



Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

P. O. BOX 1357, NORMAL, ALABAMA 35762

September 17, 2018

Mr. Albert Benifield, Jr., President
Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association
P.O. Box 2717
Normal, Alabama 35762

Dear President Benifield:

Many thanks to you and the National Alumni Association for your support of Alabama A&M University. Your endowment of the scholarship to assist future generations of Bulldogs and the support for the marketing video display scoreboard are greatly appreciated. It is worthy of note that the \$1 million for the effort was raised and not allocated from the university operating budget. We hope that this initiative, along with others, will go a long way in improving our athletic program and experience here at the university.

With specific reference to your correspondence of September 12, 2018, we are all very disappointed in the sanctions received by the NCAA for our athletic program. Clearly, we are all committed to improving the process and ensuring that it does not reoccur in the future. The university has implemented a number of corrective actions that have been communicated to the NCAA to this end (See attached Appendix One). Because the NCAA and its report focuses on athletics, it may appear that this process is totally administered within that area, which is not the case. We must keep in mind that the process of certifying athletes is an institutional process that involves many entities on the campus. It includes everything from the submission of change of major forms to whether a student who transfers with more than 30 hours must take the orientation course. Thus, as a university, we are working to ensure that our policies are clear and that we approach the certification process from a centralized administration.

I also want to place the issues in a larger context as it relates to limited-resources institutions, particularly those that are HBCUs. For your information, I have attached the link to an article which appeared in *HBCU Digest* and a correspondence that I forwarded to Dr. Emmert, President of the NCAA.

Mr. Benifield, thank you for reaching out and please convey to alumni our commitment to ensuring excellence in all facets of the university's operations.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hugine, Jr., Ph.D.
President

<https://hbcudigest.com/on-ncaa-sanctions-heres-what-the-alabama-am-community-should-learn-from-trump-supporters/>