

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus


Office of the President

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## MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2003


To: Professor Judith Martin, Chair, Faculty Consultative Committee  
Professor Arthur Erdman, Vice Chair, Faculty Consultative Committee

From: Robert H. Bruininks, President 

Subject: Principles: Proposed New Gopher Football Stadium

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I have had an opportunity to review the principles and concepts of the FCC regarding the new proposed Gopher football stadium. I find these principles very thoughtful and quite consistent with the revised, original principles of the Board of Regents. We will work very hard to integrate the spirit and concepts of this list in relationship to the Board's framework. I want to do everything possible to keep some consistency in the organization of the original Board of Regents' framework, since members of the Board have worked diligently over the past fifteen months with the existing statement. That statement was developed in very close consultation with the FCC, so I do not anticipate any particular difficulty here.

There are a few areas that I look forward to discussing with members of the FCC. I still believe there is some misunderstanding of our longer-term aspirations and goals for the Athletics budget, but I substantially agree with principle number two. My long-term aspiration and goal is to  develop greater self-sufficiency and less state subsidy in the Athletics budget, a sentiment shared by Athletics Director, Joel Maturi, as well. I do think we need to pay special recognition to the intent of the legislature to provide the University with a substantial appropriation (approximately 3.5 million dollars) to support the Women's Intercollegiate Athletics Program and the University's Title IX responsibilities. There is additional sensitivity with respect to the extraordinary burden of out-of-state tuition on Athletics that will remain until we can secure more scholarship funding (a major goal at the moment). Additionally, we still need to honor some pre-existing agreements that were established some years ago to bridge modest costs on facilities. Other than those considerations, I find myself in substantial agreement with this position. One thing that has helped me immensely in this process is the strong support of the FCC for linking academic purposes to any discussion of stadium issues. I shared our most recent conversations on this topic with the leadership of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association this past Friday and Saturday. I suggested to them that a commitment of financial resources for the stadium would send a much more powerful message to the University and outside communities if it was accompanied by a strong commitment to our academic mission.

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On Saturday, the University of Minnesota Alumni Association committed \$1,000,000 to the proposed stadium project and \$500,000 in new revenues to a student scholarship and fellowship initiative. Under the new fundraising plan for student support, I indicated that we would match the commitment on a payout basis. One of the things I thought was most interesting was that the Board debated the issue at some length (approximately 20 minutes). Sandy Gardebring and I were outside the room and speculating that perhaps the idea that we had proposed by combining scholarship funding with a stadium commitment was running into some resistance. When the Board adjourned, we subsequently learned that the main debate was about whether they could afford to do more in support of our academic mission. They agreed to make the \$500,000 commitment now and committed themselves to work diligently over the next twelve months to determine whether they could deepen the commitment to student scholarships through their own independent fundraising and revenue sources. I found the discussion inspirational and the UMAA Board was wildly enthusiastic about making this statement in support of students in the academic mission of the University. Without your help, it might have been a more difficult "sell." As we proceed, I want to continue the process of positioning any fundraising for the stadium in a way that complements and strongly supports the University's academics and needs.

I look forward to talking with you further about these issues, but quite frankly I am hoping we will have much more time to talk about the academic mission and directions of the University of Minnesota. Thanks for your help.

RHB/law

cc: Kathryn F. Brown, Vice President and Chief of Staff  
Carol Wells, Professor, Lab, Medicine & Pathology  
Gary Balas, Professor, Aerospace Engineering & Mechanics  
Charles Campbell, Professor, Physics & Astronomy  
Gary Davis, Professor, Behavioral Sciences  
Daniel Feeney, Professor, Small Animal Clinical Science  
John Fossum, Professor, Industrial Relations Center  
Emily Hoover, Professor, Horticultural Science  
Fred Morrison, Professor, Law School  
Martin Sampson, Professor, Political Science  
Jean Bauer, Professor, Family Social Science  
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Mary Jo Kane, Professor, Tucker Center for Research  
Marvin Marshak, Professor, Physics  
Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Professor, Psychology