**Statement of the ARG on the occasion of the UNC-Miami game, Oct. 17, 2013.**

In the wake of a destructive athletic scandal that has attracted much harmful publicity, the University of North Carolina should use the platform of this nationally televised game to reaffirm its core values and to lead by example in the effort to reform the big-time sports enterprise.

*UNC’s Athletic Reform Group, driven by its concern for the principles of institutional openness, educational responsibility, and consistency in the University’s mission, recommends bold action on the following unresolved issues:*

**Compensation**

While there is still not a consensus on paying college athletes for their labors, at least the University must ensure that the education offered athletes in their scholarship agreement is a bona fide University education filled with the measurable learning experiences typical of an undergraduate education at Carolina. Henceforth, the University should affirm the validity of the scholarship agreement by attaching the Provost’s signature to the contract.

**Citizenship Rights**

Given arbitrary and capricious adjudications by the NCAA, UNC should work to assure all athletes the full enjoyment of their legal, civil, and economic rights as adult citizens of the United States.

**Academic Standards and Fairness**

It is prejudicial and exploitative for a University to admit athletes whose physical talents will prove valuable, but whose level of academic preparation will leave them unlikely to perform well in the classroom. The practice of admitting athletes with inadequate academic preparation is also unfair to academically qualified students who are thereby denied access to UNC classrooms.

**Health and Safety**

In keeping with the demands of players in the “All Players United” movement, UNC should address the long-term health care needs of players who suffer injuries as a result of their participation on UNC sports teams. UNC should also apply pressure to the NCAA to adopt bold, systematic policies to minimize the risk of brain damage in football.

**The Athletes’ Voice**

UNC should nurture and promote athletes’ participation in the exchange of ideas that characterizes University life. The University should also push the NCAA to give athletes’ representatives voting rights on all governance bodies.