
 YARMUTH WILSDON PLLC

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
RE: BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL PROGRAM**

**Carl
Blackstone**

**Robert
Westinghouse**

c. NCAA Scrutiny of the Academic Institute

In August 2013, the NCAA placed the Academic Institute on “extended evaluation,” where it remains at the present time.⁶⁸ (Exhibit 99). Extended evaluation status means that the NCAA Eligibility Center will examine the course content and the student’s course work for the Academic Institute classes for which the student has received credit toward his high school graduation. More recently, the NCAA Eligibility Center has denied credit for ten classes offered by the Academic Institute taken by graduating seniors who are seeking to play Division I college football. (Exhibit 116).

According to Ms. Vice, since 2013 at least ten BHS football players who attended the Academic Institute “have had their work reviewed by the NCAA.” According to Ms. Vice “two students’ files were reviewed and approved” and seven students “received waivers prior to the completion of their file review.” (Exhibit 117 at page 3). Ms. Vice recently advised us that another player who is “going through the NCAA process” had had all of his classes which were submitted by the Academic Institute approved by the NCAA, but the Academic Institute is “continuing to submit for a final class, but the other classes which were submitted have been approved.” (Exhibit 18).

Ms. Vice has not provided us with the names of the ten players who have had their work reviewed by the NCAA. Nor has she explained to us why the NCAA apparently granted waivers to seven of the ten players. We have learned from one family whose son did receive a waiver that the waiver was based on the fact that the Academic Institute had failed to inform him that the Academic Institute was under scrutiny by the NCAA.

We do not know if other players claimed that they too had been misled about the Academic Institute’s status with the NCAA. Such a claim finds support in the fact that up until very recently, the Academic Institute’s website stated that the school was “NCAA approved”, even though the NCAA had placed the Academic Institute on “extended evaluation” in August 2013. (Exhibit 119). During our interview of Ms. Vice on October 22, 2015, we pointed out to her that the Academic Institute’s website continued to state that the school was “NCAA approved.” She claimed this was an oversight and at some point after our interview, the claim that the Academic Institute was “NCAA Approved” was removed from the Academic Institute’s website.

The NCAA Eligibility Center’s “extended evaluation” of the Academic Institute and its rejection of a number of the Academic Institute’s courses for credit speaks loudly to their concerns about the academic quality and rigor of the Academic Institute. We have not, however, been provided with any records from the NCAA that more definitively explains their findings. Without more, we can only surmise that there is strong reason to question the academic legitimacy of the Academic Institute’s course offerings.

⁶⁸ It is our understanding that the NCAA typically places a school on “extended evaluation” for two years. In the case of the Academic Institute, the NCAA has continued the “extended evaluation” for a third year.