



UNIVERSITY^{of} NORTH TEXAS

Norval F. Pohl, *President*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2005
TO: UNT Faculty & Staff
FROM: Norval F. Pohl, President

The first NCAA Academic Progress Rate Compilation Report was publicly released last month, and I think it is important to take a moment to share some of the information with you. I also want you to know how this fits into the university's overall goals for student success.

The report rates the success of our university athletic program in helping our athletes remain eligible and on track to graduate. You will be pleased, but not surprised to know that our individual ratings often exceeded those given to UT, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, SMU, TCU and UT-Arlington. Overall, the report indicated the bulk of our athletic teams have a graduation rate of 50 percent or better and that the majority of athletes remain eligible, academically and athletically. In fact, about 97 percent of all our athletes remain eligible, and more than 57 percent of the eligible seniors graduated on time last year.

That's good news, and it should be a source of pride for our entire community. Our university has high academic standards for all students and excellent faculty and staff who work hard to ensure that our students are given every opportunity to succeed.

Overall, our men's and women's compiled NCAA rating of 951 points is well above the passing rate of 925. In fact, several of our teams - men's and women's cross country and golf and women's tennis, indoor track, outdoor track and volleyball - scored a perfect 1,000. Many of our teams just missed this mark, including men's basketball (977), women's basketball (982), men's indoor track (971), men's outdoor track (971), women's soccer (958) and women's swimming (968).

Across the university, our students as a whole had a 38 percent six-year graduation rate for the same time period (2003-04). That number is low, but it is important to recognize there are many factors that affect our figures. Because of UNT's prime location and excellent programs, our campus is the perfect choice for students who work full- or part-time while attending school and commuting from many areas in and surrounding the

The leading university of the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

P.O. Box 311425 • Denton, Texas 76203-1425 • (940) 565-4307 • Fax (940) 565-4322 • TTY (800) RELAY-TX • pohl@unt.edu

Metroplex. While our graduation rates closely mirror the rates at many other urban institutions with large commuter populations, we know we can do better and are actively studying ways to increase our general graduation rate.

To help us improve even further, Provost Howard Johnson recently appointed a steering committee made up of faculty and staff from across campus to study our graduation and retention rates to determine our strengths and the areas where we can improve. The steering committee began its important work March 11 and should have some preliminary information for us by the end of the semester. I'd like to see 100 percent of our freshmen earn their degrees. While that might not be a realistic goal, there is no reason we can't set our sights on attaining it - or coming as close as possible.

We've already begun to make some headway and have seen our retention and graduation rates steadily increase since 2001. One of the first steps in improving our graduation rate is to retain more freshmen. To do that, we've improved our orientation content and enhanced mentoring programs, begun adding academic advisors with the goal being to bring the ratio of advisors to students to an average of 1:400, and expanded supplemental instruction and other learning center services. Also, the Dean of Students has partnered with the Registrar to implement an initiative called Seeking Options and Solutions (SOS) to help those thinking of withdrawing from UNT. Another way we've tried to help our students is by increasing the scholarship and financial aid resources available to them. From fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2005, we've increased scholarships by \$2.7 million.

At the same time, the athletic teams that fell short of the NCAA requirements - football (907) and softball (880) - already have put in place practices to help their students better achieve academically. (The teams won't earn a penalty this first year of the ratings.) In fall 2004, all of our softball players were eligible to play and in good academic standing. Athletic Director Rick Villarreal and his staff are working hard to ensure that we continue to steadily improve and are confident that our success rate will be even better for 2004-05. The department already is seeing the payoffs of having more consistent advisors who help our students stay on track with their academics and ensure they get the assistance they need. In football, for example, our team's graduation rate has increased the last several years, and I'm assured that the vast majority of the seniors from our 2004 team are on track to graduate.

It's clear to me that we should be proud of our steady improvement. Our students - and our student athletes - are guided by our university's dedication to high academic standards, which have led them to be successful in their classrooms. I'm proud that we continually strive to improve and already are seeing the hard work of our faculty and staff pay off in terms of student success. I am confident that we will only get better this year and in future years.

To learn more about how UNT stacked up, visit <http://www.unt.edu/president/features/APR/TXAPR.pdf>

To read the full report, visit http://web1.ncaa.org/app_data/apr2/497_2004_apr.pdf

NCAA Division IA Academic Progress Rate Report for Texas Division IA Schools

	Private Institutions							Public Institutions							Overall APR
	All Div I	Div I-A	Private	Baylor	Rice	SMU	TCU	Public	A&M	Houston	UNT	UT	UTEP	Tech	
Overall APR	948	944	965	960	981	962	944	938	922	912	951	946	912	911	Overall APR
Rank in TX				3	1	2	6		7	8 (tie)	4	5	8 (tie)	10	
Men's Sports															
Baseball	922	912	948	978	947	NA	939	910	877	879	NA	919+	NA	754	Baseball
Basketball	923	906	945	647	931	1000	1000	912	839	865	977	833	840	917+	Basketball
Cross Country	954	944	980	NA	NA	NA	*	938	964	NA	1000	NA	833	NA	Cross Country
Football	923	921	949	960	979	923+	930	913	887	893	907+	934	921+	919+	Football
Golf	961	961	975	972	1000	976	905+	953	1000	938	1000	905+	909+	952	Golf
Soccer	948	934	961	NA	NA	1000	NA	934	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Soccer
Swimming	967	970	976	NA	NA	1000	990	961	957	NA	NA	942	NA	NA	Swimming
Tennis	955	954	969	912+	1000	913+	882+	946	932	NA	NA	923+	NA	NA	Tennis
Track, Indoor	923	912	959	NA	NA	NA	NA	906	890	922+	971	*	843	NA	Track, Indoor
Track, Outdoor	946	941	974	987	1000	NA	955	934	885	890	971	910+	828	872	Track, Outdoor
Women's Sports															
Basketball	956	953	965	983	1000	967	909+	952	905+	897+	982	966	917+	1000	Basketball
Cross Country	958	961	975	NA	NA	1000	938	948	955	*	*	*	912+	NA	Cross Country
Golf	970	975	978	923+	NA	1000	967	967	1000	NA	1000	1000	1000	1000	Golf
Rifle	970	961	979	NA	NA	NA	938	966	NA	NA	NA	NA	1000	NA	Rifle
Rowing	981	977	984	NA	NA	991	NA	978	NA	NA	NA	982	NA	NA	Rowing
Soccer	970	969	982	989	1000	966	958	963	977	905+	958	963	927	926	Soccer
Softball	964	970	978	1000	NA	NA	NA	957	1000	1000	880+	1000	926	1000	Softball
Swimming	975	975	982	NA	1000	948	969	971	981	933	968	986	NA	NA	Swimming
Tennis	967	974	973	900+	947	969	941	963	1000	895+	1000	1000	938	861	Tennis
Track, Indoor	957	953	977	NA	NA	1000	NA	948	931	967	1000	*	908+	NA	Track, Indoor
Track, Outdoor	959	958	977	991	1000	1000	922+	952	931	956	1000	946	919+	952	Track, Outdoor
Volleyball	965	965	977	958	964	1000	972	960	917+	983	1000	1000	848	896+	Volleyball
# below cutoff				4	0	2	4		7	8	2	5	11	6	
# of perfect				1	7	8	1		4	1	7	4	2	3	

*Denotes data representing three or fewer student-athletes. In accordance with FERPA's interpretation of federal privacy regulations, institutions should not disclose statistical data contained in this report regarding students in cells including three or fewer students without student consent.

N/A=No APR

+ Teams with this symbol have an estimated APR upper confidence boundary of 925 or above, even though the team's actual APR is below 925. It is anticipated that some smaller squads that may be identified as underperforming in this year's report will not be subject to penalty once the confidence boundary is applied.