

TO: The Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of Colleges and Universities in
the College Sports Project

FROM: Eugene M. Tobin for the College Sports Project Coordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Review of Progress and Looking Ahead

ATTACHMENTS: CSPTechnical FAQ.doc and CSPInstitutionalRepresentative.doc

A year has passed since we extended an invitation to members of NCAA Division III to join the College Sports Project (CSP). The responses of like-minded presidents to this initiative have been encouraging. To date, 138 private and public colleges and universities representing a rich diversity in terms of mission, geography, and scale of athletic program have joined the project. Four conferences have 100 percent participation and many more have greater than one-half of their members actively involved. (For a list of participating institutions, please refer to our website at www.collegesportsproject.org.)

I write now with two purposes in mind: first, to share an update on the substantial progress made over the past 12 months and second, to provide information that will help your institution prepare for the collection of student data that will begin in early 2006 (see attached FAQ document).

Shared Purposes

You will recall that following scores of conversations with presidents, provosts, athletic directors, coaches, faculty members, and students, the CSP identified two critical objectives—ensuring the “representativeness” of all students (especially with respect to academic outcomes), and integrating coaches and athletic staff into the mainstream of campus life—that, if implemented and sustained, would reaffirm Division III’s core identity and commitment to educational values. At the January 2005 NCAA convention in Dallas, members of the CSP Coordinating Committee visited with many of you and with other representatives of your institutions about plans for future collaboration.

Our immediate challenges were to develop specific programs to assist colleges in their efforts at “integration,” and to develop procedures, instruments, and policies for data collection on “representativeness” that would gain the confidence of the participating colleges. I am pleased to report that we have made substantial progress with these agendas.

Integrating Athletics into our Core Educational Missions

Many CSP institutions have initiated activities aimed at strengthening and celebrating the interconnectedness of academic, athletic, and student life. Most prominently, this past

