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April 27, 2006

Bernard W. Franklin, Ph.D.
Senior Vice-President for Governance and Membership
National Collegiate Athletic Association
PO Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Dr. Franklin:

Greetings from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST)!

On behalf of the SRST, I tender this letter to convey to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) that the SRST maintains its stance opposing the "Fighting Sioux" athletic nickname and logo used by the University of North Dakota (UND). Attached is a copy of SRST Council Resolution Number 438-05, passed in 2005 which officially and respectfully requests UND to discontinue use of its nickname and logo and supports the NCAA decision to bar the use of Native American tribal names in post season games by colleges and universities.

The April 26, 2006, letter you received from Archie Fool Bear does not reflect the official position of the SRST. Mr. Fool Bear is a member of the SRST Council and is the Chairman of the SRST Council Judicial Committee. However, the Judicial Committee only has the power to make "recommendations" to the full SRST Council. Mr. Fool Bear has already attempted once (January 2006) to convince the full SRST Council to officially change its position regarding UND's athletic nickname and logo, but the SRST Council has not changed its position.

Mr. Fool Bear's letter also cites a visit the Judicial Committee made to UND and he reports that they "did not observe any abusive or derogatory

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comments" during their visit. I, however, have received copies of internet dialogue on how UND alumni, "The Sioux Crew," knew in advance that Tribal officials were going to be present at a hockey game and knew that UND President Charles Kupchella arranged the visit "to show the Sioux Tribal members how we (they) behave." (See attachment)

Amid UND's appeals of NCAA rulings in accordance with NCAA policies regarding use of American Indian athletic nicknames and logos, the SRST remains committed to protecting the integrity of the Dakota and Lakota (Sioux) culture and spirituality of its members, especially for SRST-member alumni and current students of UND.

Please contact me at (701) 854-8500 should you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron His Horse Is Thunder
Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Enclosures

