

March 28, 2011

Professor Toope  
President and Vice Chancellor  
The University of British Columbia  
6328 Memorial Road  
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z2

Dear Professor Toope:

Thank you for meeting with the CIS senior leadership team on March 14, 2011.

We appreciated the opportunity to express in person how important UBC is to CIS, to report on the progress to move the yard-sticks forward on areas of concern that UBC put on the table in October 2008, and to provide context and clarifications for some of the conclusions included in the January 2011 "UBC Vancouver Campus and NCAA Division II Membership: A Review of the Issues" paper. We wish to highlight the key points from the March 14, 2011 meeting below:

### **How Important UBC is to CIS**

CIS is united in its interest that UBC Vancouver remains a member of CIS. As a founding member of Canadian Interuniversity Sport, UBC Vancouver and its Thunderbird Teams set a standard of excellence in CIS.

The T-Birds are an important part of CIS tradition. Over the years UBC has won a significant number of CIS medals and Championship titles in a variety of sports and have distinguished themselves by earning BLG Athlete of the Year Awards, and CIS athlete and coach of the year honours. UBC has played host to a number of CIS Championships over the years, and has done an outstanding job of welcoming student-athletes from across Canada to T-Bird territory.

Moreover, UBC staff have made significant contributions to the leadership of CIS by serving on the Board of Directors, a variety of committees, and mission staff and coaching staff for Universiades.

There are few universities in the country that can claim the same distinguished level of involvement and achievement.

### **Progress on areas of concern raised by UBC in October 2008**

Since the CIS senior leadership team met with President Toope in October 2008:

- An Athletic Financial Awards (AFA) Task Force was formed to explore a flexible model for athletic scholarships. The Task Force developed a working proposal on schedule, however after a consultation process with Athletic Directors it was determined that if a recommendation was brought forward to the 2010 CIS AGM that it would not enjoy the necessary support it needed at the Athletic Director level. It was concluded that the best way to make progress in this area is to elevate the issue to the University President's level where a fresh dialogue can take place. We believe that both the voice and experience of UBC in this national dialogue will be critical.



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- Further to a meeting between delegations from both the CIS Board of Directors and the AUCC, a proposal for Presidential oversight in CIS governance will be forwarded for ratification at the 2011 CIS AGM. CIS has identified that the first item of business to be addressed by Presidents is the AFA policy. Other issues of substance to be discussed include membership and tiering. These issues are at the top of the priority list for CIS.
- A research project is currently under way to determine the influencing factors for why student-athletes decide where to pursue their post-secondary athletics. The results of this research (expected by June 2011) will provide useful data for university presidents to digest, when they engage on the CIS athletic financial awards discussion.
- A viewpoint expressed by many Athletic Directors in the 2009-2010 AFA consultation process was that prior to making significant changes to the AFA Policy, CIS needs to make improvements in the area of compliance. To that end the CIS AFA Committee has drafted recommendations to enhance compliance which will be presented to the 2011 CIS Annual General Meeting. It is felt that these improvements will address concerns around compliance and remove an impediment to making progress in the AFA Policy. CIS is **not** looking at limiting or constraining the provision of leadership awards at UBC.
- It is important to mention that CIS did take steps to consider one possible methodology for tiered competition involving an alignment between CIS with CCAA for the purposes of assembling a critical mass of PSE institutions from which to form tiers. To explore if the CCAA-CIS alignment made any sense, a feasibility study was done in 2009-10 to look at a number of opportunities for collaboration and alignment. CIS received feedback from many university presidents that an alignment with CCAA for the purposes of tiered competition, was a "no fly zone". Based on this feedback there was a mid-course correction as it relates to a tiering structure involving CCAA. The CCAA-CIS tiered league option is off the table - however other approaches for tiering will be explored.
- Canada West formed an ad hoc committee on future competitive structures to look for ways to address issues of growth and preserve quality competition.
- The CIS membership approved revisions to membership requirements increasing the minimum number of sports that each university must compete in.
- More recently, CIS began a formal collaboration with Own The Podium to develop a strategy (long and short term) focused on greater involvement of universities in the high performance sport system in Canada.
- CIS has partnered with Canada Basketball and the Canadian Olympic Committee so that the 2011 Pan American Games men's basketball team will be made up of CIS student-athletes. We are working hard to enhance the student-athlete experience by offering international opportunities for CIS athletes.

**Clarifications and contextual background important to consider when reading the UBC "A Review of the Issues" paper.**

**Limits to Athletic Scholarships:**

The January 2011 UBC Consultation Document stated that UBC awarded **80%** of the CIS limit of athletic scholarships. In fact UBC awarded **11%** of the CIS limit, the 80% figure included non-AFA awards to student athletes which are not subject to CIS limits.

Based upon UBC's 2009-10 AFA Reporting:

- a. In comparison to its Canada West colleagues, all but two UBC teams rank last in terms of the amount of AFA provided.
- b. Only one UBC team provides more than 1/5 of the total allowable amount (men's basketball); that is, with the exception of men's basketball, all other UBC teams could quintuple their AFA dollars and still be under the CIS team cap.
- c. Of UBC's 276 student-athletes that used eligibility in 2009-10, only two received 90% or more of their individual maximum allowable amount.
- d. UBC provides an AFA to 16% of all its student-athletes who use eligibility (43 of 276), while 79% (219 of 276) are recipients of non-AFA awards.

**Dilution of Quality of Competition:**

Suggestions in the January 2011 UBC consultation report that UBC will be isolated in a BC only division are not accurate. Canada West tabled a document at the 2010 Canada West annual general meeting called "New Playing Field: Report from the Committee on New Playing Structures". The New Playing Field document suggested two options to consider. The "BC schools only" concept was not proposed or considered as an option. Motions were passed.

While there are few universities in CIS that can claim the same distinguished level of achievement as UBC, CIS would suggest a case could be made that the competition in CIS and Canada West is strong and provides excellent opportunities for UBC to continue to develop student athletes. The 2010-11 UBC results, Canada West and CIS Champions are listed below:

Sport	CW Champion	CIS Champion	UBC result
Men's Football	Calgary	Laval	6 <sup>th</sup> in Canada West league play, did not advance to the CW playoffs
Women's Rugby	Lethbridge	StFX	finished third in CW
Women's Soccer	Fraser Valley	Queen's	2 <sup>nd</sup> in Canada West, 6 <sup>th</sup> at CIS Championship
Men's Soccer	UBC	York	Silver medal at CIS Championships
Men's Hockey	Alberta	UNB	6 <sup>th</sup> in CW league play, did not advance to the Canada West playoffs
Women's Hockey	Manitoba	McGill	6 <sup>th</sup> in CW league play, did not advance to the Canada West playoffs
Men's Volleyball	Calgary	Trinity Western	lost in first round of Canada West playoffs
Women's Volleyball	UBC	UBC	CIS Champions – UBC became the most decorated team in CIS w volleyball history
Men's Basketball	UBC	Carleton	Bronze medal at CIS Championship
Women's Basketball	Saskatchewan	Windsor	lost in first round of Canada West playoffs
Swimming (M&W)	UBC	Calgary	Silver medal at CIS Championships
W Field Hockey	UBC	Toronto	Silver medal at CIS Championships

As CIS prepares to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we sincerely hope UBC chooses to remain a member and to work with us as we address pressing issues and grow CIS into the future.

Sincerely yours:

 for

Clint Hamilton, Leo MacPherson, Marg McGregor  
CIS Senior Leadership Team