

Andrew Klein

Professor and EOG Teaching Professor in Geosciences

March 2, 2021

Dear Faculty Senate Colleagues,

I am requesting that Texas A&M University Faculty Senate joins The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. A short description of the Coalition is included below. During my year as speaker, I both sat on our University's Athletic Council (as do all Speakers) and attended the COIA conference. From these interactions, the lack of engagement of our Senate, and faculty in general, with athletics on academic matters on our campus became obvious. It was also made clear to me that we as faculty lack adequate understanding of many important issues facing our student athletes. I think that better engagement between ourselves and COIA would provide help the Senate be better informed about these matters.

The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) is an alliance of faculty senates and councils from public and private universities from NCAA Division I schools. Our mission is to provide a national faculty voice on intercollegiate sports issues. As faculty, we are committed to promoting academic excellence, integrity, and the health and safety of all of our student-athletes across our great universities.

Our core values are centered on Student-Athletes as Students First, and we support the NCAA programs that promote our core values. COIA continues to closely monitor the NIL issue to promote outcomes in the best interests of all student-athletes. We are opposed to outside compensation for student-athletes, and we think that entertaining ideas such as payment for their name, image, and likeness (NIL) will serve to greatly erode the concept of amateur athletics at the college level. Such compensation will create unfair advantages among schools that cannot be mitigated and will lead to improper recruiting and transfer inducements that cannot be prevented. It is also likely that student-athletes will be unfairly burdened with complex and difficult choices related to prioritizing financial gain over-commitment to academic achievement. We believe that exploring compromises that would support NIL payments will eventually lead to direct payments to players for their athletic performance. We urge the NCAA to support Student-Athletes as Students First and not adopt a system for compensating student athletes for their name, image and likeness.

For more information please visit thecoia.org for more information

Thanks for your Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Klein'.

Andrew Klein

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