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# Edwardsville Bulletin

To the Faculty, Staff and Students of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Vol. 14, No. 7  
May 13, 1983

MEMO TO: The University Community  
FROM: Earl Lazerson   
SUBJECT: Intercollegiate Athletics

It has always been my view that the academic role of the University, specifically the educational enterprise involving interaction between faculty and students, and faculty pursuits of teaching, research, and public service, are the primary concern of the institution and the reason for its existence. All other institutional activities have as their objective the support of that concern.

In reemphasis and reinforcement of the primacy of our academic mission, I am announcing three decisions affecting the program of intercollegiate athletics:

1. The University will not seek Division I status in the National Collegiate Athletic Association at this time. At my request, a comprehensive review of this possibility was made by the constituencies of the University. It was their general sense that it would be wise to defer an application for Division I status for at least a year. I concur with their view of the matter.

2. I am appointing Professor Barbara DeLong, President of the Faculty Senate, to head a task force to review academic standards and procedures as they relate to the intercollegiate athletic program and to make appropriate recommendations on these matters and on policies concerning the development of the program.

3. I am requesting Dr. James R. Buck, Director of the Office of Development and Public Affairs, to assume direct responsibility for management of the intercollegiate athletic program effective immediately.

The Administration exists to support the academic welfare of the University. Available resources of the institution will be directed to the support of that effort. The central focus of administrative activity will continue to be the development and maintenance of a University whose strength resides in its academic accomplishments. No other course is acceptable.