

# **UNM Athletics**

**Simple Answers to Complex Questions**



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# Timing of the Analysis and Review Being Released Before BOR Decision

- The process and development of this report has been widely publicized since April, 2018
- Materials informing the direction of the report have been communicated and posted publicly on the President's web site as available and (financial documents, Title IX report, updates to UNM community)
- A self-imposed July 1 deadline for the final analysis needed to be extended due to the complexities of these very weighty decisions. With the BOR meeting set for July 19, time was needed to fine-tune the recommendations and allow administrative review
- There was no intent to keep information from the public – the narrow timeframe for administrative review, while ensuring enough notice would be given to affected student-athletes factored in the late release

# How Much Will it Cost to Save Sports?

- Simply coming up with funding to cover costs will not “save” a sport(s)
  - First, we need to increase our funding to all areas in our department and just not simply maintain the current funding levels - the costs to support our teams and student-athletes have continually increased and, moving forward, they will only grow
  - Second, the plan approved by the BOR is not just for the upcoming year - rather, it is a long-range plan to ensure the stability of the department
  - Lastly, funding is only one part of the challenge, as we must also make decisions that will put us in compliance with federal law of Title IX, by balancing the participation opportunities more equitably

# Was the Process Fair and Transparent?

- This has been widely publicized and been discussed publicly, and the Title IX report specified specific recommendations for consideration
- Process included community input
  - All coaches and two student representatives from each sport were included
  - Interviews of additional stakeholders were taken into consideration
  - Members of the public and organizations requested and were granted one-on-one meetings with the AD and President
- After reviewing the analysis and review, the President had individual discussions with members of the BOR
  - This is appropriate and does not constitute a rolling quorum
- The BOR heard over 2.5 hours of public comment before making a decision
  - The BOR decision was not predetermined
- It would have been ideal to have more time for public input once the report was complete. However, the contents should not come as a complete surprise. The driver in timing was to have a final determination in time for student-athletes affected to make decisions concerning their futures.

# Why Didn't UNM Ask for Assistance or Funding in Previous Years?

- UNM Athletics has been subject to the same cuts as the University
  - 8.2% since FY16
- For the past several years, since the significant differential in recurring appropriations between UNM and NMSU was instituted, UNM has requested HAFC add-ons and Senate Finance Committee amendments to House Bill 2 in order to equalize the state appropriate for Division 1 schools. We anticipate making this request once again in 2019.

# Why Not Cut Football?

- UNM wants to stay in the Mountain West and remain a FBS Division I football team
  - Without football, there will be a significant loss of NCAA and Mountain West funding
  - Discontinuing football would eliminate a significant amount of scholarship opportunities
- According the Mountain West bylaws under minimum sports sponsorship, “Each member institution shall field varsity teams in football, women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball, one women’s team sport and addition men’s and women’s sports as prescribed by the NCAA to maintain Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) membership.”
- The Lobo football program will also be subject to roster management and other cost containment measures

# Who is to Blame?

- Our financial challenges run deep and include an accumulated deficit in addition to annual budget shortfalls - After years of administrative kick-the-can, there is no one person or persons to blame
- UNM Athletics continued to spend money that it simply did not have and we must make the difficult decisions now to ensure that UNM Athletics remains competitive and sustainable
- Concurrently, an independent Title IX assessment revealed that UNM would be non-compliance with federal laws in providing equal opportunities for both male and female athletes after June 30<sup>th</sup>,2018. This inequity must be addressed

# Was this Really the Only Option?

- This was a complex and multi-layered deliberation
- The only other comprehensive option would be to fully fund Beach Volleyball, our Ski programs, Roster Manage all remaining men's and women's teams and add an additional women's sport(s) while also addressing all Title IX facility needs as recommended in our Assessment.
- UNM simply does not have the financial ability to address the current sport offerings, provide the necessary support staff, address the facility needs, provide support to the student athlete wellbeing and the continual emphasis of adding New women's sports offerings.



# Can't this Decision be Postponed?

- The timing was deliberate to afford affected student-athletes a year's notice, as promised, and time to transfer, if they chose to do so
- The deficit reduction plan, accepted by both the UNM BOR and the HED, calls for cost containment measures totaling \$ 2,450,000 as well as Grant In Aid subsidies of \$975,000 resulting in a total reoccurring reduction of \$3,425,000 to be eliminated from the annual budget - delay would increase the existing deficit