

### 3.2.11

#### **Governance and Administration: Control of intercollegiate athletics**

The institution's chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate administrative and fiscal control over, the institution's intercollegiate athletics program.

#### **Judgment**

Compliance    Partial Compliance    Non-Compliance    Not Applicable

#### **Narrative**

The Policies and Procedures of the Department of Athletics at Tennessee Technological University (TTU) state: "The President of the University shall be the Chief Executive Officer in charge of all of the University's operations, budget, and activities including intercollegiate athletics. The President shall be the University official who certifies that the University is in compliance with the regulations of the NCAA and the OVC" [1] (Section I. D3).

#### **Administration of the Department of Athletics**

TTU is a Division I member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC). As such, the institution must abide by the rules, regulations, and other requirements of both organizations.

Several individuals assist the President regarding Athletics. The Athletic Director (AD) reports directly to the President and is responsible for maintaining and implementing the policies approved by the President and the rules and regulations of the NCAA and OVC [2]. The AD also provides the President with information and recommendations necessary for decisions involving policy, administration, budget, personnel, and programs.

The Athletics Department holds monthly meetings with the head coaches, which routinely address matters of compliance. In addition, an annual compliance review occurs in August, attended by every member of the Athletics staff and others with related responsibilities (Registrar, Director of Financial Aid, etc.). The President attends this annual meeting, advises all in attendance to know the rules and to comply with them, and reminds members of the audience that they will be held accountable for any acts of noncompliance.

The Athletics Committee, comprised of faculty, students, and administrative members, serves in an advisory capacity to the AD and the President. It conducts annual reviews of Athletics Department policies and is the first entity to approve any suggested changes. The Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) serves as the NCAA liaison and ensures academic integrity across the athletics program. The Senior Women's Administrator (SWA) guarantees Title IX compliance and also serves as the department's Chief Fiscal Officer. Ultimate responsibility for all administrative decisions and policies of the athletics program, however, lies with the President. It is the President, following consultation with the AD, SWA, FAR and others, who determines how institutional votes shall be cast regarding NCAA and OVC matters, and gives the final approval to all local policy [3].

#### **NCAA Self-Study**

The most recent NCAA self-study was completed and the report submitted for review in November 2004. TTU's Intercollegiate Athletics Program received the highest degree of certification. The NCAA has recently developed a new compliance certification program, called the Institutional Performance Program (IPP), which began in August 2014 [4]. TTU has not been contacted about its time for review yet, but is monitoring the review process/procedures via the IPP links on the NCAA website. TTU will

voluntarily participate in trials of the IPP student-athlete survey. The OVC conducts a rules compliance review every four years. TTU satisfactorily completed the most recent reviews in 2005, 2009, and 2013.

## **Finance and Budgeting**

Finance and budgeting for intercollegiate athletics are controlled through the normal TTU budget process, and are thus subject to TBR and state authority [5]. Other regulatory authorities include the Ohio Valley Conference and the NCAA. Though President Oldham has designated Athletic Director Mark Wilson to handle routine approvals, the President and AD regularly discuss matters pertaining to the Athletics budget. The President personally attends annual meetings of the Ohio Valley Conference, typically represents the University at the annual NCAA convention, and has final approval for the Department of Athletics' financial reports to the NCAA.

## **Conclusion**

The policies, procedures, and practices of the Department of Athletics at TTU ensure that the President has the responsibility for and administrative and fiscal control over the intercollegiate athletics program. The President certifies that the University is in compliance with the regulations of the NCAA and the OVC. Therefore, TTU is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.11.

## **Sources**

-  [1] Policies\_and\_Procedures\_Version\_October
-  [2] TTU Organizational Chart\_1\_2015
-  [3] TTU Policy 903 Compliance
-  [4] NCAA Combined 2014\_15 Self\_Study Instruction
-  [5] TTU Policy 910 Athletics Finances and Budget Controls