A Statement of Principles for Athletics at WCU

At a time when both the emphasis on Division I athletics and the scandals that are associated

with the athletics enterprise have presented new challenges to many universities across the

country, we, the Faculty Senate at WCU, encourage the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor,

the Athletic Director, and the entire WCU community to join with us in working to ensure that

the athletics program operates in ways that enhance and complement the University’s core

mission:

Western Carolina University creates engaged learning opportunities that incorporate teaching, research and service through residential, distance education and international experiences. The university focuses its academic programs, educational outreach, research and creative activities, and cultural activities to improve individual lives and enhance economic and community development in the region, state and nation.

Participation in sports is a worthwhile activity in itself, and an athletics program underscores the University's commitment to excellence across the spectrum of human endeavor. When done properly, fielding competitive teams can help build community and cohesion among students, faculty, staff, and alumni. In light of University System President Tom Ross’s focus on ensuring the primacy of academics and the complementary role of athletics in the university setting, we submit that the pursuit of athletic excellence at WCU must rest on a foundation of academic integrity and should always be mission consistent, educationally responsible, and institutionally open.