MEMORANDUM

March 1, 2018

TO: Commission on College Basketball.

FROM: Faculty Athletics Representatives Association Executive Committee.

SUBJECT: Protecting the Intercollegiate Experience and Safeguarding the Game of Basketball.

The Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) would like to thank the Commission on College Basketball for allowing us the opportunity to contribute to the commission’s discussion on protecting the intercollegiate experience and safeguarding the game of basketball.

As faculty athletics representatives (FARs), our duties vary across divisions and across campuses, but the principal areas of focus are the same for all FARs: student-athlete well-being, academic integrity, and institutional control. The topics that are being considered by the commission relate closely to all three areas. As such, we stand ready and look forward to assisting the commission in whatever way we can.

As FARs, one of our primary concerns is the well-being of the student-athletes who, along with their families, have entrusted our institutions with putting their best interests at the forefront of decision making. As you consider recommendations related to the topics before you, we encourage you to make this the primary value and propose solutions that both protect our student-athletes and put the onus on employees of our institutions. Our policies and systems should encourage coaches, athletic administrators, academic advisors, faculty, and all other institutional employees that come into contact with our student-athletes to act in ways that support and care for them.

Additionally, we are committed to the ideal that student-athletes must be students first. We understand and appreciate that athletics is a significant priority for many student-athletes. However, we also strongly believe that all of our student-athletes must be fully integrated into the academic missions of our institutions. Student-athletes must have both the desire and ability to be a part of our academic environments, participate fully in the classroom, and experience as much of the campus culture as possible. When these values breakdown, the likelihood of malfeasance increases. As the commission begins to consider its recommendations, we encourage you to propose solutions that ensure student-athletes are afforded the necessary information and opportunities that will allow them to fully engage and succeed in both the STUDENT and ATHLETE experiences at our institutions. For example, we would like to see the NCAA work with the NBA to eliminate the "one-and-done" rule. We believe the existing "one-and-done" practice is detrimental to
the climate of collegiate basketball and its student-athletes. We believe the NCAA should explore ways to incorporate academic preparation and information into summer basketball camps. In addition, we believe that basketball student-athletes would benefit from the advice of an advisor, similar to men's baseball student-athletes.

Finally, our role on campus is to serve our institutional CEOs and to support institutional control on our campuses. In that role we stand ready to work with our leadership to support our student-athletes and promote all of the benefits that accrue when intercollegiate athletics is properly incorporated into higher education. We are committed to the academic integrity of the institution and the academic experience for all students.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this discussion and we look forward to seeing the recommendations of the commission.

JMB/SP/JR:ld