



## News Release

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### UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PUBLIC INFRACTIONS REPORT

#### A. INTRODUCTION.

On April 14, 2007, officials from the University of Oklahoma appeared before the Division I Committee on Infractions to address allegations of NCAA violations in the institution's football program. The scope of this case was limited to admitted violations involving payments to three football student-athletes ("student-athletes 1, 2 and 3", respectively) for work not performed at a Norman, Oklahoma, automobile dealership ("the dealership") and a contested allegation that the institution failed to monitor the employment of the three football student-athletes at the dealership.

Although this case centered on a few violations involving three student-athletes, the committee finds this case to be significant and serious for several reasons. First, it concerns payments by a representative of the institution's athletics interests of approximately \$17,000 of extra benefits in the form of unearned wages to football student-athletes. Second, rather than being isolated events, the violations continued over many months. Third, student-athletes 1 and 2 competed while ineligible during the 2005 season as a result of receiving these impermissible funds both prior to and during that season. Finally, the institution appeared before the committee only one year earlier in a case where the committee found that the institution failed to monitor the men's basketball staff's telephone contacts with prospective student-athletes.

In its response to the enforcement staff's notice of allegations, the institution claimed that it "self-reported" the employment violations to the NCAA. In reality, the violations at the dealership were first exposed in a March 3, 2006, electronic message (e-mail) sent by an anonymous source to both the NCAA enforcement staff and to institution officials. This e-mail stated that several student-athletes, including student-athlete 1, the institution's starting quarterback, were paid by the dealership for work that they did not perform. But for this e-mail, it is unlikely that these violations would have come to light.

