

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**  
**FINANCIAL CRISIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, October 3, 2016**

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**1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Wyoming Student Union Family Room; University of Wyoming Campus**

**AGENDA**

Call to Order .....	1
Roll Call and Approval of Minutes.....	1
Public Session	
I.    Report on Budget Reduction Target – Athletics – Athletics Director Tom Burman.....	1
II.   Public Comment.....	3
III.  Executive Session .....	3
Adjournment .....	3

**Call to Order**

Chair Steve Bieber called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Roll Call and Approval of Minutes**

Committee members present included: University President Laurie Nichols, Provost Kate Miller, Vice President for Administration Bill Mai, Dean of the College of Law Klint Alexander, Dean of the Outreach School Susan Frye, Dr. Frederic Sterbenz, Dr. Robert Sprague, Dr. R. McGregor Cawley, Committee Chair Steve Bieber, Ms. Molly Marcusse, Mr. Kevin Colman, Ms. Rachel Stevens, and Mr. Joel Defebaugh.

**Public Session**

**Report on Budget Reduction Target – Athletics – Athletics Director Tom Burman**

Athletics Director Burman thanked the committee for allowing him to present his budget reduction targets. He explained that his division was asked to take a \$1.2 million budget reduction. Athletics Director Burman stated that the largest area of reductions for the division of Athletics was through a reduction in personnel. He noted that some of these positions had already been vacated and UW Athletics did not plan to fill these positions or had been vacated due to retirements. Athletics Director Burman added that one position had been moved from half Section I and half Section II funding to being completely funded by Section II monies. He stated that there had also been a savings realized through the change in the head basketball coach and assistant basketball coaches' salaries.

Athletics Director Burman explained that through these reductions, team travel costs as well as nutrition expenses would need to be reduced. He stated that travel had been projected to be cheaper for the next year in part because teams had reduced the number of athletes and coaches that travel to away competitions. Athletics Director Burman added that currently every student athlete who attended the University of Wyoming was given an iPad to be used as an academic tool and a practice tool. He explained that often times many of the student athletes at UW came from backgrounds where they could not afford these specific technological needs. However, this was a program that would be done away with as the budget reductions were implemented. Athletics Director Burman noted that there would also be a reduction made to the summer school programs that are currently funded through UW Athletics for student athletes.

Athletics Director Burman noted that there would be a delay in purchasing new uniforms for numerous UW sports teams and a reduction in team apparel. He added that there would also be a reduction in the recruiting budgets for the numerous UW sports teams. Athletics Director Burman explained that a large portion of team recruitment took place outside the state of Wyoming, which required additional costs. He noted that there would also be a reduction in game guarantees for Men's and Women's Basketball, explaining that this meant these teams would play one fewer home game than in previous seasons. Athletics Director Burman explained that all contracts that UW Athletics currently held had been looked at and were renegotiated if necessary, or were ended if services could be performed in house. He added that two of these services dealt with advertisements and promotional videos. Athletics Director Burman concluded his remarks by stating that it was the goal of UW Athletics to make reductions to their division without causing harm to the student athletes. He added that there were many critical areas that could not be reduced so that a focus remained on student athlete health and well-being.

A member of the FCAC asked about revenue generation from basketball games. Athletics Director Burman explained that most often revenue for home basketball games was generated through ticket sales and concession revenue, adding that it costs more to attend away games. Another member of the FCAC asked if there were any areas that had been cut that could be reinstated through donor supported funds, specifically the ability of UW Athletics to provide an iPad to each of its student athletes. Athletics Director Tom Burman explained that this was a possible option that could be explored. He added that there would be other areas that might need to receive funds of that nature first including team travel as inflation continued to affect these prices. Athletics Director Burman stated that if donor funds were raised for any of these items to be reinstated there would need to be a list of priorities created to assist in the use of these funds.

A member of the FCAC asked if there would be the possibility for UW Athletics to become self-supporting through the use of donor funds. Athletics Director Burman explained that this would be an impossible scenario, adding that there were only 15 schools in the country that were self-supporting, and many of these schools received \$30-40 million in television revenue. Another member of the FCAC asked how the revenue growth line provided to the committee had been calculated. Athletics Director Burman explained that as noted earlier as UW Athletics examined their budget they wanted to achieve their target reductions with as little harm done to the student athletes as possible. He added that next year there would be some clear revenue enhancement opportunities based on different teams that UW Athletics would face in the coming year. Athletics Director Burman explained that based on a number of years of data revenue had increased on a consistent basis.

A member of the FCAC asked what areas Athletics Director Burman would reinstate if the UW Athletics \$1.2 million reduction was decreased. Athletics Director Burman stated that he would reinstate the summer school programs, adding that this was an important component for student athletes. He also stated he would add additional funding back into the recruitment budget. Another member of the FCAC asked if any sports were at risk based on the reductions being made. Athletics Director Burman explained that UW currently had 17 sports but was only required by the NCAA to have 16 sports, adding that none of these sports were at risk; some had just taken larger hits than others.

A member of the FCAC asked for additional information regarding the team apparel that would be put on hold due to the budget reductions. Athletics Director Burman explained that these cuts would eliminate practice gear and would delay the purchase of new game apparel. He added that this was not an expense that could be reduced indefinitely because these sports teams represent UW and should dress accordingly, noting that these processes would be managed differently in the future to remain more budget conscious. Another member of the FCAC asked where the Section II funds would come from for the position that was moved to complete Section II funding. Athletics Director Burman explained that these funds would come from the Cowboy Joe Club, specifically because the Cowboy Joe Club benefited greatly from this position.

A member of the FCAC asked about the earning potential for the Cowboy Joe Club on a yearly basis. Athletics Director Burman explained that on average the Cowboy Joe Club raised nearly \$5 million in gross revenues a year, adding that this did not include any capital construction projects.

He added that the Cowboy Joe Club had 4,500 members making it the largest booster organization in the Mountain West Conference.

Members of the FCAC asked if UW Athletics was in compliance with all Title IX requirements. Athletics Director Burman explained that UW had balanced its sports to comply with these requirements. University President Nichols asked about the money that UW Athletics returns to UW each year. Athletics Director Burman explained that each year UW Athletics returns \$2.4 million as its obligation to the general fund. He added that since his time as athletics director, UW Athletics had always operated in the black, which was not always common.

### **Public Comment**

A member of the campus community asked how the NCAA requirements were affecting the UW Athletics budget. She added that many of these requirements were assumed as safety and well-being requirements of the UW student athletes, however she questioned if all of these measures were necessary.

Athletics Director Burman stated that the NCAA required that all helmets be certified and undergo federal review to assist with safety measures of football players. He added that each athlete wore a specific type of helmet that varied in cost, noting that some athletes were more susceptible to concussions causing them to require a special helmet. Athletics Director Burman explained that UW would enforce many of the same regulations that the NCAA does, even if they were not required by the NCAA, as they were the correct way to conduct business and support the student athletes.

A representative from ASUW asked if coaching staff utilized technologies such as Huddle and Skype to recruit students without the need to travel as frequently.

Athletics Director Burman stated that these technologies were in use by the coaching staffs to help evaluate students, however sometimes these coaches needed to make a personal connection with the student and their high school coaches to seal the deal of these students attending UW.

### **Adjournment**

The committee entered into Executive Session at 1:31. Following Executive Session, Dr. Cawley moved that the committee adjourn the meeting. Mr. Coleman seconded. The committee adjourned at 1:42 p.m.