

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

1. Agenda Item Title: UNLV Athletics Academic Progress

Rate (APR)

Meeting Date: June 5-6, 2014

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

On April 10, 2014, UNLV received a decision from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) that its appeal related to the football program's Academic Progress Rate (APR) had been denied, and that the football program would be ineligible to complete in the post-season for 2014.

UNLV's Office of the President has hired the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, which has a highly reputable practice group that specializes in collegiate sports. The firm is providing an assessment of the University's athletic programs and will assist the University in developing and implementing a plan to improve the athletics programs' academic performance, particularly in the sport of football. As part of its work, the law firm has engaged the services of Forward Athletics Consulting, a nationally recognized company specializing in APR improvement and whose principal previously worked for the NCAA.

In working with Bond, Schoeneck & King, UNLV has identified some key elements for improving the academic performance of its athletic programs, including its football program, as follows:

- implementation of a summer school program which gives students the opportunity to engage in academic support initiatives such as a math bridge program and study skills program, and provides opportunities for students to increase their GPAs;
- the addition of two new positions that have direct contact with student-athletes - one academic support counselor and one learning specialist;
- the athletic department will purchase academic software that assists advisors in tracking student progress by consolidating various support services;
- the athletic department will purchase eighteen additional laptop computers to assist student athletes who do not have access to this technology and require it to complete school-related tasks;
- the current study hall space has been remodeled in the LIED Athletic Hall to promote and foster an environment of learning, and so that student athletes have space to study where they can be supervised by coaches and tutors; and
- in addition, the President is creating an APR Committee made up of academic and administrative faculty to actively implement and oversee the revised improvement plan, to recommend additional improvements, as appropriate, and to track progress of APR scores to ensure that they meet the requirements set by the NCAA.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

This item is for information only regarding issues related to UNLV Athletics' APR and plans to address issues that have arisen.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

President Snyder and Athletic Director Tina Kunzer-Murphy are committed to keeping the Board of Regents updated on UNLV's assessment of its APR among its athletic programs, as well as how UNLV will implement an improvement plan.

5. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

UNLV Athletics is an integral part of the university and it is important that the Board of Regents is updated on all current events in the department that affect the University.

6. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

7. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

This information item could be presented at a later meeting date.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Other:_____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes_____ No **X**

Explain: