



## University Senate TRANSMITTAL FORM

<b>Senate Document #:</b>	12-13-14
<b>Title:</b>	A Proposal for the University of Maryland to Join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)
<b>Presenter:</b>	Marcy Marinelli, Past Chair, Campus Affairs Committee
<b>Date of SEC Review:</b>	August 29, 2013
<b>Date of Senate Review:</b>	September 18, 2013
<b>Voting (highlight one):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On resolutions or recommendations one by one, or</li> <li>2. In a single vote</li> <li>3. To endorse entire report</li> <li>4. For information only</li> </ol>
<b>Statement of Issue:</b>	<p>In September 2012, a proposal was submitted to the University Senate to consider joining the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), in order for the University of Maryland to play more of a role in nation-wide reform of athletics. COIA is an organization that represents faculty governance bodies from institutions across the country, and it seeks to provide a national faculty voice in reform of intercollegiate athletics. COIA creates and disseminates policy papers, makes recommendations, and develops best practices related to many key issues in intercollegiate athletics ranging from student athlete welfare to financial reform of intercollegiate athletics. The University Senate Executive Committee (SEC) charged the Campus Affairs Committee with researching COIA, and with making recommendations on whether to join the organization.</p>
<b>Relevant Policy # &amp; URL:</b>	Not Applicable.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	In light of the research conducted by the committee on the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, on governance of athletics at UMD, and on participation in COIA at peer institutions, the Campus Affairs Committee does not recommend the University of Maryland join COIA at this time.
<b>Committee Work:</b>	The CAC began reviewing the charge and researching COIA in February 2013. The committee reviewed COIA's website and policy papers, learned about the formation of COIA and UMD's role in its initial Steering Committee, conducted peer institution

	<p>research, sought input from the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, and met with the chair of the Athletic Council during its review.</p> <p>In its review, the CAC found that UMD has a successful framework for athletics oversight, through the work of the Athletic Council and the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). UMD has been ranked among the top six institutions on a national survey of best practices in monitoring intercollegiate athletics, in part because of its governance structure involves faculty in oversight of academic standards and the progress of student athletes. The committee learned that both the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Athletic Council are very open to being more involved in shared governance and continuing to develop relationships on campus. The committee did not find a lack of oversight or communication that might necessitate another party or voice in the governance of athletics at UMD. The committee also raised concerns on how joining COIA might affect the University’s transition to the Big Ten, and suggested that it may not be the right time to add a third party voice into UMD’s governance of athletics. Additionally, in its review of peer institutions, the CAC found little additional benefit in being a member of COIA, and found that participation by individual institutions is generally very minimal.</p> <p>After much review and discussion, the Campus Affairs Committee did not find a compelling reason to join COIA. At its meeting on April 30, 2013, the CAC voted to recommend that the University should not pursue joining COIA at this time.</p>
<b>Alternatives:</b>	The Senate Executive Committee could choose not to accept the Campus Affairs Committee’s report and charge the committee to continue to review the proposal.
<b>Risks:</b>	There are no associated risks.
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	There are no related financial implications.
<b>Further Approvals Required:</b>	Senate Executive Committee Approval, Senate Review.

## **Senate Campus Affairs Committee**

### **Senate Document # 12-13-14**

# **A Proposal for the University of Maryland to Join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)**

**August 2013**

### **BACKGROUND**

In September 2012, a proposal (Appendix 2) was submitted to the University Senate to consider joining the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), in order for the University of Maryland to play more of a role in nation-wide reform of athletics. In recent years, concerns have been raised by groups and universities across the country regarding the role of athletics in higher education, and many concerns relate to policies and procedures that are affected by decisions made at a higher level that individual institutions have little control over. COIA operates at a national level and plays a role in supporting reform efforts. The University Senate Executive Committee (SEC) charged the Campus Affairs Committee (Appendix 1) with researching COIA, and with making recommendations on whether the University Senate should join the organization.

### **COMMITTEE WORK**

In February 2013, the Campus Affairs Committee began reviewing its charge and researching the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. The committee reviewed recent publications by COIA, and studied its website for preliminary information. It learned that COIA is an organization that represents faculty governance bodies from institutions across the country, and it seeks to provide a national faculty voice in reform of intercollegiate athletics. Its members are faculty senates of NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools who have voted to join and have designated representatives to COIA. COIA creates and disseminates policy papers, makes recommendations, and develops best practices related to many key issues in intercollegiate athletics, from student athlete welfare to campus governance of athletics to financial reform. The Steering Committee of the organization includes two representatives from each athletic conference – as an example, the Big Ten is represented on the Steering Committee by members from the University of Minnesota and Michigan State.

In looking at past consideration of COIA by the University Senate, the Campus Affairs Committee found that the Senate had considered joining COIA at its inception. When plans for a coalition were being developed from 2002 to 2004, the University of Maryland was involved in the committee formed to direct COIA's development. Once officially formed, the faculty senates of each participating institution were asked to formally approve joining the organization. The University Senate asked the Athletic Council to study the organization and make recommendations on whether to join COIA. The Athletic Council raised concerns about COIA's governing documents, and recommended to the Senate Executive Committee that the University not join at that time.

During its review, the Campus Affairs Committee researched peer institutions to determine whether peers engage with COIA and what benefits other institutions perceive from membership in the organization. The committee found that a majority of UMD's peer institutions are members of COIA, both in looking at aspirational peers and when examining institutions within the ACC and the Big Ten. The committee

spoke with representatives at various institutions and found that, with the exception of institutions that have membership on COIA Steering Committee, participation in the organization is not remarkably active. Representatives shared that they do find a few benefits to participating in COIA. First, a few individuals noted that it allows faculty to participate in discussions related to athletics and provides a dedicated voice in an area where faculty may have felt excluded in the past. On a related note, a few individuals suggested that in situations where it may be difficult to start discussions about particular issues in athletics at an institution, COIA creates a starting point for discussion through its policy papers and actions. On the other hand, representatives also noted concerns with the organization. In its communications, COIA speaks for the institutions it represents. On occasion, COIA may do or say things that member institutions do not agree with. In addition, concerns have been raised regarding the lack of professional staff and funding of the organization, which may hinder its growth.

During its review, the Campus Affairs Committee sought input from the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) and met with the chair of the Athletic Council. In so doing, the committee learned a great deal regarding the structure of governance of athletics at the University of Maryland. Governance of athletics is structured through the Athletic Council and the Faculty Athletic Representative. The Athletic Council is an advisory group to the President, and its mission is to help the University maintain an intercollegiate athletics system that stays committed to academic integrity and to the academic and social development of student athletes. The Council provides oversight and makes recommendations related to policies affecting the DIA and student athletes. The Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) reports directly to the President, and is the faculty's representative for the NCAA and the conference. The FAR is charged with overseeing teams and working directly with coaches, athletes, and administrators on issues related to academic integrity, student-athlete well-being, and institutional control of the athletics program. In addition, the FAR represents UMD in the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, which brings together FARs from individual institutions and provides a collective voice in national discussions on intercollegiate athletics.

The Athletic Council is connected to the University Senate, in that various members of the Council are chosen by the Senate – the University Senate elects seven faculty and one staff representative to the Council, and the Senate Campus Affairs Committee has ex-officio representation on the Council. The Council also sends a report to the Board of Regents and to the Senate each year on its work. In its discussions, the committee learned that the DIA and the Athletic Council are very open to being more involved in shared governance at UMD and in continuing to develop relationships on campus.

In learning about the Athletic Council and other forms of athletics governance, the Campus Affairs Committee found that UMD currently has a successful framework for oversight of athletics. The chair of the Athletic Council informed the committee that in 2011, Penn State published a survey on best practices in monitoring intercollegiate athletics, in which it ranked the University of Maryland among the top six institutions in following best practices. The survey noted that the institutions that ranked highest included an oversight structure that involved faculty directly in oversight committees and boards with authority over academic standards and progress of student athletes, which is one of the core functions of UMD's Athletic Council. In recent years, the Athletic Council has worked on critical policies such as the drug testing policy for student athletes and class attendance policies, and its recommendations on these and other policies have been approved by the President and implemented. Additionally, the Athletic Council is involved in selection processes for the Director of the DIA and for head coaches, and works to ensure that all search committees for head coaches include faculty representation to provide serious input on academics in the search process.

Throughout its review, the Campus Affairs Committee considered how joining COIA might affect the University's transition to the Big Ten, and how it might impact the many conversations and activities involved in that transition at this time. The committee acknowledged that the proposal was submitted

before the announcement was made that the University would be moving to the Big Ten, and suggested that the situation may have changed since its submission. Representatives from athletics and the chair of the Athletic Council raised concerns that joining COIA at such a critical stage may interject a third party voice at a time when such a voice may not be helpful. Representatives also noted that the information produced by COIA is freely available and is already discussed on many levels. COIA's papers and activities are discussed at meetings of the FARs, as well as by the conferences and the NCAA. In addition, COIA's work, along with the work of the Knight Commission and other organizations, is already followed and discussed by the Athletic Council.

After much review, the Campus Affairs Committee found that UMD has a successful framework for athletics oversight, including an Athletic Council that is connected to the University Senate. The committee did not find a lack of oversight or communication that might necessitate another party or voice in the governance of athletics at UMD. In its review of peer institutions, the CAC found few additional benefits in being a member of COIA, and found that participation by individual institutions is generally very minimal. Based on its review of the organization and of athletics governance at UMD, the Campus Affairs Committee did not find a compelling reason to join COIA, and noted that possible benefits of membership did not outweigh potential costs. At its meeting on April 30, 2013, the committee voted to recommend that the University should not pursue joining COIA at this time.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In light of the research conducted by the committee on the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, on governance of athletics at UMD, and on participation in COIA at peer institutions, the Campus Affairs Committee does not recommend the University of Maryland join COIA at this time.

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Senate Executive Committee Charge on Senate Document # 12-13-14

Appendix 2 – A Proposal for the University of Maryland to Join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics

**APPENDIX 1 - SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
CHARGE ON SENATE DOCUMENT #12-13-14**



**University Senate  
CHARGE**

<b>Date:</b>	October 25, 2012
<b>To:</b>	Marcia Marinelli Chair, Campus Affairs Committee
<b>From:</b>	Martha Nell Smith  Chair, University Senate
<b>Subject:</b>	A Proposal for the University of Maryland to Join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics
<b>Senate Document #:</b>	12-13-14
<b>Deadline:</b>	March 29, 2013

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) requests that the Campus Affairs Committee review “A Proposal for the University of Maryland to Join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics” and make recommendations on whether this affiliation is appropriate for our University.

Specifically, we ask that you:

1. Research the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA).
2. Review the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics’ report from June 2010 (<http://www.knightcommission.org/>)
3. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of joining COIA.
4. Consider why the University of Maryland has not previously joined COIA and the ramifications of not being a part of such a group.
5. Consider whether it is important for the University Senate to be directly engaged with COIA through an elected liaison.
6. Review whether our peer institutions are involved with COIA.
7. Consult with representatives from the Department of Athletics.
8. Consult with the Chair of the Athletics Council or his representative.

We ask that you submit your report and recommendations to the Senate Office no later than March 29, 2013. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Reka Montfort in the Senate Office, extension 5-5804.

**APPENDIX 2 - A PROPOSAL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
TO JOIN THE COALITION ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**



**University Senate  
PROPOSAL FORM**

<b>Name:</b>	Eric S. Kasischke
<b>Date:</b>	4 September
<b>Title of Proposal:</b>	A proposal for the University of Maryland to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics
<b>Phone Number:</b>	5-2179
<b>Email Address:</b>	ekasisch@umd.edu
<b>Campus Address:</b>	2181 LeFrak Hall
<b>Unit/Department/College:</b>	Department of Geographical Sciences/BSOS
<b>Constituency:</b>	Faculty
<b>Description of issue/concern/policy in question:</b>	<p>Over the past several years, UMCP has experienced dramatic changes to its Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) driven by the need to bring expenses in alignment with revenues (e.g., balancing the budget). This process not only highlighted the need for implementing more realistic approaches for reviewing the financial state of the DIA, but also stimulated extensive discussions between the Administration and the Senate Executive Committee on the role of intercollegiate athletics at UMCP, as well as discussions between Senate leadership and the Athletic Director on his desire to continue to expand efforts to integrate the student athletes and staff of the DIA into the University community. As a result of these recent events, during the 2011/2012 academic year, the Senate Executive Committee resumed the practice of scheduling an annual meeting with the Chair of the Athletic Council and also met with the Athletic Director in order to provide a review of ongoing issues associated with intercollegiate athletics at UMCP.</p> <p>The University's Athletic Council also provides a means for University faculty and staff to advise the President on policy matters affecting intercollegiate athletics on an ongoing basis, including providing faculty input and participation required by the ACC and NCAA. This Council includes faculty and staff representatives elected by the University Senate.</p> <p>While UMCP controls the operation of intercollegiate athletics on campus, many of the forces driving the operation of athletics at major universities are externally driven, in particular the continuous</p>



	<p>rise in the size of television revenues for broadcast rights, and the demand by alumni, students, and others for the fielding of top-ranked teams, especially in football and basketball. This combination has resulted in rapidly rising costs for intercollegiate athletics, in particular in costs associated with hiring and retaining coaches and providing state-of-the-art athletic facilities. In many cases, Athletic Departments have developed a large degree of autonomy in their operations, where in extreme cases, the lack of oversight has resulted in severe repercussions for the University.</p> <p>There have been efforts directed towards identifying the reforms needed for the nation's intercollegiate athletic system, most notably, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, which issued its latest report in June 2010 (see <a href="http://www.knightcommission.org/">http://www.knightcommission.org/</a>). In 2003, the Commission On Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) was formed to provide a forum for representatives of senate faculties for developing and supporting strategies for reforms in intercollegiate athletics (see <a href="http://blogs.comm.psu.edu/thecoa/">http://blogs.comm.psu.edu/thecoa/</a>). The members of COIA are restricted to the 115 members of the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS). There are currently 59 members of COIA, with five from the ACC.</p>
<p><b>Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why:</b></p>	<p>I am recommending that the University of Maryland apply for COIA membership. Over the past year, President Loh has expressed his support for reform of intercollegiate athletics, but has also noted that formulating and implementing such reforms will require activities at the national scale, especially from FBS institutes. Joining COIA will provide the opportunity for the University Senate to participate in discussions and activities that are needed for this reform to occur.</p>
<p><b>Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice:</b></p>	<p>According to article I.1 of the COIA Charter (see attachment A), joining the COIA requires of a vote of the University's senate membership. I am proposing that the University of Maryland Senate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approves joining the Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.</li> <li>2. Develops a procedure for electing the liaison between the University Senate and COIA. In addition to participating in all communications with COIA and attending annual COIA meetings, this COIA Liaison could also be responsible for preparing an annual report to the Senate</li> <li>3. Develop terms of reference for continuous communication between the COIA Liaison and the Senate Executive Committee in developing a consensus on COIA proposals.</li> <li>4. Request funds needed to support attendance by the COIA Liaison at COIA meetings.</li> <li>5. Request that the COIA Liaison be made an <i>ex officio member</i> of the Athletic Commission.</li> </ol>

<b>Additional Information:</b>	

*Please send your completed form and any supporting documents to [senate-admin@umd.edu](mailto:senate-admin@umd.edu)  
or University of Maryland Senate Office, 1100 Marie Mount Hall,  
College Park, MD 20742-7541. Thank you!*