

Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
December 9, 2010

**REVISION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
POLICY ON INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS**  
A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** President/Athletics Department
2. **Introduction:** In May 2002, the National Collegiate Athletics Association informed the President that Oakland University had been scheduled to participate in its first Self-Study for NCAA Division I Athletics Certification ("Self-Study Certification"). While academic accreditation is common in colleges and universities, the NCAA Self-Study Certification process is focused solely on the certification of athletics programs. Self-Study Certification is meant to insure the NCAA's fundamental commitment to integrity in intercollegiate athletics is carried out by each member institution. At the end of the University's first Self-Study Certification, the Board of Trustees revised its Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics to comport with recommendations made by the NCAA.

In October 2007, the NCAA informed the President that the University has been scheduled to participate in its second Self-Study Certification. This second Self-Study Certification will commence in August 2011 and is scheduled to be completed in February 2013. In anticipation of the second Self-Study Certification, the Athletics Department is proposing that the Board's Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics be revised again to emphasize the University's commitment to its student-athletes, an emphasis that the NCAA now requires to be articulated.

The proposed revised Board Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics adds a section to the Mission Statement that speaks to the specific purpose that intercollegiate athletics maintains in the development of student-athletes. It identifies the responsibility of institutional and intercollegiate athletics personnel to "guide, encourage and support" student-athletes in areas of academic achievement, athletics participation and social responsibility that encompass each student-athlete's participation. In addition, a new section on Core Values was added because the Athletics Department believes that the core values should be identified with the University's Mission Statement as being vital to the purpose and role of intercollegiate athletics.

3. **Previous Board Action:** Board Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics was adopted on February 18, 1981, and revised on February 6, 1997, August 12, 2004 and February 1, 2006.


Revision of Board of Trustees Policy  
on Intercollegiate Athletics  
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4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** Specifies that education is the core component of intercollegiate athletics participation. The educational process for student-athletes is one that focuses on academic success, athletics participation and social responsibility.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** This proposal was proposed by the Director of Athletics, reviewed by the Vice President for Legal Affairs and approved by the President
8. **Recommendation:**

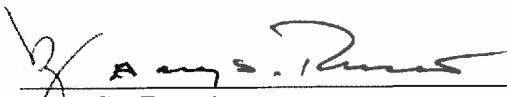
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the revisions to the Board of Trustees Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics attached to this recommendation as Attachment A.

9. **Attachments:**
  - A. Revised redlined Oakland University Board of Trustees Policy on Intercollegiate Athletics.

Submitted to the President  
on Nov 18, 2010 by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy A. Huth, Director of Athletics

Recommended on 11/19, 2010  
to the Board for approval by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary D. Russi  
President

Oakland University Board of Trustees  
Policy  
Intercollegiate Athletics

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Oakland University Intercollegiate Athletic Department shall advance the overall mission of the university by contributing, via competitive sport, to the university's reputation for overall excellence and distinction and thereby to the national eminence of the university as a whole. This will be accomplished in at least the following areas: conducting competition in Division I-~~AAA~~ of the NCAA, enhancing the quality of student life by assisting in the recruitment of the student population and maintaining wholesome/positive events; and, serving as a point of interest, entry and affiliation with the university for alumni and the general community. The Athletic Department shall provide a wide range of athletic programs which compete at the regional and national level, while supporting the educational objectives, academic programs and general welfare of student-athletes; equitable opportunity for all students and staff, including women and minorities, and embracing the NCAA's principles of sportsmanship and ethical conduct. **In alignment with the university's educational mission, the Athletic Department shall dedicate its energy and resources to the betterment of the university's student-athletes. The Athletic Department shall guide, encourage and support the university's student-athletes as they strive for excellence, academically, athletically and socially. Above all else, the university strives to produce graduates, champions and friends of the university.**

**CORE VALUES:** Six core values shall guide and govern the Athletic Department's and student-athletes' actions at all times and in all their affairs. The core values define "what we stand for" and "what we won't stand for." The six core values are: (1) "Excellence" in attitude and outlook in every aspect of intercollegiate athletics; (2) a spirit of "Service" in every relationship; (3) "Dignity, Kindness and Respect" in every interaction for both the student-athletes themselves and all others; (4) "Personal Accountability" for the efficient and effective use of resources, in every action, and as members of a team; (5) "Discovery" of oneself and others; and (6) "Integrity" at all times. The right thing to do is the only thing to do.

**VARSITY SPORTS:** Intercollegiate athletics at Oakland University is based upon an educational model, not upon a business model. The Athletics Department does not seek to make a profit from its athletic events, but does seek to generate a considerable portion of the revenue necessary to support itself at a level of excellence consistent with university standards. Oakland University shall compete in sports which reflect the needs and interests of its students, the availability of competition and the traditions of the university. The sports chosen for inclusion shall provide a balance between opportunities for individual and team athletic competition. An element in the selection of team sports is the prospect of attracting the attention of an appropriately large number of students, whether as participants or spectators.”

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION/CONFERENCE AFFILIATION:** Determination and selection of Oakland University’s competitive affiliation(s) shall be based on the following criteria: a) an affiliation whereby member institutions share Oakland’s **University’s** belief in the preeminence of academic experience; b) a governance structure that provides for decision-making responsibilities to be shared jointly by the university’s chief executive officers, ~~its athletic staff and its faculty representatives; its faculty representatives and its Intercollegiate Athletic Department administrators;~~ c) an affiliation in which the expenditure of resources by member institutions in support of athletics is of the same general order of magnitude as it is at Oakland **University**.

**GOVERNANCE:** Within policies approved by the Board of Trustees, and the appropriate national and conference athletic governing bodies, the President determines institutional direction, practices and procedures relating to intercollegiate athletics. Day to day administration of the Athletics Department shall be the responsibility of the Director of Athletics who reports to the ~~Vice President of Finance and Administration~~ **University President**. The President shall appoint an NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative who shall serve at the President’s discretion. The President, or his/her designee, may appoint other advisory individuals/committees regarding the conduct of intercollegiate athletics at the university.”