

We wanted to release a statement on the incident that took place within our team last November and explain what the university has done about this issue since then. It has been a long process and a very frustrating one for our team and coaches.

The university's response to the racist incident that occurred last fall was one our team does not agree with. After a judicial process, the five guys were able to appeal a decision in hopes of rejoining our team. This appeal did not involve the department of athletics, leaving it up to the university to respond to it. This left our athletic director and coaches unable to make a decision, which goes against what is written in the Student-Athlete Handbook. This appeal went to the UW System who ended up ruling them able to rejoin our team. Let us be clear and tell you that our team does not want these five individuals back on our team.

Vice Chancellor Anderson stated that it should have been handled within the athletic department, not the university, which he admitted was an error in the process. Also, Dr. Anderson said it is the teams right to regulate itself, which he then proceeded to tell us that we could not make a decision ourselves.

The administration is trying to make it seem like this is our team's decision to let these five individuals back on our team, which is not the case. We have discussed this as a team, and we came to the conclusion that what the five individuals did is wrong. We have tried to tell the administration numerous times that we do not want them back on our team but are being ignored.

Therefore, we are releasing this statement. We are standing for what is right, while the university is allowing racism to exist within our teams. Dr. Anderson said that we need to get to the root of these issues, and as a football team we know that to get to the root we cannot allow these five individuals back onto our team.

It is our teams' goal to stand for what's right and let other students, faculty, and the community know that our football team stands against racism.