

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following sections provide a brief summary of the gathered information from each subcommittee of the Athletic Review Committee.

1. Facilities:

The upgraded facilities that UMC needs to be competitive regardless of affiliation are apparent from the committee report. The need for a new fitness/recreation center is recognized and being planned, locker rooms need upgrading, Lysaker Gymnasium has become outdated and needs extensive remodeling and outdoor football, baseball and soccer fields need upgrading. The ice rink for hockey at the Crookston Civic Arena is also in need of renovation.

2. Support Systems

Using information shared with us by other schools, our committee found that UMC is understaffed and under-funded compared to other universities within our conference.

There are services efforts in place for student athletes that include orientation sessions, student support through counseling and career services, mentor systems, faculty advisors, disability services, mandatory study table for student athletes, student support services, academic assistance center, diversity and multicultural affairs, student health services and faculty advisor. The support systems in place should be reviewed to assure the student athlete is provided with all necessary support to remain athletically and academically successful.

In the findings, UMC falls into a lower percentage in the NSIC for athletic training staff, administrative assistants, assistant athletic directors, sports information staff, coaching staff and graduate assistants. UMC is more comparable with support staff in the UMAC and the DAC (*to view support systems, see Exhibit E*).

3. Conference Affiliation

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Dakota Athletic Conference (DAC) advantages: possibility of being more competitive, depending on sport; similar size institutions with similar investments in operating budgets and staffing; travel distances and expenses are compatible; staffing seems to be more comparable; continued ability to offer athletic scholarships, and waivers of tuition are allowed in the DAC.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) advantages: possibility of being more competitive – similar size institutions with similar investments in operating budgets and staffing; men's hockey will have a long-term solution and all other sport programs would be viable; the NCAA provides conference staff, sports information positions, grants and marketing strategies that can increase visibility and support recruitment efforts.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) advantages: membership in the NSIC and the ability to offer scholarships has increased the number of student athletes and students of color; the NCAA provides conference staff, sports information positions, grants and marketing strategies that can increase visibility and support recruitment efforts where we draw a majority of our students; the NCAA provides a balance between institutional controls and compliance with rules and regulations

4. Educational

The subcommittee report indicates that UMC student athlete's academic record compares very favorably in most areas including graduation rates for NCAA Division II colleges and the main campus of the University of Minnesota. Other findings include the percentage of student athletes at UMC is significantly higher compared to schools in the Dakota Athletic Conference (DAC) in the NAIA, the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) in the NCAA Division III and Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) in NCAA Division II. Another finding is the limited number of majors available to students at UMC compared to the three conferences who were significantly higher.

From the data available, it is noted that UMC has a larger percentage of minority student athletes compared to the DAC. Information on minority student athletes could not be obtained from the UMAC or the NSIC. NCAA Division II athletics brings diversity to the UMC campus. According to Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, 42 percent of all students of color on the UMC campus have been recruited by coaches in various athletic programs and participate in varsity competition.

5. Fiscal and Personnel

The UMC Athletic Department budget is currently \$1.7 million, which ranks last in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC), while the NCAA Division II average is approximately \$2.6 million. The mean in the NSIC is \$2.6 million, UMAC mean is \$0.7 million and the DAC mean is \$1 million. Financial reporting is inconsistent between conferences and within a conference. The subcommittee attempted to supplement the information with a questionnaire; however, institutions did not complete information requested and the variables in reporting information is so significant that equivalent comparisons are not possible. Differences in personnel (number of coaches and salaries) are very similar to the differences in total athletic department expenses as documented in the Athletic Task Force FY 05 data.

For UMC to be competitive in the North Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC), funding levels would need to be increased to bring us closer to the average. As a result, private fundraising efforts would also need to be improved.

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.

6. Constituencies

The information was compiled from five surveys which included faculty and staff; current and former students; alumni athletes; current athletes; businesses; organizations; and Teambacker members. These surveys indicated that athletic programs must be successful and more competitive in order to attract greater private financial support and overall participation.