September 4, 2007

One Team Committee:

Thank you for agreeing to work on this important project. I will outline in this letter the key components of your charge and my expectations as to your final product. The overall purpose of your engagement is to determine whether Montana State University has the appropriate programs in place to assure that the student athletes we recruit to play for our teams will succeed academically, socially and athletically.

I anticipate this will require a review of the practices and policies of MSU regarding recruitment, including:

- appropriate review of a recruit’s potential for academic success, the recruit’s ability to become a team player and valued member of the team and university;

- academic support systems and programs that will encourage academic success;

- appropriate athletic department and team rules regarding student athlete conduct expectations in season and out of season, drug testing and appropriate mechanism for monitoring and enforcement of such rules;

- appropriate athletic department and team programs for mentorship, guidance, life skills and other appropriate social support systems to encourage good citizenship and social interface with the university community and the local community;

- appropriate athletic department and team programs to support student-athlete welfare; and

- the appropriate role of the coaches and the athletic department staff in providing opportunities for student-athlete success.

I anticipate that you will also consider programs that are being implemented in similar athletic conferences and similar universities and the limitations and requirements of the NCAA bylaws as they affect recruitment and overall welfare of the student-athlete.
I would appreciate a report that outlines the strengths and weaknesses of our current practices and policies, the best practices of some of the other institutions and conferences and recommendations for improvement of our programs and policies. I will consider your recommendations as a starting point for developing an implementation plan for improvements of our athletic programs. I am not looking for a detailed report, but I would like to have an objective third party look at our programs to let me know what is working and what can be strengthened to meet our university goal of student success.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Gamble
President