



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Academic Anomalies Review
Clarification regarding Faculty Athletic Committee References in Martin Report

February 5, 2013

Prepared by James G. Martin, Ph.D., Former Governor of North Carolina
Assisted by Baker Tilly

This clarification relates to the references to the Faculty Athletic Committee (FAC) that were made in the December 19, 2012, Academic Anomalies Review Report of Findings, prepared by James G. Martin, Ph.D., former Governor of North Carolina, assisted by Baker Tilly. While it was not the foundation of our conclusions, we wish to clarify what we said in our report regarding communications within the Faculty Athletic Committee regarding independent study and student-athletes.

In our report, and in any remarks that have been made about it, there has been no intent to imply that the FAC or its members were aware of the now-known issues prior to initial reports of academic anomalies discovered in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies (the Department). At the time that meeting minutes reflect that the FAC discussed student-athletes' involvement in independent study, no one understood the true nature and volume of courses that are now known as anomalous, and certainly no one suspected the occurrence of academic misconduct in one department.

Our report does not say that the Faculty Athletic Committee knew about "bogus" classes. We said in our report that, in hindsight, an interchange regarding student-athlete participation in independent study may have represented a missed opportunity for inquiring further into the offerings of the Department, but that was easy to say in hindsight, and was not in any way intended to place blame on the Faculty Athletic Committee.

References to communications with the FAC in our full report represent valid accounts of what we heard from more than one witness. To corroborate interviews, we partially relied on the Report of the Special Subcommittee of the Faculty Executive Committee, July 26, 2012, which noted the following: "Further, athletic counselors have been discouraged from contacting faculty or questioning decisions about pedagogy. For example, in 2002 Robert Mercer and John Blanchard met with the FAC to discuss the teaching of IS courses, and were told that faculty members have great latitude to teach courses as they see fit."

We did not interview all FAC members. We referenced meeting minutes to evidence that topics were discussed. Meeting minutes are intended to capture actions of a convening body, not to be fully representative of all aspects of a discussion, so we considered additional corroborating accounts. Memories fade over time.

Ultimately, related to FAC communications, we anticipate that what was said, or not, when, and by whom will not be determined with certainty. We expected that the possibility that certain conversations occurred would be of interest, so we reported it. But FAC-related communications were not the basis of our conclusions and, therefore, this clarification in no way impacts the conclusions of our review.