

G-4. INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS POLICY

In observation of the Board of Trustees constitutional duty to “manage and control” the University, the Board of Trustees has adopted the following statements of policy concerning Auburn University’s intercollegiate athletics programs:

1. In carrying out its constitutional and statutory duties, the Board of Trustees has delegated to the University President the responsibility for the full conduct and control of the entirety of the Auburn University intercollegiate athletics program (the “Athletics Program”). The Board of Trustees and the University President, working together, shall ensure that the Athletics Program at all times reflects and supports the University’s academic values and mission.
2. The Board of Trustees will set and review the expectations of the overall impact and benefit that Auburn University should expect from the Athletics Program. The University President will also establish and maintain a mission statement for the Athletic Department subject to review and approval by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees and the University President will work collaboratively to establish agreed-upon benchmarks and standards for measuring success within the Athletics Program.
3. While the University President will have the full support of the Board of Trustees in connection with carrying out the responsibilities of this policy, the University President shall be accountable to the Board of Trustees for the performance of his or her responsibilities under this policy, and the Board of Trustees will assess this performance as a component of its periodic performance evaluations of the University President.
4. The University President shall report to the Board of Trustees annually, and at such other times as may be required pursuant to this policy or as otherwise requested by the Board of Trustees, regarding the overall status and performance of the Athletics Program and the performance of the University President’s responsibilities under this policy. The University President’s reports to the Board of Trustees shall include, without limitation, all relevant information concerning the operations of the Athletics Program, all planned or proposed actions to be taken with respect to the Athletics Program during the following year, and all other information that may be required or requested by the Board of Trustees in order to evaluate the University President’s performance under this policy or the overall status of the Athletics Program.
5. As a component of the annual report to the Board of Trustees, the University President shall review and provide a summary of the relevant admissions policies, financial assistance figures, graduation rates, transfer rates, declared majors, and other items relevant to the academic success and support of Auburn University’s student athletes, and each of these items shall also include comparison figures to the general student population of Auburn University as well as to published statistics for comparable items for student athletes of peer institutions.
6. The Lead Trustee for Athletics, along with the Chairs of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Finance Committees, and all members of the Executive Committee, will assist with the review and confirmation of the University President’s annual report on the Athletics Program and will report to the full Board of Trustees regarding the relevant matters in such annual report that fall within each of their charged areas of responsibility.

7. Each year the Board of Trustees will approve an annual budget for the Athletics Program (the “Athletic Budget”). The Athletic Budget will be prepared and reviewed within the context of the complex and multifaceted finances of the Athletics Program. Proposals for significant capital improvements and other similar projects must be approved by the Board of Trustees within the existing framework and policies for similar items (e.g., pursuant to campus master plans and other generally applicable policies concerning capital projects). The University President shall, with the oversight of the Board of Trustees and subject to other generally applicable University policies, control and monitor the spending of all funds within the Athletics Program.
8. Simultaneously with the University President’s submission of each proposed Athletic Budget to the Board of Trustees for approval hereunder, the University President shall also submit to the Board of Trustees a report, prepared by the University President in coordination with the Auburn University Athletics Director, summarizing the University’s total financial risk and exposure relating to “buy-out” obligations or similar severance concepts contained in the contract of any employee serving within any part of the Athletics Program.
9. The University President shall regularly review and monitor the University’s institutional compliance with Title IX requirements, the results of the NCAA self-study process, each independent audit of the Athletics Program required by the NCAA, and the Athletics Program’s compliance with NCAA and SEC rules and regulations as well as all other applicable rules, regulations, and laws applicable to the Athletics Program.
10. The Board of Trustees will regularly and periodically review, reconsider, and, if appropriate, revise these policies for currency and completeness and to ensure that the Athletics Program is being operated in a manner that is consistent with its mission and vision as well as the overall vision and mission of Auburn University. As a part of this process, the Board of Trustees is committed to including a thorough review of Athletics Program policy issues as a part of its orientation of new members of the Board of Trustees.

The Auburn University Athletics Program has a storied tradition which meaningfully impacts enrollment and is a key component of Auburn University’s national reputation and brand. In recognition of the impact that the Athletics Program has on Auburn University as a whole as well as on the academic and lifelong success of the University’s student athletes, the Board of Trustees stands firm in its ongoing commitment to Auburn Athletics and affirms its responsibility to exercise careful oversight of the policies, procedures, and people that carry out that vision and mission of the Athletics Program.

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