

Call For Proposals

Intercollegiate Athletics at Metropolitan Universities: Opportunities and Challenges

Metropolitan Universities (<http://cumuonline.org/muj.aspx>), a quarterly peer-reviewed journal funded by the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (www.cumuonline.org), is soliciting article proposals for an upcoming issue that will examine the role of intercollegiate athletics in contributing to the educational mission of metropolitan universities. The journal is especially interested in research-based articles which address how intercollegiate athletics both add to and detract from the academic experience of commuters, part-time students, students of diverse language and cultural backgrounds, and first-generation students.

Following an 18-month study of college sports finances, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics (<http://www.knightcommission.org>) released on June 17, 2010 the latest of three reports. This report calls for financial reforms in college sports because of imbalances in the fiscal priority for athletics over academics at many institutions. Prior reports documented academic transgressions, a financial arms race, and commercialization, calling into question the role of college sports in higher education. Such a question is even more relevant today as institutions must redistribute an ever shrinking pool of institutional resources. Some must choose between an academic program and an athletics program. However, the decision is not an easy one. Intercollegiate athletics creates benefits passed onto the institutions, students, student-athletes, and community: positive benefits, for example, in the areas of donations, institutional visibility, enrollment, institutional loyalty among alumni, access to a post-secondary education and personal development of student-athletes, community infrastructure, retention, campus climate, and institutional image. Intercollegiate athletics, thus, clearly offers both opportunities and challenges for metropolitan and urban universities.

This issue will be published in 2013, and the guest editor is Roger Munger, Professor of English, of Boise State University.

Possible Topics for this Themed Issue

The guest editor invites proposals for articles on applied research or theory, case histories/studies, and/or tutorials that address some of the following issues:

- What challenges do urban and metropolitan campuses face when offering an intercollegiate athletics program?
- What tensions exist between athletics and academics on campus? How might these tensions be managed or resolved?
- What are the links between intercollegiate athletics and research opportunities for students, faculty, and communities?
- In what ways has intercollegiate athletics fostered greater synergy between campuses and their communities?
- What successful strategies and programs exist to involve student-athletes in academic and cultural opportunities on campus?
- How can metropolitan universities help student-athletes succeed academically?
- In what ways does an intercollegiate athletics program serve to help recruit and retain students and enhance academic program across campus? How can we evaluate the impact and value of intercollegiate athletics in higher education?
- How can administrators use their intercollegiate athletics program to further the educational values, practices, and mission of a university?
- How can metropolitan universities use intercollegiate athletics to enhance connections with community stakeholders?

Articles exploring related topics are welcome as well.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals should be 300-500 words in length. All proposals should include submitter's name, affiliation, 100-word bio, and email address as well as a working title for the proposed article. Final manuscripts should be 4,000-7,000 words in length.

Production Schedule

The schedule for this issue is as follows:

- 7 January 2012: 300-500 word proposals due
- 18 February 2012: Guest editor returns proposal decisions to submitters
- 15 July 2012: Draft manuscripts of accepted proposals due (This gives contributors about five months to write their articles.)
- 15 August 2012: Guest editor returns drafts with suggestion for revision
- 15 October 2012: Final manuscripts due

Contact Information

Completed proposals or questions about either proposal topics or this issue should be sent to Roger Munger at rmunger@boisestate.edu.