



SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Review of Certain Components of the Athletics Department's Compliance Program

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Prepared By:

**The Compliance Group
8889 Bourgade Street
Lenexa, Kansas 66219**



I. Executive Summary – The depth of TCG’s review in each of the 16 compliance areas listed in Section A above varied depending upon available information and issues that may have arisen within a certain area. For example, and not specific to this review, if an issue arose with personnel from the Registrar’s Office concerning continuing eligibility certification, a thorough discussion of that area might reduce the time available for discussions of other issues

such as certifying transfers. Please note that in this type of review, emphasis is placed on recommendations in areas where changes may be needed as opposed to highlighting existing quality compliance components in these or other areas. Finally, three components frequently used to evaluate the level of institutional control at an institution are: (i) educational and training programs; (ii) monitoring programs, and (iii) administrative procedures. To this end, this review prioritized these areas.

The President, Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) and Athletics Advisory Committee (AAC) all provide substantive institutional control and oversight of athletics operations, including compliance. The President meets regularly with the Assistant Athletic Director for Certification and Compliance (AADCC) and/or the Compliance Coordinator (CC), the Director of Athletics (AD), and the FAR. The FAR attends student-athlete meetings and travels with teams from time to time. The AAC focuses on issues related to student-athlete welfare, including academics, and interacts with student-athletes frequently. Outside offices (e.g., Registrar, Office of Financial Aid (OFA)) have continued to provide checks and balances over several athletics compliance operations – also a key component of institutional control.

The institution's athletics compliance and academics operations continue to benefit from long-time, experienced oversight by the AD, the Senior Woman Administration/Associate Athletics Director for Student-Services (AADSS) and other senior staff. Coaches appear to understand the importance of compliance overall, and of working with compliance staff to ensure violations are avoided and that critical compliance activities are documented.

The institution recently added a full-time compliance staff member, the AADCC. After the AADCC is trained and the institution determines his responsibilities, the addition should lighten the AADSS's workload (a concern expressed by TCG in past compliance reviews). Compliance operations also were expanded with more automation through the implementation of ACS and GradesFirst. These enhancements allow this to be an ideal time for the institution to review the division of responsibilities, policies, etc., in the compliance area. Several recommendations herein address this opportunity (e.g., the need to expand the use of ACS).