

Minnesota Athletics Alliance

Proposal for a Special Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics

The past, present, and future of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Minnesota

The Minnesota Athletics Alliance (MAA) hereby proposes to establish a Special Commission (Commission) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the role of intercollegiate athletics at the U of M.

The MAA is a statewide, multi sports coalition established to advocate for the educational value of athletics and the preservation of intercollegiate sports opportunities for all student athletes in Minnesota.

The NCAA is currently undergoing dramatic, systemic change that puts growing emphasis on the revenue generating sports of football and men's basketball. The MAA is concerned that the U of M is undervaluing the importance of all the other sports that do not generate revenue. Change is coming to intercollegiate athletics and the responsible course of action is to plan for that change. Dropping teams and reducing opportunities for Minnesota students to participate in sports does not best serve the educational mission of the U of M.

The purpose of the Commission is to explore the past, present, and future of intercollegiate athletics at the U of M.

The Commission would:

- 1.) Present an opportunity to investigate the enduring impact that participation in intercollegiate athletics has had on U of M students, and to provide evidence based proposals to guide decisions affecting the future of athletics at the U of M.
- 2.) Seek input from alumni from all sports to share their student athlete experience and the essential lessons they learned from participating in intercollegiate sports-to better understand how sports provide educational experiences that complement the academic curriculum, and how the U of M can continue to provide and enhance those 'non classroom' lessons.
- 3.) Examine the history of athletics at the U of M, and the evolution of varsity sports sponsorship.
- 4.) Explore all reasonable financing models for non revenue sports, which would include budget reductions per sport, rethinking scholarships, and additional funding sources.
- 5.) Propose ideas for organizing non revenue sports so that they are aligned with the educational mission of the U of M. Importantly, that sports teams are viewed as educational programs and not viewed as revenue generators for the U of M.

The MAA recommends that the format of the Commission be conducted as open meetings over a period of time (several months) and invite public comment throughout the process. The MAA also hopes that the Commission could fully engage the scholarly resources available within the U of M, offering opportunities to draw on multiple academic disciplines and departments.

