Exhibit

53
Confidential – Via Overnight Service

September 16, 2011

Mr. Steve Gordon
1201 N. Orange Street
Suite 729
Wilmington, DE 19801

Re: Notice of Disassociation

Dear Mr. Gordon:

This letter is to provide you formal notification of your disassociation from the University of South Carolina athletics programs and student-athletes, pursuant to NCAA Bylaw 19.5.2.4.

Last year, the NCAA initiated an inquiry into aspects of the University of South Carolina athletics programs. In connection therewith, at the request of the NCAA, you were interviewed by representatives from the NCAA Enforcement Staff and the University to obtain your response to information received by the NCAA that you provided or were involved in the provision of impermissible recruiting contacts and benefits to one or more prospective student athletes being recruited by University athletics programs in violation of NCAA rules. Based on your testimony and other available evidence, there is reason to believe that some of the allegations may be accurate.

Pursuant to NCAA legislation, the University is responsible for the conduct of its representatives of athletics interests and is subject to possible action from the NCAA for any violation involving such representatives. To the extent that you may be considered a representative of the University’s athletics interests, as defined by the NCAA, we have determined that your actions on behalf of certain prospective student athletes may be inconsistent with NCAA legislation and subject the University to NCAA sanctions. Accordingly, the University has determined that it must formally disassociate you from its athletics programs for an indefinite period.
Under NCAA legislation, disassociation is defined as follows:

19.5.2.4 Disassociation of Representatives of Athletics Interests. The disassociation of relations with a representative of an institution's athletics interests may be imposed on a permanent basis, for the duration of the applicable probationary period or for another specified period of time. When an institution is required to show cause why a representative of the institution's athletics interests should not be disassociated from its athletics program, such disassociation shall require that the institution:

(a) Refrain from accepting any assistance from the individual that would aid in the recruitment of prospective student-athletes or the support of enrolled student-athletes;

(b) Not accept financial assistance for the institution's athletics program from the individual;

(c) Ensure that no athletics benefit or privilege be provided to the individual that is not generally available to the public at large; and

(d) Take such other actions against the individual that the institution determines to be within its authority to eliminate the involvement of the individual in the institution's athletics program.

Effective immediately, you are disassociated from all activities associated with the University of South Carolina's athletics programs and student-athletes. You are prohibited from being present in the University's athletics facilities other than for events and in areas open to the general public. This prohibition includes but is not limited to your presence in University property frequented by student-athletes such as the academic support facilities, the football offices, the weight room, the locker room, and University residence halls.

You should also understand that even though you are no longer a representative of the University's athletics interests, NCAA rules regarding preferential treatment based upon a person's status as an athlete prohibit you from providing any benefit of any nature to any student-athlete enrolled in the University or their relatives. The same is true with regard to prospective student-athletes. In other words, except in very limited circumstances, you must not provide any benefit of any kind to (a) any person who is a current student-athlete at the University, (b) any person considered to be a prospective student-athlete under NCAA rules, or (c) any relative or friend of the persons listed in (a) and (b). Failure on your part to abide by this and other NCAA rules will be a factor in determining the period of your disassociation. A copy of NCAA Bylaw 12.1.2.1.6 and the NCAA's June 6, 2000 interpretation explaining the preferential treatment rule is attached.
Please be advised that your level of cooperation with the terms of your disassociation will be a factor in determining the period of your disassociation. At the present time, the length of the disassociation is indefinite. If you have any specific questions about the terms or details of your disassociation, please contact Judy Van Horn, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator, at (803) 777-7865.

The University regrets that your conduct has necessitated this action. However, we intend to take every step necessary to comply with NCAA rules and regulations and to ensure that the rich athletic tradition that is a vital part of the University is not jeopardized.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Eric C. Hyman
Director of Athletics

cc: Dr. Harris Pastides, President
Terry Parham, General Counsel
Judy Van Horn, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/Senior Woman Administrator
Jennifer Stiles, Senior Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance