On the proposal to move UCSD’s Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) program to NCAA Division I

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1. The faculty athletics representative is recognized as the representative of the institution and its faculty in the relationship between the NCAA and the local campus. [NCAA Constitution 4.02.2]
Starting points:

- Begin a dialogue to address a student initiative to move Intercollegiate Athletics to non-football Division I status.
- The student referendum passed with a 70% affirmative vote with 35% of the student body voting (8,704 voting and 6,137 in favor).
- The UC San Diego Alumni Association Board of Directors passed a resolution supporting the move of the university to NCAA Division I athletics.
Association of American Universities (AAU)  
Member institutions

Public Universities in the AAU

Georgia Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Michigan State University
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University
Rutgers University
Stony Brook University, SUNY
Texas A&M University
University at Buffalo, SUNY
The University of Arizona
University of California, Davis
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Florida
University of Illinois
The University of Iowa
The University of Kansas
University of Maryland at College Park
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
The University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Washington
The University of Wisconsin-Madison

Institution not in Division I
(bold italicized blue), also largest institution in Division II.
UCSD’s Proposed Athletic Conference and the Institutions with Whom We Would Compete

THE BIG WEST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE: (NCAA DIVISION I)

University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Barbara
California Polytechnic State University, SLO
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Long Beach
University of Hawaii
The admissions process for student athletes will not change

- Senate Standing Committee on Admissions has an approved process in place for the evaluation of prospective intercollegiate student-athletes for admission to UC San Diego. The process has been in place at least since 1999 and is reviewed every few years. *It will not change as a result of NCAA Division I status.*

- The current admissions process has resulted in a student-athlete population with retention rates and average time-to-degree comparable to the overall student body, and higher graduation rates than the overall student body.

- NCAA has stricter academic requirements in Division I than in Division II.

- Recruiting of student-athletes is already against Division I institutions such as the other UC’s, Ivy League, and military academies.
Student academic performance

90% Student-Athlete Graduation Rate

Student-athletes continue to graduate from UC San Diego at a higher rate than their non-athlete peers. This includes higher graduation rates at the 4, 5, 6-year marks.

UC San Diego Office of Student Research & Information- Retention and Graduation Rates 2015-2016

3 Most Popular Majors
Breakdown of majors between student-athletes and all UCSD undergraduate students.

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<tr>
<th>ATHLETICS</th>
<th>ALL</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Biology</td>
<td>1 Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Engineering</td>
<td>2 Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Economics</td>
<td>3 Biology</td>
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3.06 Cumulative GPA end of Spring 2015

Student-athletes maintain GPA's that are comparable to the general student-body.

2014-2015 UC San Diego Intercollegiate Athletics Annual Report
Costs

- The cost of the move to Division I will come from an increase in student fees to be phased in over three years. The amount of the fee was based on average costs at Big West schools.

- Majority of new funding goes to scholarships. Additional new funding for infrastructure, administrative support, travel.

- MOU with the Chancellor - “Overall the proposed reclassification to NCAA Division I would be budget neutral to the University.”

- Student fee has CPI factor and was designed to ensure sustainability – unanticipated costs will be addressed with revenues not included in model such as donations and ticket sales.
Costs

- The University return to aid factor for all student referendum fees 29%

- The return to aid offsets the cost for anyone who receives grant aid. It does not cover the full increase for all students on aid. Most recent data suggest that the return to aid will cover 74% of the new fee with the balance of 26% to be covered by work-study/loans.
Facilities costs

- Division I does not mean less availability of facilities for students and recreation programs, and it does not mean more costs from additional use.
  - Weekly practice hours remain the same for NCAA Divisions I and II.
  - Number of contests allowed is similar, as is the time limitation for out-of-season activities such as skill instruction and strength and conditioning.

- Athletics Department does not control or run the sports facilities on campus – there is a separate unit, Sports Facilities, that does that for both the Recreation Department and Intercollegiate Athletics.

- Funding to address attendance at events creating wear and tear on facilities is already a component of current operational practices with the Sports Facilities Department - (8% of Athletics ticket sales goes to SFO)

- Any increased costs associated with Division I attendance at Athletics events, such as security, parking, etc. are part of the MOU with the Chancellor and will be borne by the Athletics program as a component of ticket sales.
Need for faculty oversight

- As part of the reclassification to Division I, an advisory committee, whose composition and membership would be designed with consultation from the Academic Senate, can ensure the Athletics Department continues to uphold institutional values in support of the overall mission of the University.

- The *Division I Fact-Finding Task Force Final Report* includes a recommendation from the Task Force to ensure that the Athletic Department’s activities are aligned with UC San Diego’s academic mission. The Task Force proposed a “Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Intercollegiate Athletics” based on examples of similar committees on other UC campuses.
Quality of student life

2015-16 AS President Dominick Suvononasupa is here today to comment on the impact of the proposal on the quality of student life.
Recommended reading:


2. *Proposal for Transition to NCAA Non-Football Division I Athletics, Request for Academic Senate Consultation – Fall 2016*


Available on [https://senate.ucsd.edu/current-affairs/issues-under-review/ncaa-reclassification-review/](https://senate.ucsd.edu/current-affairs/issues-under-review/ncaa-reclassification-review/)