

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATIVE MEMORANDUM**

**SECTION: General Administration**

**NUMBER: 05.B.01**

**AREA: Athletics**

**SUBJECT: Principles Guiding the Operation of Intercollegiate Athletics**

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**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. This document sets forth the statement of principles promulgated by the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics (the Knight Commission).
- 1.2. The Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics was created by the trustees of the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation on October 19, 1989, for the purpose of proposing a reform agenda for college sports. In March, 1991, the Knight Commission set forth a statement of principles. (Keeping Faith with the Student Athlete: A New Model for Intercollegiate Athletics). Report of the Knight Foundation Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, March, 1991. Pp. 30-32).
- 1.3. The Board of Regents subscribes to this statement of principles to guide the operation of intercollegiate athletic programs at all component universities. The policy reference for this document is Board Policy 22.01-Intercollegiate Athletics.

**2. STATEMENT OF KNIGHT COMMISSION PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1. The System is committed to a philosophy of firm institutional control of athletics, to the unquestioned academic and financial integrity of our athletics program, and to the accountability of the athletics department to the values and goals befitting higher education. In support of that commitment, the Board, officers, faculty and staff of this institution have examined and agreed to the following general principles as a guide to our participation in intercollegiate athletics:
  - a. The educational values, practices and mission of this institution determine the standards by which we conduct our intercollegiate athletics program;
  - b. The responsibility and authority for the administration of the athletics department including all basic policies, personnel and finances are vested in the Chancellor;
  - c. The welfare, health and safety of student-athletes are primary concerns of athletics administration on this campus. This institution will provide student-athletes with the opportunity for academic experiences as close as possible to the experiences of their classmates;

- d. Every student-athlete, in all sports-will receive equitable and fair treatment;
- e. The admission of student-athletes--including junior college transfers-will be based on the ability to show a reasonable promise of success in a course of study leading to an academic degree. That judgment will be made by admissions officials;
- f. Continuing eligibility to participate in intercollegiate athletics will be based on the student-athletes' ability to demonstrate each academic term that they will graduate within five years of their enrollment. Student-athletes who do not pass this test will not play;
- g. Student-athletes, in each sport, will be graduated in at least the same proportion as non-athletes who have spent comparable time as full-time students;
- h. All funds raised and spent in connection with intercollegiate athletics programs will be channeled through the institution's general treasury, or other applicable department in accordance with component university policies and procedures, not through independent groups, whether internal or external. The Chancellor may delegate to the Director of Athletics the authority to approve certain expenditures by the Houston Athletic Foundation on behalf of the Athletics Department. The athletics department budget will be developed and monitored in accordance with general budgeting procedures on campus;
- i. All athletics-related income from non-component university sources for coaches and athletics administrators will be reviewed and approved by the university. In cases where the income involves the component university's functions, facilities or name, contracts will be negotiated with the institution; and
- j. Annual academic and fiscal audits of the athletics program will be conducted. Moreover, this institution will seek NCAA certification that the athletics program complies with the principles herein. This institution will promptly correct any deficiencies and will conduct the athletics program in a manner worthy of this distinction.

3. REVIEW AND RESPONSIBILITY

Responsible Party: Chancellor

Review: Every three years on or before August 31

4. APPROVAL

Approved: John M. Rudley  
Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

Arthur K. Smith  
Chancellor

Date: May 17, 2003

5. INDEXING TERMS

Intercollegiate Athletics  
Knight Commission