

September 20, 2010

Dear Dr. Papp,

The members of the Executive Committee of the AAUP are divided in their views on whether we should adopt football as an NCAA Division I scholarship sport at KSU. But we are unanimous in our concern that the process for making this important decision be transparent and as rigorous as possible.

So far the record appears somewhat mixed. The Football Exploratory Committee (FEC) included representatives from all constituencies. The subcommittees, we believe, worked hard to accumulate reliable information and to answer the specific questions they were asked, but the process by which the subcommittee reports were combined into the committee's recommendations was troubling even to members of the FEC. These concerns cause us to ask that greater care be given to matters of process going forward, and especially during the six weeks between now and the crucial poll of students.

Posting the full FEC report was an excellent first step. We suggest that there also be a number of faculty, staff, and student forums, where you, Coach Dooley, and members of the FEC can answer questions and exchange views with all constituents. We believe that these sessions would have added legitimacy if organized by the relevant shared governance bodies, and if they included on the platform at least some members of the FEC from the constituency in question.

In addition we are particularly concerned that the poll of students be structured, disseminated, compiled, and analyzed in a way that will withstand the scrutiny of trained professionals in the areas of surveying and polling. We have among our faculty a significant number of respected colleagues with the relevant training and experience. There would be no better way of assuring that the results of the student poll have integrity, and are widely perceived as having integrity, than to involve these expert colleagues in the entire polling process.

We are confident that you share our belief in the importance of an open, transparent, and methodologically rigorous process for the important decision before us. We stand ready to assist with such a process any way we can. We are confident that the Student Government Association, and the Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Senates would welcome an opportunity to contribute to this important process. This would, we believe, be an excellent time to convene the University Council to coordinate those contributions.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. We appreciate your continuing support of shared governance at KSU.

Cordially,

Ulf Zimmermann, President  
AAUP@KSU

cc: Mr. Ali Kamran, President, Student Government Association  
Prof. Randy Stuart, President, Faculty Senate  
Ms. Tisha McCalla, President, Staff Senate  
Ms. Rifka Mayani, President, Administrators Senate