

Dear UNC Community Members,

I am writing to follow up on a commitment I made in the spring of 2016 to keep you apprised of an NCAA investigation into our men's basketball program. The process has concluded and the NCAA has rendered a decision.

As I shared in previous campus emails, we [self-reported allegations](#) of academic misconduct in April 2016 and immediately began working with the NCAA to investigate. In October 2016, we notified the NCAA that we would [self-impose penalties](#) while the investigation was still underway, both to ensure the program's integrity and to allow our student-athletes and coaches to start focusing on healing and recovery. Last February, the NCAA notified us that the [investigation was complete](#) and the final step of the process would be for its Committee on Infractions to determine penalties for UNC.

We received notice of the NCAA's decision about penalties today. Because of the serious nature of the violations committed by members of our previous coaching staff, the NCAA's Committee on Infractions endorsed the penalties we self-imposed and imposed additional penalties. The most noticeable of those penalties, which is not uncommon for such violations, will be to vacate the men's basketball program's contests when ineligible student-athletes competed. That includes one of the university's celebrated milestones — when the team won the Big Sky Conference and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

It is regrettable, to say the least, that the actions of our former men's basketball coaching staff put the university in this situation. My heart goes out to the student-athletes who invested time, effort and passion into achievements that will not be reflected in the record. However, it is also my hope that they are proud of how we have handled this matter. As I said at the outset, this is about the integrity of our university, the example we set, and the values we demonstrate through our actions. The NCAA enforcement staff, both in its written reply and at our hearing, made a point to acknowledge UNC's exemplary cooperation, stating that the university "exceeded expectations" and "set an example for all member institutions in its handling of this case."

When we started this process, I pledged that regardless of what emerged from the investigation that we would take responsibility, do our best to make amends and move forward. Athletics Director Darren Dunn and I are committed to ensuring integrity in all 19 of our Division I sports. With the leadership of head coach Jeff Linder, that's what we've been doing and what we will continue to do.

Lastly, the university's statement, Committee on Infractions report, and NCAA news release are available at www.unco.edu/news/newsroom/releases

Best,

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