The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) was formed in 2002 as an email network of faculty leaders from over fifty Division I-A schools in Bowl Championship Series conferences, including the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Big-12, the Big East, the Big Ten, the Pac-10, and the Southeastern Conference. The Coalition functions through a Steering Committee of thirteen members, nominated by faculty leaders in each conference (see http://www.indiana.edu/~bfc/COIA/COIA.html for further information).

The COIA works with the American Association of University Professors, the Association of Governing Boards (a national organization representing college and university trustees), and the NCAA to promote serious and comprehensive reform of intercollegiate sports, so as to preserve and enhance the contributions athletics can make to academic life by addressing longstanding problems in college sports that undermine those contributions.

The Coalition's structure and mission is described in its Charter document. A more detailed description of its goals is developed in the Framework for Intercollegiate Athletics Reform, which the Steering Committee has proposed for adoption this Fall by faculty governance at schools involved in the Coalition. These documents can be found at the above listed URL address for the COIA.

Together with the NCAA, the COIA is collaborating in the 2003 AAUP Governance Conference, which will focus on intercollegiate athletics. The conference will be held in Indianapolis, October 9-11. Therefore, as evidence of our support of academic reform in intercollegiate athletics, it is recommended that the Faculty Senate approve Vanderbilt University as an official member institution of the COIA. A separate discussion and vote on the Framework for Intercollegiate Athletics Reform will take place later this fall 2003 semester.