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April 21, 2016

To: Nan Jokerst, Chair  
Academic Council

Re: Report of the Athletic Council's activities for 2015-16

This has been another relatively uneventful year for the Athletic Council. The full Council met in the fall of 2015 and will meet again on April 29, 2016. The Executive Committee of the Council met with the President and Provost in the fall. The Academic Committee of the Council met in the spring of this year.

The Executive Committee of the Council had its annual meeting with the President and Provost on October 22, 2015, to discuss possible topics for the Council's 2015-16 agenda. The principal topic of discussion was the academic performance of student athletes. We discussed how to make sure we have institutionalized the process put in place by Lee Baker, Dean of Academic Affairs, Trinity College, and Brad Berndt, Associate Director of Athletics and Student Services, to monitor closely and proactively the academic progress of student athletes. We also discussed establishing a formal process for auditing the Department's Academic Support Services program. The Council agreed to put this topic on its agenda for the 2015-16 year.

I note that this is Lee Baker's last year working with the Council as Dean of Academic Affairs. Lee has been an extraordinary resource for the Council and the Department. He and his staff have been tireless in looking for ways to make sure we stay ahead of issues relating to the academic performance of Duke's student athletes. Lee personally worked closely with the Department and the Council in that effort. We look forward to welcoming Lee's successor in the fall and hope he will work as closely with the Council and Department as Lee has during his tenure.

The Council had its fall meeting on October 30, 2015. The Department made several presentations. Chris Kennedy provided a Title IX update, including progress on implementation of the decision to add Women's Softball to Duke's intercollegiate sports program. The Department gave an update on various construction projects. Len Simon, a lawyer and alumni member of the Council, gave an update on key litigation involving the NCAA; decisions in the last year have somewhat reduced the perceived threat this litigation poses. Martha Putallaz, the Faculty Athletic Representative, and Brad Berndt gave a report on auditing the Academic Support Services program; the discussion focused on whether the audit

should be conducted internally or by an external group. The Council postponed making a recommendation until the spring meeting.

The Academic Committee of the Council (faculty members, academic deans, and Faculty Athletic Representative) met on March 25, 2016, to discuss admissions and the academic performance of student athletes. Christoph O. Guttentag, Dean for Undergraduate Admissions, made a comprehensive presentation on the admissions process for student athletes and on the academic credentials of student athletes admitted to the entering class, as well the credentials of entering classes over a multi-year period. He also compared the credentials of student athletes in different tiers of sports and compared their credentials to the entering class as a whole. Christoph described his personal role in the admissions of Tier 1 student athletes (football and basketball), as an additional means of assessing and ensuring the academic readiness of all student-athletes who enroll at Duke. Lee Baker made a presentation on the academic performance of all student athletes, broken down in various ways. He also described systems in place to monitor the academic progress of student athletes during the academic year, including early warnings for students who are under-performing. The Committee and Deans had a probing discussion of both presentations. There are no issues of significant concern. The Committee also continued the discussion of how to audit the Academic Support Services program. The consensus was that the Council's Academic Committee should be responsible for the audit, with the assistance of external consultants.

The Council will meet on April 29, 2016. We will decide on a recommendation to the President and Department for auditing the Department's Academic Support Services program. We also will hear a presentation on the new Rubenstein-Bing Student-Athlete Engagement program (involving Duke and Stanford student athletes). The Department will make its annual presentation on finances and its projected budget for the next academic year.

James E. Coleman, Jr.  
Chair, for the Athletic Council

cc: President Brodhead  
Kevin White  
Martha Putallaz