

The M Club discussed the recent recommendations from the President's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics at our November 15th Board Meeting. We would like to provide feedback about the four recommendations and appreciate the forum of presenting to the Athletic Council on November 17th to do so.

Recommendation #1: Reduce expenses by reducing the number of teams and the cost of administration.

In summary, the M Club feels that our primary priority should be to finding ways to save these teams from being cut. The M Club thinks that cutting sports could hurt future terrapin recruiting efforts because athletes of non-revenue sports may be worried about committing to the University of Maryland should teams face similar concerns in the future. Ideally, we would like to see fundraising efforts be proposed prior to the cutting of teams. However, should teams need to be cut and this recommendation is confirmed, we would hope that the University would allow the Athletic Department to fundraise in order to save these teams. The M Club wants to donate \$1 million dollars toward fundraising that will save all of these teams from being cut. (Should the total goal not be reached and all teams are not saved, I will have to go back to our board for final approval.) The M Club feels strongly that it should not just be up to each team to raise the money on its own. We want to propose that all teams get involved in raising this money in conjunction with future fundraising efforts. We would like seek guidance in an advisory capacity in setting S.M.A.R.T. goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely) in order to coordinate these efforts with "Friends of" groups and past student athletes that want to donate to this cause. We want to use our connections with prior and current student athletes in all sports to work to save these teams for the long run at the University of Maryland.

Several teams have contacted us and requested that we present ideas that they have come up with to cut their budgets. One suggestion that was posed was that teams be allowed to continue competing, but without scholarships. Another suggestion was to increase marketing for non-revenue sports such as lacrosse, field hockey, and soccer in order to increase the amount of money that these sports bring into the Athletic Department and the University of Maryland. This would also help to cut down on expenses.

Several teams are working to get their ideas to the M Club so that we can present them to the Athletic Council, Kevin Anderson, and to President Loh. The M Club would like to request that all teams be given the opportunity to review their annual expenditures in order to find ways to decrease expenses. We feel that all sports should be held accountable since we are 27 sports: 1 team. We request the time to do this and to present revised budgets to President Loh prior to the final decision to cut these teams. We also would like to request that charges to the Athletic Department by other campus facilities be looked at and compared to those charged by other universities nationwide.

Recommendation #2: Revamp outreach and fundraising activities.

The M Club is very concerned about the wording of our role as detailed on pages 22-24. Specifically on page 22, number 1, bullet 2. The current wording reads:

"The new Executive Director of the M-Club will work to transition the M-Club from giving/promotion or recognition of former student athletes, to accomplishing fundraising through the organization. He will also support other developmental efforts (both major gift and annual fund, as appropriate, based on his longstanding relationships with University donors.)"

Our organization has very specific by-laws and rules that it must follow as an "affiliated organization." The M Club would be in violation of the Board of Regents and the NCAA if control of the M Club is

passed from its independent board to the Athletic Department. The current reading of this bullet and the outline of the new organizational structure indicate that the M Club be put under an arm of the Terrapin Club. The M Club would like to affirm that coordinated efforts are important but that our independence is essential. The control must remain in the hands of the M Club board and all tasks assigned to the Executive Director are assigned administered and controlled by the M Club board, in consultation with the Athletic Department. The M Club would like to explore opportunities to help with outreach and fundraising, but does not want to be “transitioned” completely into this role. We would like to see the wording changed and suggest the following (changes are made in bold font):

“The new Executive Director of the M-Club will work to **expand** the M-Club from **solely** giving/promotion or recognition of former student athletes, to accomplishing fundraising through the organization. He will also support other developmental efforts (both major gift and annual fund, as appropriate, based on his longstanding relationships with University donors.)”

Recommendation #3: Reinvest resources in the remaining teams to enhance academic support, fitness, health care, and media relations services.

“The mission of the M Club shall be too preserve, protect, and enhance the history and traditions of the University of Maryland College Park Athletics for present and future generations of Maryland athletes, alumni, and fans.” The M Club wants to explore the possibility in supporting Athletic Department initiatives that fall under our mission statement of “Athletes Helping Athletes.” These may include some items addressed by the student welfare committee. However, we would like this recommendation to pertain to all teams (not just the “remaining teams” as written above), even those that were recommended to be cut.

Recommendation #4: Reformat annual reports disclosing ICA expenses, revenues, reserves, and progress toward repayment of the operating and facilities debts so they are more clearly stated.

The M Club is in agreement of the University’s plans to hold the ICA accountable for its finances.

We truly appreciate the Athletic Council, Athletic Department, and University Administration seriously considering the M Club’s feedback as we move forward toward the next stage in this process. We regret that we were not involved in the initial committees on a more substantial basis, but want you to know that we truly value that all of us are working toward the same mission and are on the same team. We hope to more closely work with committees in the future because we feel that our longstanding organization can provide valuable insight toward issues such as the budget crisis in the Athletic Department. Please continue to keep the M Club up-to-date with this process and to let us know how we can help provide solutions to these challenging issues.

Thank you for your time

Marjorie Bollinger Baker
M Club President

11.15.11