

Statement to the Faculty Athletics Committee
Elliot M. Cramer
April 24, 2014

I am an enthusiastic supporter of intercollegiate athletics; I think that I have scarcely missed a home basketball game since I came here in 1966. I have particularly admired the achievements of coaches like Dean Smith, Roy Williams, and Anson Dorrance and I have publicly said so.

Like all of you I have been appalled by much of what has been reported by the N&O of phony classes and the like which have enabled athletes to retain their eligibility. I am also appalled to learn that 34 athletes had SAT reading scores under 400, far below what any non-athlete would likely have had. Of course Mary Williamham has raised equally great concerns. I am skeptical of the CNN report that 60% of athletes in revenue sports read between fourth- and eighth-grade levels. I suspect that she was misquoted and that the true value is more like 25%, which would still be of great concern.

Of course one would not know this from the Provost's report on the University website. The claim that she relied only on a vocabulary test is simply absurd; she had the full SATA, SAT, and WAIS scores on approximately 100 athletes of concern and this information was not provided to the outside experts. They also did not have an opportunity to interview Willingham on how she arrived at her figures. The experts did not even answer the questions posed because as one of them said, "the framing of this question is dangerously simplistic". I have answered the questions and would be happy to share them with you. I sent the outside experts a six page critique which I copied to the Chancellor and the Provost. I suggest that the University might post their responses along with my critique and with the Provost's report.