

**Dear Donna,**

It's been a busy spring for The Drake Group and we are just now catching up on member communications. First, congratulations again to [Murray Sperber](#), who was honored by The Drake Group on April 22 in Columbia, South Carolina with our 2015 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award. Second, we hope you will take the time to read the position statements issued by the Drake Group over the last four months, all of which are reviewed in this newsletter issue. Onward!

## Drake Group Questions Freshman Ineligibility Proposals



In April of 2015 the Big Ten Conference circulated a white paper, *Education First, Athletics Second: The Time for a National Discussion is Upon Us*, that proposed freshmen ineligibility for Division I football and men's basketball players. The Drake Group noted that according to current research, "red shirting" (e.g., prohibiting an athlete from playing in the freshman year) by selected sport teams does not result in improved academic performance. In fact, research indicates that athletes who did not compete were more likely than those who competed to end the year in poor academic standing even when admitted under normal admission requirements. Read the [full Drake position statement](#).

## No Fulfillment of Athlete Academic Protection Responsibilities



In response to the current debate concerning the responsibility of the NCAA to afford college athletes protections against academic fraud and misconduct, as has occurred recently at the University of North Carolina, Syracuse University and other institutions of higher education, The Drake Group called upon the NCAA, its member institutions and regional accreditation agencies to fulfill their academic integrity protection responsibilities. Fifteen specific recommendations to fix the currently dysfunctional system were proposed, none of which infringe upon the academic freedom of the professor in the classroom. [See the details](#).

## Proposed Changes to the Dysfunctional NCAA Enforcement System



The recent unsealing of nearly 500 pages of documents in Todd McNair's defamation lawsuit against the NCAA has once again put a spotlight on the dysfunctional NCAA enforcement system. NCAA penalties can have numerous serious consequences.

They can damage the reputations of institutions of higher education and cause coaches and athletic administrators to lose their jobs. They can also cause college athletes to lose participation and scholarship benefits. The Drake Group [proposed changes](#) to current NCAA enforcement processes designed to protect the rights of individuals and institutions and restore public confidence in the governance of college sport.

### Featured Article



#### The Drake Group Announces Support for a Congressional Bill to Establish a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics

A bipartisan-sponsored bill is being considered by the 114th Congress ([H.R. 275](#)) and, if passed, would establish a Presidential Commission "to identify and examine issues of national concern related to the conduct of intercollegiate athletics and to make recommendations for the resolution of such issues. [Read details](#)."

### More Drakes!



#### Encourage Colleagues to Join!

Share this newsletter with faculty colleagues or sports management students. [Membership](#) is only \$35 for faculty and \$10 for students. Be a part of making change happen!

### Quick Links

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## An Educational Alternative to "Athlete Employees"



The national debate on "pay for play" is escalating every day as antitrust lawsuits challenge current NCAA practices and a system that clearly exploits athletes, financially and academically. The Drake Group has adopted a position on athlete compensation, including athletes' rights to their names, images and likenesses, that maximizes non-taxable benefits to college athletes, maintains their status as students rather than paid professional athletes and allows them to work outside of school like any other student. The issues are complex but [the solutions](#) are within reach.



Please consider being an advocate activist for reform. Write to your member of the U.S. House of Representatives today to ask that they support H.R. 275, a bill calling for a Presidential Commission to address collegiate athletics reform. Change is all about one action taken by one person at a time...

Sincerely,

Gerald Gurney, President

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