



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

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years of Indian  
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To: Shaun Hittle. Lawrence Journal World

From: James C. Redman, President

Date: January 18, 2013

Re: Response to Questions

Mr. Hittle,

Thank you for the opportunity to address your follow up questions on Haskell – To begin, the interview and prior news release information released was relative to the matter of the Inspector General (IG) report. The apparent FOIA information that you are including in your questioning now includes additional issues. The release was specific to the NAIA probation issue. Another thing to keep in mind is that the athletes, their seasons, and college terms overlap (i.e. – 2007/08; 2008/09; 2009/10, and so on). Therefore, it is possible that the terms or years were confused.

I did state in my comments that “a couple” had submitted false scores; there were two. However, rather than one basketball player and one football player, there were two football players relative the ACT issue. The basketball player from 2007 was enrolled in a course that was indeed legitimate, but was enrolled after the last day for Add/Drop. This did not make the student athlete eligible, and the grade was nullified.

There were only two ACT falsifications, incoming freshman football players (one was in fall 2008; one in 2010). The 2008 falsification allowed the student to get into school, and then became eligible. Haskell forfeited games during the (one) season he played. The 2010 falsification was a student that had been admitted already, but was afforded eligibility as a result. Again, both were reported to NAIA and both seasons had forfeitures for which those athletes played.

On the matter of payment of college courses by staff, the individual was a volunteer, and was relieved of duties. Haskell was also able to determine that no charges were paid with Haskell funds. Additional step was taken, in the preventing of transfer courses for the use of eligibility. The rationale for this is because it is impossible to monitor whether students are performing the

work alone. The volunteer admitted having assisted with assignments and allowed the athlete to take exams without a proctor, however, denied taking them for the student.

On the matter of the alleged \$27,000 in invoices, there was no conclusive proof that athletes received any merchandise. The invoices were however paid in full.

On the matter of a College Work Study student being used for “personal chores, errands, daycare, etc,” we have been unable to find any complaints or evidence of this being officially reported to the university. Our work study coordinator has no knowledge of this.

The matter of the children’s activity book was not a part of the subject IG investigation but was reviewed internally. It was determined that it was indeed given to students in the Elementary Education program as a training and reference resource. It was also used for other Bureau programs and trainings.

On the matter of Haskell Athletics employees submitting false receipts for reimbursement, we find no evidence of this practice.

In response to your specific (5) questions –

- I trust the above explanation and clarification provides you are now asking, as to the relationship between what was reported and the additional points you make.
- The report for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Inspector General was received by Haskell on August 22, 2011.
- As I stated previously, those employees were either no longer at Haskell or were disciplined for the issues relative to the report. For allegations that could not be tied directly to any one employee, department heads were held accountable collectively, to make adjustments within their respective areas.
- Other adjustments were made within relative departments. Additional stopgaps were applied along with other reinforcements of policy. We implemented procedural measures in the registrar and admissions offices. We also now have enhanced our communication and collaboration with NAIA.
- As I stated at the beginning of this response, the information that you attached to your inquiry on January 15 at 5:00 pm, was primarily documentation that did not originate at Haskell, but was used by the reporting source making the allegations. I was originally responding to the NAIA probation issue relative to the IG report. This is the first time I have seen the documents you provided.

Having said that, it should be noted that your report on the NAIA issue came less than a week following our receipt of the notice. Organizations or agencies do not generally provide such information to the public prior to proper vetting and internal review. It would be inappropriate for us to contact the media over such issues without following internal protocol. In the event of

any violation, Haskell will follow the departmental policies established, and handle each as case-by-case, depending on subject matter and privacy rights.