

## Private Donation NSIC Comparisons

University	Private \$ Raised	Teams	Staffing	Other
Bemidji State	\$250,000	N/A	1 FT	N/A
Moorhead	\$200,000	N/A	0 FT	N/A
Southwest Minnesota State	\$113,000	N/A	1.5 FT	N/A
Northern State	1,025,000	0	2.5 FT	Includes ticket sales, corporate sponsors, etc.
Winona State	\$275,000	N/A	1 FT	N/A
Concordia-St. Paul	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wayne State College	\$200,000	\$75,000	0 FT	AD/Coaches
University of Mary	Confidential	Dispersed by VCF	N/A	Coaches and AD NOT ALLOWED TO FUNDRAISE
Upper Iowa University	\$125,000	N/A	1 FT	Asst AD-External Affairs ONLY
Minnesota, Crookston	\$150,000	\$10,000	1FT	N/A

\*Information obtained by intuitions athletic administrators

- UMC athletic department funding by the university is currently considered high as a percent of the total budget but UMC has a higher percent of its student population involved in athletics than other institutions of the university system.

## F. CONSTITUENCIES

*(To view copies of constituency surveys, see Exhibit J - I, J - II, J - III, J - IV, J - V)*

The information gathered for this report was compiled from five surveys. The five surveys consisted of the following:

- Faculty & Staff of UMC (FS Survey)
- Current and Former Students of UMC (CFS Survey)
- Alumni Student-Athletes of UMC (ASA Survey)
- Current Student-Athletes of UMC (CSA Survey)
- Businesses, Organizations & Teambacker Members (BOT Survey)

Approximately 3,000 surveys were sent out via mail and email and 544 surveys were returned. The 544 surveys consisted of 68 Faculty & Staff, 183 Current and Former Students, 66 Alumni Athletes, 99 Current Athletes, 128 Businesses, Organizations & Teambackers. 201 Additional Comments were also given on the returned surveys.

In summarizing this information, the strengths and weaknesses will be listed for the following three options:

1. Remain NCAA Division II program in the NSIC Conference.
2. Become NCAA Division III and join the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference.
3. Become NAIA Division II program and join the Dakota Athletic Conference.

Along with this, other surveys results considered to be neutral will be given and the 201 additional comments will be summarized.

## **Remain NCAA Division II program in the NSIC Conference**

### Strengths:

- If we invest and become more competitive, 33.3% of the surveys indicated that they would be more supportive, while only 3.9% said they would be less supportive, resulting in a net gain of 29.4%.
- If we invest and become more competitive, 25.3% of the surveys indicated that they would provide more financial support, while only 5.1% indicated they would provide less financial support, resulting in a financial increase of 20.2%.
- The ASA Survey indicated that receiving an athletic scholarship was a major consideration for choosing UMC for 35.7% and a minor consideration for 33.3%, while only 31% said it was not a consideration.
- The CSA Survey indicated that being a NCAA Division II program was a major consideration for choosing UMC for 44.4%, minor consideration for 34.3%, and not a consideration for 21.2%.
- The CSA Survey indicated that receiving an athletic scholarship was a major consideration for choosing UMC for 61% and a minor consideration for 12.2%, while only 26.8% said it was not a consideration.

### Weaknesses:

- The ASA Survey indicated that being a member of a NCAA Division II program was not a consideration for choosing UMC for 51%, while only 20.4% indicated it was a major consideration and for 26.5% it was a minor consideration.
- The ASA Survey indicated that being a member of the NSIC conference was not a consideration for choosing UMC for 55.1%, while only 18.4% indicated that it was a major consideration and for 26.5% it was a minor consideration.

## **Become NCAA Division III and join the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference**

### Strengths:

- The surveys included approximately 13 comments regarding the need to join the UMAC.

### Weaknesses:

- The surveys indicated that 12.4% would attend more events, while 29.4% would attend fewer events, for a net loss of 17%
- The surveys indicated that 6.8% would increase financial support, while 23.9% would decrease financial support, for a net loss of 17.1% of financial support.
- The ASA Survey indicated that receiving an athletic scholarship was a major consideration for choosing UMC for 35.7% and a minor consideration for 33.3%, while only 31% said it was not a consideration.

- The CSA Survey indicated that being a NCAA Division II program was a major consideration for choosing UMC for 44.4%, minor consideration for 34.3%, and not a consideration for 21.2%.
- The CSA Survey indicated that if UMC joins the UMAC conference, 51.5% would continue to participate in athletics, however 8.1% said that they would not participate but would stay enrolled and 40.4% would transfer to another college.

### **Become NAIA Division II program and join the Dakota Athletic Conference**

#### Strengths:

- The ASA Survey indicated that receiving an athletic scholarship was a major consideration for choosing UMC for 35.7% and a minor consideration for 33.3%, while only 31% said it was not a consideration.
- The CSA Survey indicated that receiving an athletic scholarship was a major consideration for choosing UMC for 61% and a minor consideration for 12.2%, while only 26.8% said it was not a consideration.
- The CSA survey indicated that if UMC became a NAIA Division II program and joins the DAC conference, 66.3% would continue to participate in athletics, while 5.1% said that they would not continue to participate in athletics but would stay enrolled, and only 28.6% would transfer to another college.

#### Weaknesses:

- The surveys indicated that 13.3% would attend more events, while 23.5% would attend fewer events, for a net loss of 10.2%
- The surveys indicated that 8.5% would increase financial support, while 20% would decrease financial support, for a net loss of 11.5% of financial support.
- The CSA Survey indicated that being a NCAA Division II program was a major consideration for 44.4%, minor consideration for 34.3%, and not a *consideration for 21.2%*

### **Other Surveys Results Considered Neutral**

- The FS Survey indicated that 46.2% are very satisfied, 26.2% are moderately satisfied, and 9.2% are slightly satisfied with Athletic Department interaction and involvement, while only 18.4% are either slightly, moderately, or very dissatisfied.
- The FS Survey indicated that 15.4% do not attend/listen to any athletic events. Of this percent, 6.5% do not enjoy college athletics, 35.5% do not have time for athletic events, 38.7% do not attend due to the teams not being competitive, 19.4% of other.
- The FS Survey indicated that 60% consider the amount of time student athletes spend away from campus due to travel acceptable, while 18.5% consider it not acceptable.
- The FS Survey indicated that 85.3% would provide the same level of accommodation if the student athletes were required to spend more time away from campus due to travel, while 8.8% would provide a higher level of accommodation and 5.9% would provide a lesser level of accommodation.

- The FS Survey indicated that 30% believe that the student athletes are higher quality and better prepared academically since UMC changed national and conference affiliation, while 30% believe that it is that same and 40% believe the student athletes are of lesser quality.
- The CFS Survey indicated that 24.2% do not attend/listen to any athletic events. Of this percent, 41.5% said that it was due to the athletic teams not being competitive.
- The CSA Survey indicated that being a member of the NSIC conference was a major consideration for 20.2%, minor consideration for 31.3%, and not a consideration for 48.5%.
- The CSA Survey indicated that only 11.1% were very satisfied with the practice and game facilities, 43.4% were just satisfied, 22.2% were neutral, 15.2% were dissatisfied, and 8.1% were very dissatisfied.
- The CSA Survey indicated that 36.3% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the number of support staff (assistant coaches, training room, and sports information).

### **Additional Comments**

#### **Approximately 35 comments regarding the University needing to fund athletics, examples:**

“In order for the athletic programs to be successful, they must be funded! If we lose athletes, then we lose money for the University.”

“UMC is not a D3 campus! We do not have the majors to be D3 and if we went to D3 we would lose students from this campus. Also the NAIA in this area is going away and most of the DAC teams are looking to become D2 so why move down? Also the exposure that we receive for being part of the NSIC is way too valuable. People know about the NSIC and its D2 connection. Most people do not know what the NAIA or the UMAC even are. Plus if you look at what has happened at the Morris campus, they went to the UMAC and are still under funded and are not really any better than when they were in the NSIC, Athletics bring in between 1/4 and 1/3 the students on this campus and it is time that these students got the support from faculty members on this campus. If we stay in the NSIC we can drive enrollment for this campus with athletics if it is supported both with money and effort.”

“Creating a task force to weigh out the pros & cons of athletics is important, but at UMC it has hindered the universities fund-raising efforts and placed undue stress on the coaching staff and student athletes. UMC can compete in all athletic venues if sufficient, competitive, invested funds are placed in support of Golden Eagle Athletics. Research has proven that the three most vital areas of investing dollars in Higher Ed Institutions are athletics, development/fund-raising, and admissions. If this occurs, then success will breed and the university will flourish. Staying in the current league is what needs to happen, but then one must feed all areas by funding if success is to occur.”

#### **Approximately 21 comments regarding the need to win, examples:**

“An increase in competitiveness would be beneficial for the whole community, whether this means dropping lower or not, winning creates a better collegiate atmosphere.”

“Need to put out a quality product, success breeds quality support.”

“We need to fund all the programs we offer properly. If that isn’t possible we need to get into a conference that we can favorably compete in so that we can give our athletes and programs a chance for success. SUCCESS IS NECESSARY!”

**Approximately 16 comments regarding the need to stay in the NSIC, examples:**

“I came to UMC to play NCAA Division II basketball for two years after I transferred in. I turned down a lot of other options available to me for that very reason. I would be extremely disappointed if we left the Northern Sun and the Division II level. If a change is made in the next year I cannot honestly say that I will remain at UMC to participate in athletics nor attend school here.”

“I believe that athletes are vital to the University. They add to the overall education to the students and add to their college experience. UMC needs to commit to the NSIC.”

“Looking at potential conferences for our athletic programs to move to, I do believe that we are currently in the right league and level, but need to support athletics in a way that is appropriate to the level of competition that we play against, including staffing, budgets for travel/equipment, and increased budgets for athletics.”

**Approximately 13 comments regarding the need to join the DAC, examples:**

“Should have stayed in the DAC, those were great rivalries to see and go to. More localized and good competition.”

“If UMC can get into a conference like the DAC where we are playing schools that are closely the same size it would only help the program. People don’t have any respect for the football team because we don’t win and if we get into a conference where we’re average with the rest of the schools it would only make us a stronger school.”

“I would be for a change to the DAC-10. I think it would be a better move for UMC. We would compete better and draw more student athletes to UMC.”

**Approximately 13 comments regarding the need to join the UMAC, examples:**

“UMC should play in the same league as the Morris campus. At this point, we are not competitive. I strongly support UMC athletes and enjoy having them in class and make provisions for them.”

“I think that facility improvements are the thing that is most needed regardless of conference affiliation. As a hockey player, I’m in favor of moving to Division 3 because I really believe UMC would become a national power due to the area we are located in and the players we could attract if given decent facilities/funding.”

“I think that it would be a good idea for UMC athletics to become a Division III school.”

**Approximately seven comments regarding the need to stay the course, examples:**

“I realize sometime when you are on a pattern of growth that you experience a time that you want to step back. I think this is natural when you have a down turn, but I still believe you want to stay the course. It will be best five to 10 years from now. You have to believe that you can grow.”

“Division II has not been given adequate time for UMC to become competitive. Stay the course for at least another five years.”

“I think changing from NCAA Division II would lead to less student athletes. Overtime DII could be structured with different levels as is done in DI in the NCAA. Also more small area public colleges could become members of DII. Would NCAA work with these colleges to see what keeps them from becoming a NCAA member of what could be done to help them considering joining. Not sure NAIA or DIII is a long term solutions for UMC athletics.”