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Senate Resolution SR-02F-1602 Opposing the UNF Athletic Program's Move to Division I for the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year

Student Government Association
University of North Florida

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SR-02F-1602: Opposing the UNF Athletic Program's move to Division I for the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year.

Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent student concerns in all University wide matters, and;

Whereas: The University of North Florida Athletic Program has had multiple successes as both a NAIA and NCAA Division II school, winning multiple national championships in several sports, as well as the Commissioner’s Cup of the Peach Belt Athletic Conference on three consecutive occasions, and;

Whereas: The University of North Florida Athletic Program is funded by student athletic fees by anywhere between 88% and 92% each year since its inception, and;

Whereas: The University of North Florida Athletic Program uses facilities, including, but not limited to: the UNF Arena; the Dottie Dorion Fitness Center; the Soccer and Track Stadium; the UNF Aquatic Center; and the current three-lane practice track and others for the purposes of practice, training, and competition, and;

Whereas: All of the above mentioned facilities were built with Capital Improvement Trust Fund (CITF) dollars, derived from student tuition and fees, and;

Whereas: In order for a move to Division I to occur, the Department of Athletics would require a raise in their current student fee to accommodate the new costs and expenses associated with becoming a Division I school, as well as the need to "(allow) for creation and support of a reasonable contingency fund," and;

Whereas: The report, “UNF Athletics: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,” fails to mention that none of the financial aspects of the plan are guaranteed in any way as long as the 40% cap of on local fees is in place by the Florida Legislature, and;

Whereas: The same report also fails to mention that the facilities that athletics require “highest priority” of usage are funded solely by student activity and service fees and in no way, shape, or form by the Department of Athletics, and;

Whereas: The same report also suggests that the Department of Recreation, currently supported heavily by the Activity and Service Fee, should be moved under the supervision of the Department of Athletics so that conflicts between athletic programs and student programming, student intramural recreation, and revenue generating opportunities will no longer exist, and;

Whereas: Such a move of the Department of Recreation will affect its ability to provide activities and services to the students of the University of North Florida, for which this department was created, and;
Whereas: In addition to issues with funding, governance, and facilities, a move from Division II to Division I would also force all 17 sports to not be competitive for championships for up to five years, therefore disenfranchising our current student-athletes and those yet to come, and;

Whereas: The move to Division I, as proposed by the Department of Athletics, has not had the time to be properly researched and discussed, and alternative proposals should be allowed to be made, and;

Therefore: Let it be resolved by the Student Senate of the University of North Florida, which represents each of the nearly 14,000 students of the University, that we recommend that the move from NCAA Division II to NCAA Division I be postponed for a minimum of one year for further research and study before an official decision is made, and;

Further: Let it be further resolved that this recommendation be forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs, the University President, and each member of the University of North Florida Board of Trustees.

STUDENT SENATE ACTION
Respectfully Submitted: Legislative Cabinet
Introduced by: Senate President Jordan Schemmel
Senate Action: Passed 24:03:03
Date: November 7, 2002
Signed, Jordan Schemmel, Student Senate President