

## **A statement of principles for Athletics at UNC**

At a time when both the emphasis on Division I athletics and the scandals that are associated with the athletics enterprise have presented new challenges to many universities across the country, we the undersigned faculty at UNC encourage the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, the Athletic Director, and the entire UNC community to join with us in working to insure that the athletics program operates in ways that enhance and complement the University's core mission:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university, serves North Carolina, the United States, and the world through teaching, research, and public service. We embrace an unwavering commitment to excellence as one of the world's great research universities.

Our mission is to serve as a center for research, scholarship, and creativity and to teach a diverse community of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to become the next generation of leaders. Through the efforts of our exceptional faculty and staff, and with generous support from North Carolina's citizens, we invest our knowledge and resources to enhance access to learning and to foster the success and prosperity of each rising generation. We also extend knowledge-based services and other resources of the University to the citizens of North Carolina and their institutions to enhance the quality of life for all people in the State.

With *lux, libertas*—light and liberty—as its founding principles, the University has charted a bold course of leading change to improve society and to help solve the world's greatest problems.

*(Approved by the UNC Board of Governors, November 2009)*

Sports are worthwhile activities in themselves, and a robust athletics program underscores the University's commitment to excellence across the spectrum of human endeavor. Fielding competitive teams can help build community cohesion among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all who have interests in the University. We are justly proud of UNC's record of integrity and success in intellectual and athletic life. In light of recent developments, however, we insist that the pursuit of athletic excellence at UNC-Chapel Hill must rest on a foundation of academic integrity and should always reflect the following three principles:

1. *Institutional Openness.* The University should confront openly the many conflicts created by its commitment to winning in the athletic arena. The University must commit itself to honest, open, regular conversation about the divergent imperatives, and competing values, that drive athletic and academic success. All data needed to understand the athletics department, and to address the issues raised by its operations, should be readily available.

2. *Educational Responsibility.* The University should commit itself to providing a rigorous and meaningful education to every student. All students should be integrated fully into the life of the campus, and they should be well prepared for life after college. All students—those who participate in sports and those who do not—should be permitted and encouraged to take full advantage of the rich menu of educational opportunities available at UNC.

3. *Mission Consistency.* Athletics must be integrated into the common enterprise of the University. Faculty committees and administration must be empowered to oversee athletics and insure that it supports and remains in alignment with the University's core missions. In times of hardship, the University must consistently work to preserve these core missions, even if such preservation comes at the expense of athletic success.