



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

May 5, 2015

Professor Robert Kyr
Senate President
University Senate

Dear President Kyr and senators:

I am writing in response to *Senate Legislation/Resolution 12/13-12* regarding *Appointing an IAC Faculty Member to the Special Athletics Admit Group*.

The University of Oregon's is committed to enrolling students who are academically qualified and prepared to succeed at the university, as well as allowing for special admissions under certain circumstances. We are equally committed to ensuring that our student-athletes are supported academically and meet the same high standards we expect of all students. I believe the current "special admits" process is effective and efficient, and would not be improved by this senate motion. I respectfully request that the senate withdraw this legislation.

The university is proud to seek outstanding, well-rounded and diverse students. We understand that grade point average and test scores do not always provide a complete picture of a prospective student's qualification, preparation, or special circumstances. The UO admissions process accounts for these variables, and has a process for considering exceptions to the minimum standards. The Special Admissions Advisory Group (SAAG) provides an important role in this process. The group is comprised of two enrollment management professionals, a faculty member, and a representative from the Provost's Office with expertise in academic support for student-athletes. Adding a member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (IAC) to the SAAG would create over emphasis on athletics to this advisory group.

Less than a quarter of students who are admitted under the special admissions process are student athletes. Also, our student athletes are performing at high academic levels. For example, the UO's average high school GPA for student athletes is above a 3.50 GPA. Retention and graduation rates for student athletes are increasing and track well with the general student body and the most recent graduation success rate (GRS) for UO student-athletes is 82% according to the NCAA. These data demonstrate that we are working

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collaboratively to admit students who can be successful, and that we provide strong support services to our student-athletes.

The Vice President for Enrollment Management, Roger Thompson has provided information when requested and met with members with the IAC about student athlete admissions. He has my full confidence.

Again, I am proud of our admissions process, support to student-athletes, and the academic achievement of these athletes. I believe this motion seeks to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott Coltrane", followed by a horizontal line.

Scott Coltrane
Interim President