



MEMORANDUM

2020-2022 Executive Officers

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TO: Board of Trustees of Saint Augustine's University
FROM: The National Alumni Association of Saint Augustine's University
SUBJECT: The Firing of Athletic Director George "Pup" Williams
DATE: July 2, 2020

It is with the sincerest regards for the stature and reputation of our beloved alma mater, Saint Augustine's University, that we submit this memorandum expressing our concerns with the abrupt, and unnecessary firing of our legendary track coach and athletic director George "Pup" Williams. The National Alumni Association of Saint Augustine's University and numerous alumni across the nation are very disappointed and upset over the unwarranted firing of Coach Williams, particularly at this time, going into what possibly would have been the last year or two of his stellar career at Saint Augustine's. Coach Williams is no newcomer to the University, having dedicated his career and his life to our beloved University, with more than 50 years of service, during which time he brought recognition and esteem to Saint Augustine's.

When people speak of Saint Augustine's University the first thing they mention is our outstanding track team and Olympic coach, the "*winningest*" coach in the NCAA. The despicable firing was cruel and thoughtless, and Board leadership knew or should have known that this would become a public issue. Coach Williams is known in Raleigh/Wake County, North Carolina, the United States and internationally.

This despicable firing has already been reported in local and national news outlets—newspapers, and television and at least one nationally syndicated source. The resounding question is: why would the Interim President and Board Leadership want this matter handled in such a deplorable and insensitive manner? The University should be planning a retirement ceremony for our legendary coach, not a public embarrassment to him and Saint Augustine's University. Numerous individuals, corporations and other organizations donate to, and support the University, only, because of Coach Williams.

The public humiliation cannot be retracted, but the National Alumni Association believes that Coach Pup Williams should be restored to the position of Athletic Director, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities he had previously. We respectfully ask that the firing be rescinded. Additionally, the National Alumni Association has lost significant confidence in the Board to function responsibly and carry out its governance role, without some significant changes. The Board of Trustees has a keen awareness of where the dysfunctionality is on the Board and should move quickly and efficiently to correct these issues and restore confidence in the Board to govern fairly, honestly and within its Bylaws, Board Policy and University operating principles.

With Falcon Pride,

Respectfully, Dr. John T. Larkins, President, National Alumni Association of Saint Augustine's University

