

3773 Corporate Parkway • Suite 190 • Center Valley, PA 18034 • (610) 289-1950 • Fax: (610) 289-1951/52

Comments from Patriot League Presidents on Football Financial Aid Announcement

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. (February 13, 2012) -- The Patriot League Council of Presidents endorsed a policy that will allow athletic merit aid for the sport of football, beginning with the class entering school in the fall of 2013, it was announced Monday.

Below are comments from the presidents from each of the seven institutions that compete in Patriot League football.

PATRIOT LEAGUE'S FIVE FOOTBALL FULL MEMBER SCHOOLS

Bucknell University President John Bravman

"I appreciate the thoughtful way the Presidents' Council of the Patriot League has assessed this decision. Bucknell is proud to be part of a League where the strong spirit of competition is secondary to the shared goal of offering student-athletes an outstanding learning experience, and we will uphold that commitment as we work through the implications of this decision for our football program and our university."

Colgate University President Jeffrey Herbst

"Today's decision will strengthen the Patriot League in ways that not only benefit individual members but also may allow the League itself to grow strategically. In addition, the pool of recruitable student-athletes available to us will expand. We, and all member institutions, will become more athletically competitive without losing our focus on producing talented athletes with high graduation rates who consider themselves scholars first."

College of the Holy Cross President Rev. Philip L. Boroughs, S.J.

"I join with the other presidents of the Patriot League in supporting the carefully-considered decision to allow merit aid for football student-athletes, beginning with the class entering in 2013. The presidents believe that this move is in the best interests of our League's practices, stability, and overall goals. It is a decision that is consistent with Holy Cross' long-held emphasis on upholding the highest standards in both academics and athletics."

Lafayette College President Daniel H. Weiss (*Chair of the Patriot League Council of Presidents*)

“The Council of Presidents’ decision to adjust the current need-based model of financial aid in football, which has been in effect since the founding of the League in 1986, comes after extensive study and discussion of alternative models and a thorough evaluation of the benefits and potential costs associated with athletic merit aid in the sport. The decision reflects the Presidents’ shared vision and shared commitment to the stability and long-term positioning of the League and to its strength, competitiveness and quality.”

Lehigh University President Alice P. Gast

“The Patriot League is important to Lehigh because it gathers schools together to compete in fair competitions as peers and rivals that share common beliefs. We believe in the student-athlete. The Patriot League faces challenges and needs to be ready to re-think how we work together, even as we hold firmly to our fundamental values. Today the challenges of recruiting student-athletes in football and scheduling football contests against schools sharing our values and stature has made it necessary to seek a more flexible approach to awarding financial aid. At Lehigh this flexibility will be administered within our current budget with no changes in admissions policy. By rising to these challenges and increasing flexibility, we can strengthen the Patriot League for the future and sustain the ability to make collegiate athletics all that we believe it can be. We value the Patriot League and we are proud to be able to make it stronger.”

PATRIOT LEAGUE’S TWO ASSOCIATE FOOTBALL MEMBER SCHOOLS

Fordham University President Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J.

“We are very pleased that other Patriot League teams will be joining the Rams in moving toward a permissive stance regarding financial aid for football student athletes. We have found at Fordham that this approach has allowed our staff and coaches to recruit academically and athletically talented student athletes in a more efficient and effective manner. In time, we believe this policy will help make our team, and our individual student athletes, more competitive on and off the gridiron.”

Georgetown University President Dr. John J. DeGioia

"Georgetown offers 29 varsity sports and is committed to Division I football as part of its broad-based approach to intercollegiate athletics. Since 2001, Georgetown has been committed to competing in the sport of football as an associate member of the Patriot League. This has allowed the University to compete with institutions that shared the same academic values and need-based financial aid philosophy.

"Georgetown will continue its membership in the Patriot League in the sport of football and explore all of its options, including our ability to compete as a need-based aid program. We remain committed to our goal of providing our student athletes with an unparalleled academic experience and an athletically competitive football program."