



University of the District of Columbia

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University of the District of Columbia's Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics Makes Report to University President

Washington, D.C. — The University of the District of Columbia's Task Force on Intercollegiate Athletics, which was commissioned last December to assist in charting a course for the University's athletics programs, has forwarded their final report to University President, Dr. William L. Pollard. Upon receiving the report, Dr. Pollard announced his intention to forward the findings to the University's Board of Trustees with his recommendation that UDC continue to compete in intercollegiate athletics on the NCAA Division II level.

“We gave the Task Force a considerable undertaking (last December) and I’m delighted to accept their report today,” said Dr. Pollard. “Based on the nature of the findings and recommendations, I’m able to send this on to our Board with my confident recommendation that we continue to make college sports a part of the student experience at the University of the District of Columbia.”

Dr. Pollard’s endorsement will be forwarded to the University’s Board of Trustees for consideration at their next board meeting, which is scheduled for June 21, 2005. “I am very pleased with the diligent work of the Task Force in evaluating the athletics program at the University of the District of Columbia,” commented Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees. “I’m also pleased that President Pollard, in consideration of the University’s tradition of excellence in intercollegiate athletics, has agreed to recommend the continuation of these important programs. This is a great step for students, faculty, staff and alumni of the University.”

Today’s meeting marked the conclusion of six months of work by the task force, whose members include leaders in academia, intercollegiate athletics and business. The recommendations of the task force are a critical component of the University’s desire to address the NCAA violations disclosed in the University’s internal investigation into the operations of the Division II institution’s Intercollegiate Athletics program, an investigation which led the University to announce last November that the 2004-2005 men and women’s basketball seasons were cancelled. The report of the Task Force will be released to the general public following a formal report to the University’s Board of Trustees.

Joseph Lang, former Athletics Director of Georgetown University and Perry Wallace, a member of the law faculty at the Washington College of Law at American University and the first African-American to play varsity basketball in the Southeastern Conference, served as co-chairs for the Task Force. Other members included Professor Percy Bates, faculty representative to the Advisory Board on Intercollegiate Athletics at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Michelle V. Bryan, acting General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Laidlaw International and former U.S. Airways executive vice president-corporate affairs and

general counsel. Members of the University's staff, faculty and student body were also participants in the Task Force.

Dr. Donald N. Langenberg, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland and a current member of the UDC Board of Trustees also served on the Task Force. "This has been an excellent exercise for the University, and also a very satisfying effort for the members of the Task Force," said Dr. Langenberg about his service on the Task Force. "I believe we thoroughly explored the many roles of athletics on a university campus, and have found that there is clearly a place for a first-rate athletic program at UDC."

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