Name of Proposal: Compliance Office Personnel

Academic Division/Area: President

Priority # 1

All divisions and Athletics should use this template to submit any/each new funding request to the SBPC. Consideration should be given to share and communicate initiatives being proposed to determine potential partnering and synergies between and among divisions and Athletics prior to submission.

All proposals should clearly identify (a) what is being requested, (b) rationale for the request, (c) associated costs, and (d) possibility of alternative (partial) funding source(s) (including reallocation or cost share). The Proposal should also identify (e) how the request relates to URI’s Strategic Academic plan and (f) benefits URI. Data (including benchmark data) may be provided with the request to help support it.

1. A. Please briefly describe the process and timeline as to how these new funding priorities were developed or derived? B. What processes or incentives have been considered to encourage reallocation from within the division/unit?

The President reviewed all areas within his division and concluded that this proposal is being submitted as a proactive measure to safeguard our institution. After a review of the divisional budget, a co-share was identified.

2. Please identify what is being requested, associated costs, possibility of alternative (partial) funding source(s) and/or any match funding, and the rationale for each requested item. Use as much space as needed. Please indicate also any possibility of alternative or match funding.

There have been a number of high profile cases both within the NCAA investigation/enforcement branch as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation pertaining to NCAA Division I institutions. As a Division I institution, we are obligated to address similar issues and situations.

The University has the highest ratio of full-time (FT) compliance personnel to student-athletes 1:250 for Division 1 state institutions in New England. The average ratio of Division 1 institutions is 1:156 of FT compliance personnel to student-athletes.

The URI NCAA Compliance Office currently has two (2) FT compliance personnel. It is in the institution’s best interest to add a third FT position. This would allow URI to be closer to the nationally recognized recommendation of 1:125 as prescribed by the National Association of
Collegiate Compliance (NAAC). NAAC has also developed "Reasonable Standards" for Compliance programs to implement. The NCAA is now taking those standards in review of institutional violations in helping to determine if the violations should be elevated to the level of Lack of Institutional Control or Failure to Monitor.

The NCAA has increased the submission requirements relative to reporting and monitoring of data. The increased submission requirements relate to the Academic Progress Report (APR), the Gender Equity Reports, the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) Report, and the Sports Demographic Report. The NCAA Conference office has informed us that according to NCAA research data, institutions should be reporting an average of five (5) violations a year and we are currently averaging 3.75 violations/year. Also, with the increase in monitoring via new and updated software there needs to be an individual who spends a minimum of fifteen (15) hours/week tracking, updating, investigating potential violations, developing waivers, and filing violations. Finally, the stricter standards of initial eligibility requirements require additional hours to review and evaluate the eligibility of both initial and transfer eligibility.

Recently, there has been increased federal investigations of Division I NCAA institutions. Thus, it is critical to add a Compliance Coordinator with a legal background/experience to assist in developing safeguards to minimize/prevent potential legal issues.

The division has identified $10,000 of co-share for this proposal.

3. Is this request strategic and how does the request support or relate to URI’s Strategic Academic Plan?

The request relates to the benefits; particularly benefit #1 that promotes integrity and brand and benefit #4 related to impacting morale and the reputation of the University.

4. How does the request provide additional benefit to URI? (Enrollment, student services, condition of campus, fundraising/development, public relations, etc.)

It is hoped that this investment will allow URI to be proactive, protect URI’s reputation, and avoid negative publicity.

5. Please provide any data (including benchmark data) relative to the request OR a statement as to why no benchmark data is available.

NAAC recommended ratio of Compliance personnel to student-athletes as of 03/2003: (It was a recommendation to the NAAC from the consultation group Intercollegiate Athletics Consultants in March 2003—After speaking with the NAAC they have not publically endorse that number).

Average ratio of Division 1 institutions: 1:156
Average ratio of Division 1 New England state institutions: 1:180
6. Please complete and enclose the cost summary excel document from the Budget Office.