Scandals in Intercollegiate Athletics: ASU’s Response
Recent history (2003-2004) of “Pay-for-play”- Coach claimed not to know

6 players found to participate in “team memorabilia for tattoos or cash”- Coach initially claimed not to know, later admitted under pressure that he did know, but “didn’t know who to tell”.

Ohio State coach fired; NCAA sanctions include ban from football post-season play after 2012 season; loss of four scholarships

OSU FAR announces “it has been a great year for academics!”
University of Miami investigated over “pay-for-play” violations dating back to 2002

Long history, going back to at least 1989

Booster accused of laundering $2m. through a Ponzi scheme to pay coaches and players (“Schapiro Scandal”)

NCAA required players and coaches to make restitution for reinstatement

Voluntary ban from 2011 post-season/looking for Athletic Director

FAR becomes president of the ACC/new far appointed in 2012

Investigation continues
- Worst and most devastating scandal in intercollegiate athletics history
- Former Assistant Football Coach imprisoned for 30 years; Another Assistant Coach fired; Head Football Coach resigns in disgrace, later dies; University President under indictment; Athletic Director and University Vice-President under indictment for Obstruction of Justice
- NCAA metes out most severe punishment in history-$60 m. fine, vacating all wins since 1998; reduction of 70 football scholarships
- Penn State FAR (2000-2010): “A child sex-abuse scandal was never on our radar” /highly critical of NCAA and sanctions
- Academic Fraud-fake classes, fake grades, spurred by allegations of improper gifts to athletes
- Department head and staff “retired”, head football coach fired (2011)
- 2011-NCAA cuts scholarships, vacates wins 2008-09, one-year post-season ban (gifts)
- 2012-Former UNC football player suspected of having fake transcript-NCAA launches new investigation, declared innocent of academic fraud-State of North Carolina continues investigation
- September, 2012-University chancellor and vice-chancellor resign
UNC FAR

- September, 2010-New FAR appointed in 2010-Investigates allegations
- January, 2011-Announces completion of investigation-All facts known
- May, 2012-"I think that we have looked under, looked in lots of nooks and crannies to try and make the program stronger. I would be surprised if there if there is anything else lurking out there."
- October, 2012-"Several UNC players readily admitted to 'improper academic assistance' when being interviewed by NCAA investigators -- but we failed to clarify that this was not assistance received but assistance given" i.e. a misunderstanding
Prior to 2011, three of the four institutions named would have been considered in top 5 in terms of excellence in combining athletics and academics

All four institutions made their reputations by establishing a reputable athletic program as a basis for their academic and social appeal

Reputation/political capital and sanctions are related

Role of the FAR highly variable across institutions
Reputation in athletics established foundation for academic excellence

ASU leads Division I athletic programs in number of major violations, 9 since 1953 (USA Today, 2/22/11)

“Because of the major violations and the finding of a lack of institutional control, ASU again is subject to repeat violation penalties if another major violation occurs in the next five years.” - Arizona Republic, 11/4/11
Both the opportunity and danger of athletics is taken very seriously by the leadership if the university...
Policy Approaches

- NCAA 4-year report due 2013 (mandatory)
- ASU Legal Counsel visits players and coaches of all teams, as well as all Sun Devil Athletics staff annually (voluntary)
- ASU Student-Athletes are responsible for a Student-Athlete Code of Conduct in addition to the ASU Student Code of Conduct (voluntary)
- Dramatically enhanced Compliance staff, five full-time employees, led by an Executive Director (Steve Webb) as of 2011, who reports to the ASU Legal Counsel, not SDA (voluntary)
- Revamped and revised tutoring protocols on in the Office of Student-Athlete Development (OSAD) to make academic integrity a priority in a student-athlete’s life.
- FAR reporting structure entirely independent of SDA
“We Make It Impossible Not to Know”

“We can never establish human integrity by policy. What we can do, however, is make policy that makes it very difficult to violate the rules and achieve a level of transparency such that it becomes impossible not to know what’s going on.” - Jean Boyd, Senior Associate Athletic Director, SDA Office of Student-Athlete Development
Is It Enough?

KEEP CALM AND FORK ON