

# A Resolution on Intercollegiate Athletic Funding Sustainability

Finance & Facilities Committee

June 7, 2010

Second Reading & Vote

Whereas, Ohio University's institutional subsidy of Intercollegiate Athletics was in excess of \$14.5 Million in 2008 and \$15 million in 2009;<sup>1</sup> and

Whereas, across the eight Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools in the State of Ohio, \$90.6 million in institutions' operating funds were used to subsidize intercollegiate athletics; and

Whereas, revenue inequities between "major" athletic conferences and "mid-major" conferences will continue to grow as larger conferences further capitalize on external revenue streams obtained through television contracts and other sources; and

Whereas, a survey by the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics revealed that less than ¼ of college presidents at Division 1-A/FBS schools believe that intercollegiate Athletics, in current form, is sustainable<sup>2</sup>; and

Whereas, a failure to address unsustainable expenditures in intercollegiate athletics will contribute to economic hardships of member schools and diminish institutions' abilities to prioritize academics; therefore

Be it resolved by the Ohio University Faculty Senate that the President will direct the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee to examine and prepare a report on the sustainability of Division 1/FBS intercollegiate athletics at Ohio University.

Be it further resolved by the Ohio University Faculty Senate that the President will begin discussions on the sustainability of intercollegiate athletics with Chancellor Fingerhut, officials of the Mid-American Conference and other FBS schools in the state.

Be it further resolved that the President or an appointed representative will provide a report to faculty senate detailing progress on these initiatives during the 2010-2011 academic year.

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<sup>1</sup> These values were calculated using information reported in the USA Today College Athletics Finance database: <http://www.usatoday.com/sports/college/ncaa-finances.htm>. Institutional subsidy was

<sup>2</sup> See the Knight Commission report titled, "Quantitative and Qualitative Research with Football Bowl Subdivision University presidents on the Costs and Financing of Intercollegiate Athletics" available at: [http://www.knightcommissionmedia.org/images/President\\_Survey\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.knightcommissionmedia.org/images/President_Survey_FINAL.pdf)