

Dear Members of the University Community,

I am writing to share some unwelcome news with you.

The NCAA has recently concluded an investigation, initiated by the University, of alleged violations of rules regarding text messages and phone calls by some coaches in our men's and women's basketball programs. The initial infractions were discovered during compliance monitoring, and we immediately self-reported to the NCAA. Our athletics department has worked cooperatively with the NCAA and with appropriate University officials to conduct a thorough investigation.

Here are the details: Although NCAA rules permit emails and limited numbers of telephone calls, they do not permit text messaging to recruited student-athletes. Unfortunately, some members of the men's and women's basketball coaching staffs violated these rules by sending text messages and exceeding the permitted number of calls to prospective student-athletes.

These incidents are obviously troubling, but it is important to emphasize that our student-athletes have done nothing wrong. Athletics Director Jim Miller and I have imposed sanctions on the programs and on the coaches who committed the violations. I take this issue very seriously and have met with the coaches and staff of the Athletics Department to convey that message. We have taken steps to reinforce a culture of compliance in all that we do going forward.

Athletics Director Miller has posted a detailed fact sheet on this matter at http://richmondspiders.cstv.com/photos/schools/rich/genrel/auto_pdf/a-ncaafactsheet908.pdf. While the NCAA investigation is now complete, we are awaiting specific information about its allegations and final determination of the level of violation. We hope to bring closure to this issue as soon as possible, but various stages in the process could extend the matter well into the spring.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Ayers
President