

To: NOVA Taskforce on Student Athletics

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From: John T. Dever

Date: May 21, 2010

Subject: NOVA Taskforce on Student Athletics

For the past several years, NOVA has sought to expand and enhance its Student Activities program (see attached Status of Follow-up Items for Student Activities, May 6, 2008). A major part of this effort has been Student Athletics. Students have responded enthusiastically to opportunities for participating in intramurals and competitive club sports or league play. Various teams have emerged as a consequence (see attached report on NOVA Sports Inventory submitted to the VCCS on May 13, 2009). As the number and scope of activities have increased, however, the NOVA organizational structure, along with associated policies and procedures, has not kept pace. To this end, the NOVA Task Force on Student Athletics is being established by the Administrative Council.

Specifically, the Task Force is asked to review the current status and future outlook for Student Athletics at NOVA and to make recommendations for the appropriate governance, organization, policies, and procedures that will ensure that Student Athletics operates in an orderly manner that is supportive of student aspirations and institutional goals. The Task Force is asked not only to review current operations at NOVA but also to examine best practices for Student Athletics at other community colleges that have a similar purpose for such activities.

The task force should consider and make recommendations for a variety of topics, to include the following:

- The purpose of Student Athletics at NOVA, with attention to the relation of athletic programs to student success goals for retention, persistence, and completion as well as the general education goal for personal development.
- The optimum alignment between athletics and instruction so that they complement one another in support of the college's educational mission.
- Clarifying and defining the various types or categories of Student Athletics at the college.

- The relation of Student Athletics to various college and campus units, particularly campus-based Physical Education programs, campus-based Student Activities, and college-wide Student Activities. In turn, these involve relationships with selected Division Deans, the Deans Working Group, the Student Activities Leadership Team (SALT), the College-wide Student Activities Coordinator, the Provost of the Alexandria Campus as well as other Provosts, the Associate Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management, and the Executive Vice President. Also to be considered are communications and consultations with the coaches for various teams.
- A recommended structure for the overall governance and day-to-day operation of Student Athletics at NOVA.
- Recommendations regarding basic policies and procedures for such matters as
 - Approval of teams
 - Funding
 - Branding
 - Clarification of campus and college-wide roles
 - Eligibility to play
 - Accessibility of opportunity for NOVA students
 - Recruitment and compensation of coaches
 - Other staffing considerations
 - Facilities
 - Scheduling
 - Liability/insurance
 - Transportation
- The relation of NOVA Student Athletics to the VCCS Intercollegiate Athletic Board of Directors. Also, whether NOVA should pursue membership in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and what the implications of such a relationship would be.
- A determination of whether “intercollegiate athletics” is the appropriate term to describe the framework under which various NOVA teams currently play. This matter should be considered in relation to the SACS COC Comprehensive Standard 3.2.11: “The institution’s chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate administrative and fiscal control over, the institution’s intercollegiate athletics program. (Control of intercollegiate athletics).”
- Compliance with any applicable portions of Title IX or other regulations
- Review and recommended revisions to the NOVA *Student Handbook*, website, and any other college publications

The Task Force is requested to complete its work and submit its report by December 1, 2010.

Please let me know if I can provide any assistance as you carry out this important assignment.

c: Administrative Council
 Brian Anweiler, Resource Person

Attachments