

# **UNM Athletics**

**Criteria Considered  
for Discontinuation of Sports**



# A Healthy and Competitive Athletics Program

- UNM conducted a fair and objective analysis and review that was thorough in the collection and assessment of the acquired data and supplementary information
- We no longer have the resources to support 22 competitive Division I athletic teams
- UNM Athletics is committed to maintaining high academic standards, providing student-athletes with an excellent athletic experience and remaining competitive in a Division I conference

# 22 Current Sponsored Varsity Sports

## ■ Men's

- Baseball
- Basketball\*\*
- Cross-country running
- Football\*\*
- Golf
- Skiing\*
- Soccer\*
- Tennis
- Track and field (indoor)
- Track and field (outdoor)

## ■ Women's

- Basketball\*\*
- Beach Volleyball\*
- Cross-country running
- Golf
- Skiing\*
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving
- Tennis
- Track and field (indoor)
- Track and field (outdoor)
- Volleyball\*\*

\* doesn't compete in the Mountain West conference

\*\* sports required by Mountain West conference bylaws

# National Landscape

- More than two dozen universities have eliminated varsity sports programs in the past five years to address financial, gender equity or other concerns, and despite the significant impact on student-athletes, this option had to be considered
- In the past 5 years, 65 Men's teams have been dropped and 49 Women's teams.

# Criteria for Continuation of UNM Sports Offerings – Foundational

- **Finances:** Impact on finances, including costs, revenues, associated costs, to support individual programs (Strength & Conditioning, Athletic Training, Academic Advisors, etc.)
- **Title IX:** Compliance with federal equity laws; necessity to try and continue to sponsor women's sports with large participation numbers
- **Conference Affiliation:** In order to continue to compete at the Division I level, UNM must sponsor a minimum of 16 varsity sports and to remain a member of the Mountain West conference, we must sponsor football, men's and women's basketball and Indoor volleyball; ability for UNM to be competitive; costs associated with conference travel; number of programs sponsored in the NCAA

# Criteria for Continuation of UNM Sports Offerings - Ancillary

- **Impact:** Number of student-athletes, coaches and staff impacted by elimination
- **Facilities:** Financial resources needed to build or maintain competitive facilities; costs of facility maintenance; opportunity for success in recruiting and competition
- **Program History:** Recent and long-term on-field success of a program; number and impact of alumni from program
- **Impact/Support:** Fan and community interest in program; impact on local and state communities; regional impact; and factor on institution
- **Private Support:** Donor support of program; number of endowments, if any
- **Scheduling:** Conference scheduling; travel partners; levels of competition; and ability for postseason competition
- **Academics:** Academic performance including Academic Progress Rate (APR) and Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of a program; and impact on Department academics

# Limited Options

- The internal and external financial audit reports, the Title IX audit and the significant accumulating deficit gave the process urgency and left UNM with few good options
- “We are better off supporting fewer sports and doing it well, than stretching ourselves too thin and compromising the high-quality experience our student-athletes should expect from this institution.” Garnett S. Stokes, April 10, 2018, BOR F&F Meeting

# Approved Actions

- Effective July 1, 2019, UNM Athletics will no longer sponsor men's and women's skiing, beach volleyball and men's soccer as varsity sports;
- UNM will honor the scholarships of all current student-athletes in the four affected sports as well as the phasing out of diving, through their graduations, as long as they remain in good academic standing;
- The Department of Athletics will also discontinue the diving program and immediately institute a Roster Management Plan for men's cross country, as well as outdoor and indoor track & field and many of our other sports.



# Actions Over the Next 12 Months

- The Department of Athletics will continue to examine its organizational structure, operational budgets and long-term expenses and make necessary and prudent changes to reduce expenses prior to the start of FY2020
- The Department of Athletics will aggressively pursue new and additional revenue streams prior to the start of FY2020
- The Department of Athletics will ensure that it continues to work toward Title IX compliance and make all necessary changes and adjustments to ensure compliance
- The Department of Athletics will further engage with constituents, including students, faculty, alumni, donors, Regents, local and state officials and community members to strengthen the Department by ensuring the long-term financial stability and competitiveness of our sports programs