

Subject: 2017 COIA Meeting Announcement; By-Laws....
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Friends,

We are now able to announce that the 2017 COIA Annual Meeting will be held Friday evening, February 17 through Sunday afternoon, February 19, 2017, at Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, NC. Please plan on being there. Please also note that this meeting will not be, as in the past, a conference with panels and speakers, but will follow a different format: a steering committee meeting Friday evening for current steering committee members and for those interested in serving on the committee; the annual business meeting; and, designated work sessions. A brief announcement about the meeting is now posted on the COIA website (www.thecoia.org<<http://www.thecoia.org>>). We will be in touch again very soon with the details about registration, meeting schedule, travel, accommodations, and other relevant details. Again, please plan on attending, and also please thank Jane Albrecht and her senate colleagues at WFU for their generosity in offering us space and support for the meeting.

We need also announce that the current steering committee has "tentatively" approved the revision of the by-laws that we've been developing over the past two years (copy attached): tentatively, in the sense that the proposed by-laws will be still open for suggestions, objections, opinions, revisions, etc. until a formal, and final, vote by the membership at the 2017 annual meeting at WFU. The reason for this is to make as absolutely sure as possible that every COIA rep and member senate has ample opportunity to contribute before any final decisions are made. This is another pressing reason for all of you to attend the meeting. We need your inputs, perspectives, and your vote, so that COIA can emerge from the meeting with a solid consensus on a new organization structure, leadership group, and enthusiasm for what we can contribute as faculty leaders - on our campuses and in the national conversation.

If you have any comments, suggestions, revisions, objections, or other thoughts on the proposed by-laws, please, preferably, contact either me (mbowen@usf.edu<<mailto:mbowen@usf.edu>>) or Larry Gramling and his as of now ad-hoc Administration and Communication Committee (Larry.Gramling@business.uconn.edu<<mailto:Larry.Gramling@business.uconn.edu>>) before the meeting, or just bring your ideas to the meeting.

Finally, I mentioned earlier this year that I have written an OP-ED that would be

published in Inside Higher Education. The essay was written by a single concerned faculty member and was not submitted as an official COIA position paper. For your information, that essay

(<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2016/10/26/intercollegiate-athletics-should-be-assessed-their-educational-impact-essay#.WBCMZX7VLbU.mailto>

and .pdf file attached), on using assessment processes to serve as a vehicle for intercollegiate athletics reform, was published today. To be clear, the essay attempts to refocus attention on the academic reasons universities offer athletic programs and other avocational opportunities for student involvement, not serve as an endorsement for what many faculty see as the highly controversial use of assessment tools to measure student learning. The central argument presented is simply that we should treat athletics programs like any other academic program at our universities. Focusing on that, and its many implications, might provide a sound systemic basis for reforming intercollegiate athletics in ways that would help to better ensure each of our institution's financial and academic integrity. I would hope that if you find the essay interesting, it might serve as a basis for conversation on your campus.

Again, please plan on attending our 2017 Annual Meeting, February 17-19, 2017, at Wake Forest University.

Best regards,

Mike

Michael G. Bowen, Ph.D., Chair

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