



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The Executive Branch of Student Government

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The Carolina admissions department only admits students that it believes have the ability to succeed at the university. This contrasts with recent data presented by Mary Willingham and CNN that Carolina was admitting a large number of student-athletes who did not meet collegiate literacy standards. The Lambden Administration attests that the evidence put forward by Willingham and CNN is misleading and misrepresents the standard of student-athletes at Carolina.

Willingham presented the data that she had compiled as factual evidence of her claim, but she had a limited data set that she argued was representative of the entire student-athlete population from the years 2004-2012 and her data was never sent for peer review. Carolina takes pride in being a top 10-research institution in the nation, and it is basic research etiquette that you fully vet your findings before publishing them. Ms. Willingham neglected to do so.

CNN picked up on the story and Mary Willingham's data. In their story, CNN did not do their due diligence and failed to request any data from Carolina. By not portraying the whole picture, CNN misrepresented the entire student-athlete population enrolled at Carolina from 2004 to the present day.

Contrary to Ms. Willingham's claim that 60% of college revenue athletes read at or below an 8th grade level, UNC's data indicates that 90% of college revenue athletes met the CNN threshold of being college literate. Furthermore, less than 3% of the total student-athlete population would have failed CNN's threshold requirements. The most recent data indicated that 100% of the student-athletes who enrolled at Carolina in the fall of 2013 met CNN's reading skills, data that neither CNN nor Willingham cited. Additionally in the entire 8-year period that CNN examined, only 5 student athletes did not meet the CNN threshold and left the University academically ineligible. This is a meager 0.4% of the student athletes who enrolled at Carolina during that time period.

Over the past few weeks, we have heard numerous concerns from students, alumni, faculty and staff of the Carolina community who have questioned the University's commitment to academic integrity. If there was a question of the University's commitment to academic integrity, Student Government would be calling for action on the part of the University, and additionally, we would fully advocate for a wide-scale review of admissions policies and procedures. Given the release

of admissions data, we believe that no questions should be raised about Carolina's academic integrity. We fully support the administration in their ongoing examination of the relationship between academics and athletics at Carolina, and we are convinced that the procedures and protocols that have been put in place are exactly the right measures to ensure that student-athletes at Carolina continue to succeed academically.

In publishing misleading data that had not met the standards of the field, both CNN and Willingham have hurt the reputation of Carolina without cause and in doing so have hurt its students and student athletes, for seemingly no other reason than to draw attention and to create a buzz-worthy story. It is time for this to stop. We are proud of the achievements of our student athletes both on and off the court, and we remain convinced that Carolina is the greatest place to be a student.

The Lambden Administration

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