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East Carolina Placing Athletic Integrity In Hands Of Faculty

ECU NEWS BUREAU

East Carolina University's faculty has asserted its intention to place responsibility for overseeing academic integrity in ECU's athletic program in faculty hands.

The Faculty Senate voted last week to send the chancellor a resolution recommending changes in the charge and make-up of the University Athletic Committee. These include wording that would make oversight of academic integrity, compliance with NCAA rules and regulations and the overall development of student athletes primary functions of the committee.

It also would expand membership on the athletic committee to include eight members of the faculty, five of whom are to be elected by the Faculty Senate, and provide for election of the chair from the faculty members.

The faculty thus would have eight votes among the 13 voting members on the committee, and the chair. In addition to voting members, there are five ex-officio members without vote including the student government president and a student athlete appointed by the student government president.

Faculty chair James M. Joyce, a professor of physics, said the chancellor, Dr. Richard Eakin, already had indicated his approval of the membership provisions. Eakin will review and consider other portions of the resolution later, Joyce said.

In floor actions on second reading of the athletic committee resolution, former faculty chair Ken Wilson of the sociology department won ap-

proval of establishing an all-faculty academic review subcommittee "to review the academic quality of the athletic program."

"This is the academic oversight that you are looking for," Wilson said. He said the subcommittee would report its evaluation of the academic integrity of athletic programs to the chancellor and the Faculty Senate and make recommendations.

Mathematics professor Robert Woodside, also a former faculty chair, won approval of a motion to add the student government president and a student athlete as ex-officio, non-voting members of the committee.

Ernest Schwarz of the health and physical education faculty who has chaired the University Athletic Committee as the faculty athletic chair, said the faculty's Committee on Committees was instructed "to change the charge of the Athletic Committee, not to restructure the committee." Schwarz said he felt it would be difficult to obtain a quorum with the enlarged membership and added, "It will be an administrative committee, not a faculty committee."

The resolution as submitted to the Faculty Senate specified that five faculty members, including three from the elected faculty members, would constitute a quorum.

The resolution's key wording is

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that "Primary functions of the committee are oversight responsibility in the area of academic integrity, compliance with NCAA rules and regulations and the overall development of student athletes."

It said "general issues" such as budget, conference matters, fund raising and public relations are inclusive in the charge but not restricted to those cited.

Wilson's amendment establishing an academic review subcommittee made up of the faculty members of the committee would have the subcommittee report to the chancellor and the Faculty Senate on the academic quality of ECU athletic programs.

It also added provision that the committee make recommendations concerning academic policies and procedures that impact the academic quality of the athletic program.

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