



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

June 14, 2010

Board of Regents
University of Texas System
201 W. 7th Street, Suite 820
Austin, TX 78701

Board of Regents
Texas A&M University System
P.O. Box 15812, Mail Stop 1123
College Station, TX 77841

Board of Regents
Texas Tech University System
P.O. Box 42011, Mail Stop 2011
Lubbock, TX 79409

Board of Regents
University of Oklahoma
660 Parrington Oval, Room 119
Norman, OK 73019

Board of Regents
Oklahoma Agricultural & Mechanical Colleges
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Regents:

On behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents, the governing board of Kansas State University (K-State) and the University of Kansas (KU), we strongly urge you to retain your Big 12 Conference membership. This Conference is among the best in the nation; it is worth saving.

Despite the recent disappointing departures of the University of Colorado and University of Nebraska, we are unwavering in our belief that the best course for K-State and KU is continued joint membership in a Big 12 Conference consisting of the remaining ten institutions. Over the past 14 years, Big 12 universities have displayed consistent success both on the field and in the classroom, and it's not just the geography and athletic competitiveness that defines this conference, it is also the emphasis on student athletes. In the midst of the conference realignment discussion, we must not forget that as conferences expand their geographic footprint, student athletes will be forced to spend more time outside the classroom traveling across the country to participate in weekly athletic events, only contributing to increased pressure on academic achievement.

From a financial perspective, it is our understanding that a 10-institution Big 12 Conference would be extremely viable. The Conference's geography would provide a favorable media/television landscape, would be beneficial to member universities' alumni/fan bases as far as travel to games and the continuation of historic rivalries is concerned, and would continue to provide Bowl Championship Series access. Our sense is that a 10-institution Big 12 would provide even greater financial benefits than are currently being realized – at least on par if not above and beyond those of the other major conferences in the nation.

We look to you as Conference leaders and certainly value our shared affiliation. The evolution of intercollegiate athletics will continue to present challenges to our universities, but we believe we can

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best meet those challenges as Conference partners rather than as individuals. Again, we strongly urge you to retain your Big 12 membership; a 10-institution Big 12 would have an extremely bright future.


Sincerely,



Regent Jill Docking
Chair



Regent Gary Sherrer
Vice Chair



Dr. Andy Tompkins
President & CEO

cc: Commissioner Dan Beebe, Big 12 Conference
Board of Regents, Baylor University
Board of Regents, State of Iowa
Board of Curators, University of Missouri
Governor Mark Parkinson, State of Kansas
Representative Mike O'Neal, Speaker, Kansas House of Representatives
Representative Paul Davis, Minority Leader, Kansas House of Representatives
Senator Steve Morris, President, Kansas Senate
Senator Anthony Hensley, Minority Leader, Kansas Senate
Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, United States House of Representatives
Congressman Dennis Moore, United States House of Representatives
Congressman Jerry Moran, United States House of Representatives
Congressman Todd Tiahrt, United States House of Representatives
Senator Sam Brownback, United States Senate
Senator Pat Roberts, United States Senate
Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, University of Kansas
President Kirk Schulz, Kansas State University