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Dr. Mark Emmert
President
NCAA
700 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

President Emmert:

For over five decades, the Big West Conference has prioritized student-athletes' education, health, safety, and athletic competitiveness. Big West student-athletes have distinguished themselves with high graduation rates, appearances and wins in NCAA national championships and Olympic competitions.

Members of the Big West Board of Directors have studied the Knight Commission's three recommendations regarding a reorganization of the NCAA and our Board is in support of recommendations that:

- Create a separate entity to govern the sport of FBS football.
- Instruct the NCAA to govern all other D-I sports under a reorganized governance system.
- Require national governance entities to adopt ten principles that recognize college athletics as a public trust, rooted in the mission of higher education.

The principles cited by the Knight Commission as guiding their recommendation are consistent with Big West Conference guiding principles and inform the Board's support. These shared principles are:

1. Prioritize college athletes' education, health, safety, and success.
2. Require college athletes to be academically eligible, making satisfactory progress toward a degree.
3. Prohibit "pay for play," but allow institutional support tethered to education. Also allow college athletes to earn compensation similar to other students, including through the use of their NIL.
4. Demonstrate and advance commitments to racial and gender equity.
5. Hold athletics program leadership accountable to advance racial equity and reduce systemic racism in college sports.
6. Reflect appropriate voting and decision-making power.
7. Hold presidents accountable for leading their athletics programs.
8. Include meaningful representation of college athletes; governed by a majority of independent directors.

9. Control all national aspects of any sport which it administers, including national championships and revenues.
10. Distribution of national revenues should advance educational missions and educational opportunities for athletes.

Like other members of Division I conferences (as surveyed by the Knight Commission), the Big West Board of Directors sees the need for transformative, not incremental, changes in NCAA organizational structure and revenue distribution. The Board also endorses the importance of assuring alignment of athletic programs with the values of each member university, with an overriding commitment to educational success and health and safety for their student-athletes. The Big West models representative governance and tasks each of its chancellors and presidents with authority, responsibility, and accountability for their athletic programs.

The Big West Board of Directors affirms its support for the Knight Commission recommendations, as these recommendations better align with the values and priorities of the Big West than the current NCAA model.

Sincerely,

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cc: Amy P. Perko, CEO, Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics
Arne Duncan, Co-Chair, Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics
Len Elmore, Co-Chair, Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics
Nancy Zimpher, Co-Chair, Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics