

TO: Dr. J. B. Tuttle, Faculty Senate President  
Mr. Brian Hammond, Chair of Classified Staff Council  
Mr. Hunter Cutlip, President of Student Government Association

FROM: Mary J. C. Hendrix, President *MJC*

DATE: March 31, 2016

SUBJECT: Notice of Possible Academic/Administrative Restructuring

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Shepherd's administrative structure has placed the Athletics Department under the supervision of the chief academic officer for many years. Historically, many of the coaches held tenured faculty positions. While we continue to value the teaching contributions that many of our coaches can make to our academic program, it has been more than twenty years since any head coach held tenure at Shepherd and some coaches are now hired with no faculty status.

The modern structure of intercollegiate athletics has changed dramatically from earlier periods. The NCAA rules expressly state that "[t]he institution's president or chancellor is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the athletics program, including approval of the budget and audit of all expenditures. (Revised: 10/3/05)". While this directive does not preclude the administrative structure which we have used, it requires a personal role for the president. The operating rules of our Mountain East Conference also establish mandates on presidents which cannot be delegated.

After looking at structures utilized by our peers, as well as my own prior higher education experiences, I believe that both the academic program and the athletics program will benefit from a realignment of the Director of Athletics into a direct report to the President.

Intercollegiate athletics is an effective resource for dynamic campuses to use in building and enhancing external support for the University. I believe this adjustment will help us enhance Shepherd's institutional advancement efforts. I am providing this notice to you at this time and inviting your comments and input to the Office of the President. This administrative alignment is being considered as a possible agenda item at the April 27 Board of Governors meeting.