cynicism regarding the integrity of

>>college athletics programs and the institutions that operate them.

>>

>>3) Because the expansion would add pressure for increased season

>>length through added post-season play and increased travel

>>requirements for competition, it is realistic to anticipate further

>>deflection of athletes' efforts away from academics, undermining both

>>the academic and student welfare goals of reform.

>>

>>4) In bypassing all meaningful consultation with faculty, and
>>adopting this plan on the basis of business models and marketing
>>needs related to athletics departments, the ACC will undermine reform
>>efforts to put in place the balances of shared governance that can
>>assure the primacy of the academic mission in institutional decision
>>making.

>>

>>5) In redesigning its conference solely with an eye towards athletics
>>marketability, the ACC would move further from alternative shared
>>bases of geography, academic comparability, and tradition that have
>>allowed conferences to contribute to the academic mission by creating
>>meaningful ties among faculties and student bodies. Designing
>>consortia solely on the basis of market considerations makes sense
>>for professional leagues; it is inappropriate in amateur sports based
>>on a common link to educational values. The opportunistic behavior
>>of institutions that has characterized the reconfigurations of
>>athletics conferences in recent years has contributed to the growing
>>cynicism about the connection between athletics and academic values.

>>

>>The conduct and design of athletics conferences are key aspects of
>>addressing the severe problems of intercollegiate athletics. Goals
>>that existing conferences should be working towards and that should
>>govern any conference realignments include the following:

>>

>>1) Developing academic and cultural structures to reinforce and
>>enrich relationships among conference schools, enhancing the
>>connection between athletics and the academic mission;

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>>2) Limiting the commercialization of athletics and pressures to
>>professionalize performance standards;

>>

>>3) Working towards conference-wide standards of athletics governance
>>at member institutions, appropriately shared among faculties,
>>administrations, and governing boards, that ensure accurate cost
>>monitoring and budget transparency for athletics departments among
>>member schools;

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>>4) Ensuring that season schedule length and travel burdens on
>>athletes are not increased, and, wherever possible, are reduced.

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>>The presidents of ACC schools have been active in the movement for
>>intercollegiate athletics reform; we call on them to play a
>>leadership role in aligning ACC conference governance with these
>>goals.

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