MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas Holyoke, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Tim Cupery, Ph.D., Chair, Athletics Advisory Council

DATE: **October 12, 2019**

RE: APM 420 – Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

Enclosed are a replacement for APM 420 – Student-Athlete Code of Conduct (the university policy currently on APM website) and the revised Student-Athlete Code of Conduct currently used by the Athletics Department. These documents were revised by the Code of Conduct Ad Hoc Committee of the Athletics Advisory Council comprised of Dr. Michael Botwin (Psychology), Dr. Robert Harper (Dean, Craig School of Business), Dr. Dawn Lewis (Kinesiology; Faculty Athletics Representative), Dr. Michael Mahoney (Recreation Administration) and Mr. Stephen Robertello (former Interim Athletics Director). Fall 2019, Mr. Terrance Tumey (Athletics Director), Ms. Meredith Jenkins (Deputy AD) and Ms. Carrie Coll (Athletics Senior Woman Administrator) reviewed the Code and offered reasonable edits. The Athletics Advisory Council (AAC) reviewed and approved both documents and recommendations by the ad hoc committee on **October 3, 2019**.

The AAC requests two actions by the Academic Senate. First, adopt the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct currently used by the Athletics Department as the University’s policy. Second, replace the existing APM 420 with the enclosed shorter version which requires there be a code of conduct and assigns the current Student-Athlete Code of Conduct as an Athletics Department policy that is independent of APM (i.e., removed from APM).

Rationale:

1. The current APM 420 posted on the University website was created by the AAC and approved by the President in 1996 with no updates or revisions in accordance with the University’s governance procedures for APM.
2. The current Student-Athlete Code of Conduct in effect by the Athletics Department shows there have been nine revisions of the policy since 2006, none of which went through the University governance process.
3. The current Code used by Athletics reflects the mission, philosophy and expectations of the University and is aligned with the current APM 420, but includes appropriate updates (e.g., conference name change, social media policy, etc.) and substantive revisions (e.g., Review Committee makeup, procedures for student-athlete appeal, references to Title IX, etc.).
4. The University governance process is extensive, thus revisions and updates to the Code are unlikely to receive the necessary reviews and approvals in time for application with each new and continued class of student-athletes.
5. The replacement APM 420 gives clear directive for the maintenance and operation of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct policy by the Athletics Department.
6. With consult and collaboration with the AAC and approval of the President for minor revisions and updates and endorsement of the Academic Senate for substantive changes (e.g., change in review committee makeup, deletion or addition of sections), separating the Code from APM resolves concerns for timely and extensive processes while maintaining University governance.

Therefore, the AAC concludes it is most prudent to replace the current APM 420 with one which stipulates the Athletics Department must have a student-athlete conduct policy that 1) is designed and revised in consult and collaboration with and endorsed by the AAC, 2) is approved by the President, 3) substantive change is endorsed by the Academic Senate, 4) is posted on the department’s website, 5) is monitored and audited by the AAC, 6) requires semi-annual (biannual) reports to the AAC, and 7) requires, in the least, an annual report to the President.

Respectfully submitted.

Encs.

CC: Dr. Joseph Castro, President