

STRATEGIC PLANNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A Test of Strategic Planning Practices and Their Effect on Success in NCAA Division I Athletic Departments

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- A significant lack of utility exists in contemporary models of strategic planning when applied to university athletics departments.
- Individual characteristics found in some models are correlated with success.
- A hierarchical "top-down" approach to planning negatively correlated with student athletes' graduation success rates.
- Revenue was found to have a positive predictive relationship with Director's Cup ranking.

Strategy planning
is complicated,
contextual, multidimensional, and
not easily organized
into neat groupings

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 1. Data collected suggests that high-level management skills and administrative expertise will become increasingly important for intercollegiate athletics leaders.
- 2. In addition to being talented leaders, athletic directors will need to possess broad skill sets with increasingly higher levels of education, training, and experience.
- 3. Strategy and planning in intercollegiate athletics is as multidimensional (i.e. political, contextual, adaptive, and interpretive) as in other postsecondary organizational settings.
- 4. As resources are limited, unproductive planning is wasteful.



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Additional Resources:

- Balanced Scorecard Institute
- Book: Strategic Planning for Collegiate Athletics

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