

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

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TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
SUBJECT: NCAA Division II Athletics
PURPOSE: Action by the Senate

ACTION

REQUESTED: That the Senate endorse the conversion of the CSUEB intercollegiate athletic program from Division III to Division II.

BACKGROUND

INFORMATION: After the campus completed a process of "alternate consultation" with students, CSU Chancellor Charles Reed has authorized Cal State East Bay to increase the instructional related activity fee for its students in order to fund the increased costs associated with competing in the NCAA Division II. This move has previously been endorsed by the University Athletic Council and by faculty in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

Discussion about a division move for the Cal State East Bay intercollegiate athletics program was initiated in 2007 by members of the 2006-2007 Associated Students board, who asked President Qayoumi to explore the concept. He then invited former NCAA President Cedric Dempsey, a CSU consultant, to prepare a report on the feasibility of the university returning to Division II athletic competition. Pioneer athletic teams had competed at that level until the NCAA made athletic scholarships mandatory for Division II. Dempsey visited CSUEB's Hayward Campus in February 2007, meeting with student groups, members of the academic senate, athletic program personnel, and other faculty and staff in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education. He also conducted an open forum for all members of the campus community in the University Library. Dempsey's final report recommended a move to NCAA Division II for Cal State East Bay as part of the university's "changing vision" of itself and to "increase campus pride and visibility."

After Dempsey's visit, a task force of students, staff and administrators began a consultative process that included 49 open forums and presentations to the university community. These meetings produced 850 signed student endorsements through 14 student organizations in support of a fee increase to allow CSUEB to move to Division II. Chancellor Reed's action permits an increase in the CSUEB instructional related activities fee, currently \$16, by \$35 per quarter. That will be phased in over a three-year period. The fee would first be increased by \$20 per quarter in the fall of 2008, by another \$10 per quarter in fall 2009, and another \$5 per quarter in fall 2010 (to a total of \$51 by the fall of 2010).

Conversion to Division II is expected to take approximately three years. Cal State East Bay will apply to the NCAA for acceptance into its Division II roster of schools and then to the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), which features ten other California State University campuses, including San Francisco State, Sonoma State, Stanislaus State, Humboldt State and Chico State as well as CSUs in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Pomona, Monterey Bay, and Dominguez Hills. The conference, with headquarters in Walnut Creek, also has the University of

California, San Diego as a member school. Under NCAA rules, CSUEB could begin competition in the CCAA as a "scheduling partner" for the 2009-2010 athletic seasons, with "active status" and eligibility for conference championships starting in 2010-2011.

The conversion from Division III to Division II has also raised a number of structural, fiscal, and perhaps curricular issues regarding the relationship of the intercollegiate athletic program to the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education. After consultation with the Senate Executive Committee, Provost Mahoney has appointed a task force of faculty and administrators to examine these issues and, as appropriate, make recommendations. The task force is chaired by Professor David Larson, Chair of the University Athletic Council and a member of the Senate Executive Committee. Any proposals arising from this process for changes in curriculum or other matters ordinarily under the purview of faculty governance shall be brought to the Academic Senate in accordance with University policy and procedures.