MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Judy Bonner
    President

FROM: Kevin Whitaker
    Faculty Athletics Representative

SUBJECT: SEC 9A Report

The academic records of fourteen prospective student athletes required review under SEC Bylaw 14.1.2.2. (SEC 9-A). In accordance with University of Alabama procedure for such review, the Office of Athletics Compliance has compiled reports evaluating those students' records and the University Admissions Appeals Committee has reviewed the reports and the supporting documentation. Attached you will find the compliance reports and supporting documentation, as well as an SEC Bylaw 14.1.2.2 Reporting Form.

Upon review of the reports and supporting documentation, the Admissions Appeals Committee finds that all fourteen students are admissible to The University of Alabama. You will note that they were admitted to the University either through the regular admissions process or through an admissions appeal. Also note that nine students have been certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center; five are awaiting or appealing certification but approval is anticipated.

Given the thorough review by the Office of Athletics Compliance, and given the fact that the students have been admitted to the University, the Admissions Appeals Committee recommends that you ratify the decision to enroll them. Once you have made your decision to accept, reject or modify that recommendation, please forward it and all the documents provided to you to the SEC Commissioner as directed by SEC Bylaw 14.1.2.2. Please let me and the Office of Athletics Compliance know what the Commissioner’s decision is regarding the eligibility of these students.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

cc: (cover letter only) Jonathan Bowling, Associate Athletics Director for Compliance
    Bill Battle, Athletics Director
Procedure for SEC Bylaw 14.1.2.2 – Validity of Academic Credentials for a Prospective Student-Athlete (PSA)

To help assure the academic credentials presented by prospective student-athletes (PSA) for admission to The University of Alabama always meet institutional and NCAA standards, a University Admission Appeals Committee has been established to ensure the validity of information relied upon for the admissions and NCAA certification of initial eligibility, including the review of academic credentials and college entrance test scores for prospective student-athletes. This policy and procedure is in compliance with Southeastern Conference rules and regulations, SEC Bylaw 14.1.2.2 – Validity of Academic Credentials – which requires each SEC member institution to be responsible for establishing written policies and procedures for reviewing and validating test scores and academic credentials.

Validity of Academic Credentials Policy:

1. Prior to a PSAs admission to any term, including summer, a review of academic credentials is completed in an attempt to identify any irregularities or problematic issues.

2. When the undergraduate admissions office or the athletic compliance office discovers that a PSAs academic record triggers one of the elements articulated in SEC Bylaw 14.1.2.2, the athletic compliance office will begin a validity of academic credentials review into the PSAs record and forward a report of its findings and the PSAs academic credentials to the University’s Admissions Appeal Committee (UAAC). The UAAC committee members are knowledgeable of the academic guidelines of SEC Bylaw 14.1.2.2. The committee members include the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, and the Faculty Athletics Representative.

3. Review of all high school and/or preparatory school grades and courses shall be required when any of the following occur:

   a. Any one or more of the PSA’s college entrance examination scores or subscores earned after September 1 of the PSA’s junior year in high school have varied (higher or lower) from any other college entrance examination score earned after September 1 of the PSA’s junior year in high school in an amount equal to or greater than the Southeastern Conference Test Score Review Standard.

   b. The PSA transfers or withdraws from high school in his or her senior year;

   c. The number of core courses taken during the PSA’s senior year is disproportionate to the number of core courses completed prior to the PSA’s senior year;

   d. The PSA has been enrolled in sequential courses in a single academic year or term;
e. Core courses have been taken out of sequence by the PSA;
f. Revisions (other than to correct clerical errors) are made to the PSA’s transcript that raise the PSA’s grade in one or more core courses; or
g. The PSA has completed core coursework through nontraditional means (e.g., virtual high school or a correspondence course).

4. In regards to the review of test score credentials, the Southeastern Conference Test Score Review Standard is: (a) An ACT composite score or subscore variance of six or more; or (b) An SAT composite score (Verbal and Math) variance of 300 or more, or an SAT subscore (Verbal or Math) variance of 150 or more. An institution may establish a more restrictive test score variance review standard at its discretion.

Process for such a challenge:

a. Contact the student’s high school counselor for information pertaining to the student’s situation, if by reviewing the scores a definitive determination of why the change in test scores occurred cannot be made.
b. Official test scores are requested from the student before an admission decision is made.
c. If the immediate cause of the increase is sufficiently obvious and verified by the counselor or by the Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, the issue will be noted in the student’s file and the admissions process will continue.
d. Once the official test score is on file with the undergraduate admissions office and the reason for the test score increase is not sufficiently obvious, the undergraduate admissions office will make a written request of the testing agency that the jump in score be investigated.
e. Upon receipt of official verification from the testing agency:
   • The student’s test score that was in question is cancelled and the student is notified by Undergraduate Admissions as well as the testing agency, or
   • The validity of the test stands and the admission process continues.

5. Upon review of the athletic compliance office report and record, the UAAC will make a recommendation to the Office of the President, regarding the admissibility and eligibility of the PSA.

6. The Office of the President will then make a final determination of enrollment and eligibility status. The Office of the President will then prepare the Special Report to the SEC Commissioner, which will include both the substance of the UAAC review and the President’s final determination on the PSAs admission and a recommendation on the validity of the academic credentials and eligibility.

7. The Commissioner shall review the institution’s report and determine the student-athlete’s eligibility for competition in the Southeastern Conference.
8. The Commissioner's determination shall be final and not subject to appeal or review.

9. The University Compliance Committee will review this policy annually. Members of the compliance committee include Registrar (Chair), Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Executive Director for Undergraduate Admissions, Director of Student Financial Aid, Faculty Senate Representative, Faculty Athletics Representative, Director of Athletics, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Services, and the Assistant Director of Compliance (ex-officio).

10. The Southeastern Conference shall be notified when any amendments and revisions are made to this policy.

11. When the President receives the Commissioner's report he will forward that to the Faculty Athletics Representative and the Office of Athletic Compliance.
August 13, 2013

Commissioner Mike Slive
Southeastern Conference
2201 Richard Arrington Boulevard, North
Birmingham, AL 35203-1103

Dear Mike:

I have reviewed the enclosed materials and concur with the evaluation that these students are admissible to The University of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Judy Bonner
President

Enclosure