



August 29, 2018

Mr. Gene Smith  
1010 Fawcett Center  
2400 Olentangy River Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Gene:

As you know, President Drake, in consultation with the Board of Trustees, determined that you exhibited a lack of oversight and programmatic mismanagement in your duties as Athletic Director, and as a result, failed to uphold the high values of Ohio State. The resulting disciplinary actions set forth below are designed to be fair, just, and appropriate, and to provide an opportunity to learn from past mistakes to make our program and university stronger and better moving forward.

To begin, this will confirm that effective August 31, 2018, you are suspended from performing any duties in your position as Athletic Director through September 16, 2018. As a result, you should not attend any meetings, practices, other official events, or otherwise appear in any official capacity; have any communications with staff, colleagues, student-athletes, and others; or otherwise conduct any business related to your role for this time period. You shall not be present at pre-game activities or the games themselves on September 1, 8, and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Notwithstanding the above, in order to not disrupt our students' education, you will be permitted to continue to teach your graduate class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Fisher College of Business. In addition, you will be permitted to communicate with Coach Meyer, only as needed, beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup> for the sole purpose of ensuring adequate oversight of the football program during this critical period of the season.

Beginning September 17, 2018, you may resume your duties as Athletic Director. In addition, you will forgo compensation in connection with your suspension. I will follow up with you on how to administer the compensation matter.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Basso  
Senior Vice President, Office of Human Resources

cc: President Drake