

## University Senate

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**From:** Bowen, Mike <[mbowen@usf.edu](mailto:mbowen@usf.edu)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2018 2:49 PM

**To:** Atkinson, Kirk <[kirk.atkinson@wku.edu](mailto:kirk.atkinson@wku.edu)>

**Subject:** An Important Message and Invitation from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics

([www.thecoia.org](http://www.thecoia.org))

**Importance:** High

Dear Professor Atkinson :

I am contacting you on behalf of the leadership of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics to invite you to join COIA. The Coalition is an alliance of faculty senates and councils at schools in the NCAA's Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS, formerly Division I-A), devoted to addressing major problems in college sports through faculty engagement at local and national levels. COIA is the only national group of elected faculty in the country. The Coalition was founded in 2002 and has grown to 59 member senates or councils, almost half of the total number of FBS schools, with faculty representatives from five different conferences serving on the national Steering Committee. COIA's mission, core values and goals are found below.

The problem of how to integrate intercollegiate athletics with academics on campuses is enormous, as is the challenge to protect students' health and safety. In recent years, that the onus is on the faculty to oversee athletics has become evident. The question is, how to engage faculty? COIA believes that the best work can be done locally, and that faculty can make a difference by speaking up about ways student athletes can be integrated academically and their physical, social and psychological well-being ensured.

The new COIA Officers, who form the Steering Committee, are:

Chair, Bonnie Ownley (U Tenn); Vice Chair, Joan King (LSU); Secretary, Jane Albrecht (Wake Forest U); Past Chair, Mike Bowen (USF); Chair of Administration and Communication Committee, Kelley Withy (U Hawaii); Chair of Student Athlete Welfare Committee, Scott Gwozdz (U Colorado); Chair of Academic Integrity Committee, Adrien Bouchet (U Tulsa); at-large member 1 year, Larry Gramling (U Conn); at-large 2 years, John Putman (SDSU).

In 2018-19, Adrien Bouchet will lead a COIA study on academic integrity collecting data through a survey or surveys of FARs, athletics departments, provosts, Senate presidents and COIA representatives, with

the goal of creating ideas of best practices. **Please be on the lookout for the survey, and respond to it as soon as possible.**

**To join COIA, simply contact us and let us know who your 2018-19 COIA representative will be, whether you or another person elected or appointed to fill the role. Plan to attend or send your representative to the NEXT TWO ANNUAL MEETINGS:**

**February 2019:** U Tenn-Knoxville, Knoxville, TN, hosted by Bonnie Ownley;

**February 2020:** LSU, Baton Rouge, LA, hosted by Joan King.

Finally, please be aware that, after discussion at the Annual Meeting, held April 21, 2018, in Boulder, Colorado, the membership voted to recommend inviting the 125 NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) schools to join COIA. Before the Steering Committee goes any further with this recommendation, it is soliciting opinions of member schools not in attendance.

The COIA Steering Committee hopes to work with you, your COIA representative and your Faculty Senate or Council this year.

Best wishes for a smooth start to the 2018-19 academic year.

Sincerely,

Mike

**Michael G. Bowen, Ph.D.**

Steering Committee Member and Immediate Past Chair  
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## **Mission:**

To promote academic excellence, integrity, and student well-being in Intercollegiate Athletics.

## **Who We Are:**

Faculty mobilizing faculty to enhance the Student Athlete experience.

## **Core Values and Beliefs**

- Student Athletes Are Students First
- Academic Integrity
- Scholarship and Critical Inquiry
- Diversity and Inclusiveness
- Financial Responsibility in IA / Sustainability of IA
- Transparency and Open Dialogue
- Protection of Student Health and Safety

## **Goals**

### **Thought Leadership**

COIA and its members will be increasingly known as a source and resource of faculty knowledge, insight and perspectives on the impact of intercollegiate athletic activities on student-athletes and their academic experiences.

### **Institutional Empowerment**

COIA member senates / councils will be sources of engaged dialogue and influence on their campuses on issues related to the impact of intercollegiate athletics on the student-athlete academic experience.

*For more information, please visit [www.thecoia.org](http://www.thecoia.org)*