

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO

-STUDENT FEE GOVERNING BOARD REQUEST- FISCAL YEAR 2026

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Department: | Intercollegiate Athletics |
| Fee: | Student Fee for Athletics |
| Submitted by: | Paul Plinske, Vice President for Athletics and Strategic Partnerships |
| Fee Increase Request: | From \$16.25 to \$16.75 per student (per credit hour); increase of \$.50 |

MISSION AND VISION

The mission of Intercollegiate Athletics is to develop champions through academic excellence, athletic achievement and community engagement with the ultimate goal of building productive citizens. Our vision is to be an athletic powerhouse and the standard for holistic student-athlete development and academic opportunity.

VALUE OF ATHLETICS

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics is a vital part of Colorado State University Pueblo as it impacts our students, employees and community. As a long-time and successful member of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) and NCAA Division II, the ThunderWolves bolster the mission and vision of the University in many unique, impactful and transformative ways.

Pack Athletics offer an array of benefits and enhancements to CSU Pueblo. From providing countless opportunities for students from all over the world, college athletics offer student athletes valuable, practical life skills such as sportsmanship, time management, communication and conflict resolution. Their participation in sport enriches their educational experience and plays a significant role in enhancing the overall learning environment for all students.

Athletics is often viewed as the “front porch of an institution”. In this context, college athletics helps the institution’s brand reputation and can serve as a significant driver of outside interest, engagement and opportunities to bolster enrollment. CSU Pueblo student-athletes account for approximately 18 to 22% of the undergraduate student body per year and many of our athletes play a significant role in bringing others to CSU Pueblo.

Our alumni take great pride in supporting a strong athletics program. There is a sense of connection to the institution and their individual donations help us remain strong and sustainable. Our alumni also support our student-athletes on game day and have assisted them with internships and opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Our student-athletes exemplify diversity. They represent all walks of life while participating in intercollegiate athletics at CSU Pueblo. Over 60% of our student-athletes are ethnic minorities and approximately 70 student-athletes per year come from countries outside the United States.

Athletics also provides recognition on a national level. State-of-the-art athletic facilities draw attention to CSU Pueblo, and our success captures the interest of prospective students and athletes. Athletics bring local and national stakeholders to CSU Pueblo, improving our university and the surrounding community.

Athletics raises significant external revenue and our student-athletes provide a positive net tuition revenue gain for the institution. With approximately 600 student-athletes on campus, many receive partial financial aid assistance and pay to attend the university. The revenue generated by student-athletes outweighs the costs to support them.

Finally, Athletics provides opportunities for student engagement and community involvement. Sporting events give all students, faculty and staff a team to cheer for and a reason to stay on campus. This helps bring greater school spirit and pride to those who choose to engage with our student-athletes and Pack Athletics.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Intercollegiate Athletics fulfills a critical role in the attainment of the University's mission and vision. Since August 2024, we have experienced great success in our Athletic Department. Here are specific examples of how Intercollegiate Athletics is working to make a difference at CSU Pueblo.

Fall 2024 Semester Highlights

Academic Excellence

- 3.216 combined GPA
- 87 Student-Athletes with Above 4.0 GPA
- One Academic All-American (Shjon Andrews, men's soccer)

Athletic Achievement

- 3rd in LEARFIELD Fall Directors' Cup standings (out of 305 NCAA Division II institutions)
 - i. NCAA Division II Championships – 3rd Place – Women's Cross Country
 - ii. NCAA Division II Championships – 3rd Place – Men's Soccer
 - iii. NCAA Division II Championships – 9th Place – Football
 - iv. NCAA Division II Championships – 14th Place – Men's Cross Country
- Three RMAC Players of the Year, Football and Men's Soccer (Offensive and Defensive)
- Two RMAC Titles, Football and Men's Soccer
- One RMAC Tournament Championship, Men's Soccer
- One RMAC Runner-Up, Women's Cross Country
- One RMAC Coach of the Year (Oliver Twelvetrees, men's soccer)
- Nine All-American performances

Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships

- Special Events with Advancement Office, Alumni Association and Foundation
 - Conducted ThunderWolves Golf Classic (25 corporate teams)
 - Hosted two Alumni Tailgates at home football
- Partnerships with School District 60 and 70
 - Facility Use Agreements and Special Events
- Title IX Sexual Assault Training with Office of Institutional Equity
- Collaboration with Pueblo YMCA and Boys and Girls Club
 - Community Service Day (Love Your Y Day)
 - Junior ThunderWolves

HISTORY OF ATHLETICS AND STUDENT FEES

CSU Pueblo currently sponsors 20 varsity sports. This year, we serve 578 student-athletes, including 30 cheer and dance members. This amount represents approximately 20-22% of CSU Pueblo's undergraduate student body. This number includes a reduction of 30 male sport participants from our men's lacrosse team following the spring sport season in 2024. As shown in the chart below, the percentage of student-athletes on campus has grown steadily since 2014-15, while our enrollment has declined.

| | <u>Undergraduate Students</u> | <u>Student-Athletes</u> | <u>Percentage of All Students</u> |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | 4,227 | 607 | 14% |
| 2015-16 | 3,362 | 618 | 18% |
| 2016-17 | 3,391 | 569 | 17% |
| 2017-18 | 3,744 | 542 | 14% |
| 2018-19 | 3,630 | 532 | 15% |
| 2019-20 | 2,909 | 577 | 20% |
| 2020-21 | 2,728 | 613 | 22% |
| 2021-22 | 1,997 | 636 | 32% |
| 2022-23 | 2,434 | 675 | 28% |
| 2023-24 | 2,721 | 640 | 24% |
| 2024-25 | TBD | 578 | TBD |

*Undergraduate enrollment numbers pulled from NCAA Annual Report submitted by CSU Pueblo. These are full-time, student-fee paying students.

Over the years, Athletics has relied heavily on Student Fee Revenue to support student-athlete scholarships, sport operations and administrative costs. From year to year, this funding fluctuates and isn't overly clear until the fall and spring semesters census occurs. As the chart below depicts, Athletics has increased its participation numbers since 2020-21, yet the overall amount of financial support from Student Fees has decreased. This has played a role in our ability to serve our student-athletes and sustain a balance budget.

The chart below shows the history of Student Fee (per credit hour), total Student Fee revenue and the percentage of our budget.

| | <u>Student Fee Per Credit Hour</u> | <u>Total Student Fee Revenue</u> | <u>Percentage of Total Budget</u> |
|---------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2014-15 | \$12.65 | \$1,426,448 | 25% |
| 2015-16 | \$12.65 | \$1,329,088 | 21% |
| 2016-17 | \$12.65 | \$1,386,054 | 19% |
| 2017-18 | \$13.65 | \$1,342,628 | 19% |
| 2018-19 | \$14.00 | \$1,302,465 | 16% |
| 2019-20 | \$15.00 | \$1,323,507 | 16% |
| 2020-21 | \$15.50 | \$1,224,012 | 14.5% |
| 2021-22 | \$15.50 | \$1,112,915 | 14% |
| 2022-23 | \$15.50 | \$1,140,375 | 11% |
| 2023-24 | \$15.50 | \$1,151,019 | 11% |
| 2024-25 | \$16.25 | \$1,264,666 (est.) | TBD |

ADDRESSING CONCERNS RAISED BY THE STUDENT FEE BOARD

This past year, the Student Fee Governing Board identified a list of concerns in their review of the Athletics Report (fall, 2024). The listing of concerns were as follows:

- The Report does not go into depth about what the Student Fee money is used for.
- The Report states that the program cut Men's Lacrosse and has decreases in spending but still went into deficit.
- The Report outlines a decrease in student-athletes but received an increase in student fee support.
- The Report does not explain where the new resources will go.
- Overall, the Board determined that more information is needed to determine if there is an ethical or appropriate use of funds.

In response to these concerns, the Student Fee Sub-Committee for Athletics has developed an explanation for each item.

Use of Student Fee Revenues

Each year, the Athletic Department relies on Student Fee Revenue to assist with three specified areas: Student-athlete scholarships, sport-specific program operational expenses and administrative costs associated with membership in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) and NCAA Division II. The chart below outlines how Student Fee Revenue was used in FY24.

| <u>Student Fee Revenues</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Scholarships | \$ | 350,000 | See specific allocations below | | | | | | |
| Operations | \$ | 678,140 | Game officials, team travel (bus, hotels, food), equipment, uniforms and supplies | | | | | | |
| Administrative Costs | \$ | 122,879 | Compliance Software, Health Insurance Premium, RMAC Dues, Sheriff's Office, etc. | | | | | | |
| Total | \$ | 1,151,019 | | | | | | | |

With regard to our \$350,000 in scholarship fund allocations, the chart below shows how funds were distributed among each of our 21 varsity sports last year. The chart also specifies the resources used (University E&G transfer, Student Fee transfer and Foundation support). The amount of money allocated, and the fund sources used is based on several factors, including but not limited to Title IX, previous disbursements and available Foundation resources. For example, the Foundation currently holds \$8,635,458 in endowed gifts for Athletics. These endowments earn up to 3% annual interest and are used exclusively for athletic scholarships. All endowments are restricted, so there are specified uses for each fund. In addition, if donors don't give to the Foundation, there is a limited amount of money available to distribute. In any given year, the amount of support from the Foundation can vary, which makes budgeting very difficult. The reliance on Student Fee Revenue, specifically for scholarships, allows us to have budget predictability and provide consistent support to our student-athletes.

| FY24 Athletic Scholarship Transfers | | | | | | | | | Remaining |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Fiscal Y | Chart C | Account N | Account Name | Object Code | Actuals | E&G Transfer | Student Fee Transfer | Foundation Transfer | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651013 | WOMEN'S CC/TRACK | 6669 | 226,846 | 84,630 | 18,999 | 123,217 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651015 | FOOTBALL | 6669 | 931,930 | 449,804 | 99,121 | 383,005 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651016 | WRESTLING | 6669 | 176,766 | 75,766 | 16,929 | 84,071 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651017 | WOMEN'S GOLF | 6669 | 86,000 | 18,727 | 4,200 | 63,073 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651019 | BASEBALL | 6669 | 176,425 | 13,580 | 3,034 | 159,811 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651020 | MEN'S GOLF | 6669 | 98,000 | 18,942 | 4,232 | 74,826 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651021 | MEN'S BASKETBALL | 6669 | 245,124 | 165,470 | 36,972 | 42,682 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651022 | MEN'S SOCCER | 6669 | 179,300 | 62,900 | 14,054 | 102,346 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651024 | SOFTBALL | 6669 | 88,000 | 68,000 | 15,000 | 5,000 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651025 | VOLLEYBALL | 6669 | 207,155 | 137,953 | 31,000 | 38,202 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651026 | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | 6669 | 216,288 | 172,761 | 38,600 | 4,927 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651027 | WOMEN'S SOCCER | 6669 | 201,500 | 94,351 | 21,000 | 86,149 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651028 | WOMEN'S TENNIS | 6669 | 50,300 | 22,599 | 5,000 | 22,701 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651029 | MEN'S CC/TRACK | 6669 | 174,332 | 54,323 | 12,138 | 107,871 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651030 | MEN'S LACROSSE | 6669 | 69,500 | 45,746 | 10,221 | 13,533 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651031 | WOMEN'S LACROSSE | 6669 | 83,000 | 43,601 | 10,000 | 29,399 | |
| 2024 | PB | 2651032 | SWIMMING | 6669 | 72,500 | 42,888 | 9,500 | 20,112 | |
| | | | | | 3,282,966.00 | 1,572,041.00 | 350,000.00 | 1,360,925.00 | |
| | | | | | 3,282,966.00 | Total Cost | | | |
| | | | | | 1,572,041.00 | E&G Support | | | |
| | | | | | 350,000.00 | Student Fee Support | | | |
| | | | | | 1,360,925.00 | Foundation Support | | | |

Sport-specific operational expenses include the costs of game officials when hosting home competitions, team travel, equipment, uniforms and supplies. All of these items impact student-athlete health and safety, individual/team skill development and CSU Pueblo's brand reputation. Our buses/vans, hotels and food are a significant part of the intercollegiate experience and ensure that our student-athletes are safe and secure while competing on the road. These programs also have budgeted equipment, uniforms and supplies that assist with the student-athlete game-day environment, safety in their sport, ongoing skill development and ultimately brand recognition for CSU Pueblo. Overall, the total costs for operations include game officials (\$181,910); team travel (\$936,288) and equipment, uniforms and supplies (\$545,301). A grand total of \$1,663,499, which is approximately \$1 million over our budgeted Student Fee amount.

Administrative costs entail budgeted items that are either required or have a specific purpose to sustain our membership in the RMAC and NCAA. For example, our ARMS Compliance Software (required by NCAA rules; cost: \$20,000); HUDL subscription (required by RMAC rules for broadcasting; cost: \$15,286); Real Response Anonymous Reporting Software (communication with student-athletes; cost: \$8,750), RMAC Membership Dues (cost: \$27,665); Student-Athlete Secondary Health Insurance Policy (needed to protect our student-athletes who are injured and need care beyond their primary health insurance; cost: 35,659); Sheriff's Office Service Costs for football game-day security (cost: \$12,922); and our gothunderwolves.com website subscription (cost: \$2,607). These administrative expenses total \$122,879.

Cutting Men's Lacrosse

In 2024, CSU Pueblo made the difficult decision to discontinue varsity men's lacrosse. This impacted approximately 30 male student-athletes. In turn, the University provided an opportunity for this program to transition to Club Men's Lacrosse and compete in a local conference. We have retained approximately 15 of these individuals.

As part of our plan to transition this program, we agreed to pay athletic scholarships for those student-athletes as long as they remain in school. We also had other transition costs, including membership dues in the new club league. Ultimately, we are committed to fulfilling ongoing expenses this fiscal year.

Having said that, it will take us time to realize cost savings from men's lacrosse. The overall expenses to run men's lacrosse is \$300,000 and we anticipate that we will realize those savings once all student-athletes have graduated from CSU Pueblo.

Finally, we are currently in the process of executing operational strategies within Athletics to reduce expenses and generate additional revenue this spring that will have an impact on our FY25 budget. It is our intent to reduce \$600,000 in the coming months through various measures. While we can't realize the financial impact of cutting men's lacrosse for a few more years, we can do other interventions to assist with our overall structural deficit in the short-term.

Decreasing the Number of Student-Athletes

A few years ago, under the direction of President Timothy Mottet, Athletics developed a plan to reduce the number of student-athletes to approximately 580-600 per year. At the time, we realized that Athletics was spending much less per student-athlete than its RMAC counterparts. The average amount of University and Student Fee support provided to each student-athlete in the RMAC was \$10,801. CSU Pueblo paid \$7,872 per student-athlete; a difference of \$2,929 per student-athlete.

Our plan was to work closely with Admissions to reduce the impact on our campus while also increasing the cost per student-athlete that we were paying in order to become more comparable to other RMAC schools and provide a better service to our existing student-athletes. We are still working on the overall costs of 20-sport athletic department but know that our needs continue to grow.

We also have had to overcome decreasing enrollment, which has led to a reduction in Student Fee Revenue. The decrease from 2014 is well over \$200,000 per year, so Athletics has had to overcome that by asking for more Student Fee support each year. It is also important to note that Athletics has had to address many issues as of late. For example, once COVID-19 concluded and we could begin minimal participation, there was very little financial help us offset no camps or clinics for two consecutive summers and a cancelled 2021 football season. Additionally, the largest donor in school history (Dan DeRose) and his family, along with the Friends of Football, LLC decided to discontinue funding Intercollegiate Athletics. That is an annual anticipated loss of approximately \$400,000 that is still felt today. All of this, combined with the request to increase our participation numbers without additional support put a tremendous amount of pressure on our sports and entire athletic department.

Use of New Resources

For FY25, the Athletic Department received additional Student Fee Revenue of \$.75 per credit hour. This amounted to an increase of approximately \$113,000. As stated, Athletics will use this to address inflation related to the cost of transporting our student-athletes to away competition, which was \$936,288 in FY24. In short, costs to transport, stay in hotels and feed our student-athletes continues to be a major obstacle for us to overcome.

Review of FY24 Budget

Lastly, the Student Fee Governing Board asked for more details regarding the Athletics budget. During the fall term, the Department reviewed its previous year revenues and expenditures in order to develop two reports: Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) and the NCAA Financial Report. These reports take time to assemble and the information provided below was presented to the CSU System Board of Governors at the recent meeting in February.

Of special note is the total revenue that was below the anticipated amount of \$10,456,748. Athletics was still able to generate \$2.4 million in external revenue, which is highest among NCAA Division II schools, but fell short of its budgeted goal. Additionally, we received less University E&G than budgeted, and we were \$7,000 short on ticket sales.

Additionally, we also had expenses that exceeded \$1 million over budget. These are areas that we are currently addressing. Salaries and benefits have been analyzed more closely and we have a plan to reduce those expenses. Scholarships were under budget but the biggest area of concern was the cost to operate our department. These expenses are often related to team operations, such as team travel, equipment, uniforms and supplies and overall costs to support a collegiate athletic department

| | <u>FY24 Budget</u> | <u>FY24 Actual</u> | <u>Difference</u> | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Revenue | | | | |
| University (E&G) | \$ 5,599,690 | \$ 5,137,838 | \$ (461,852) | |
| External | \$ 2,750,000 | \$ 2,435,472 | \$ (314,528) | |
| Student Fees | \$ 1,107,058 | \$ 1,151,019 | \$ 43,961 | |
| Camps and Clinics | \$ 750,000 | \$ 869,777 | \$ 119,777 | |
| Ticket Sales | \$ 250,000 | \$ 242,922 | \$ (7,078) | |
| Total | \$ 10,456,748 | \$ 9,837,028 | \$ (619,720) | Below Revenue Budget |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Salaries and Benefits | \$ 3,433,250 | \$ 3,867,775 | \$ (434,525) | |
| Scholarships | \$ 3,312,500 | \$ 3,284,966 | \$ 27,534 | |
| Operations | \$ 3,900,000 | \$ 4,551,235 | \$ (651,235) | |
| Total | \$ 10,645,750 | \$ 11,703,976 | \$ (1,058,226) | Over Expense Budget |
| Surplus/Deficit | | \$ (1,866,948) | | |

STUDENT FEE REQUEST

The Student Fee Sub-Committee for Athletics would like to request an increase from \$16.25 per student (per credit hour) to \$16.75 per student (per credit hour) for the 2025-26 academic year. This is an increase of \$.50 per student (per credit hour). Funding from the Student Fee Governing Board represents approximately 11% of the Athletics budget. This funding is necessary to help us address inflation; sustain our levels of support from Student Fee Revenue for operational expenses; align better with our RMAC counterparts; and maintain our appeal and student success. As a sub-committee, we feel that our request is appropriate and reasonable.

RATIONALE FOR STUDENT FEE REQUEST

Our rationale for this increase is as follows:

1. To address the costs of inflation.

- a. This is a common theme for all college sport programs and especially critical for CSU Pueblo as we sponsor 20-varsity teams who represent our institution in competitions on and off campus. The largest expense in our Student Fee budget is our operations. This is troublesome since rising costs are due to inflation, yet we have expectations to support these student-athletes and maintain a positive collegiate experience.
- b. As outlined earlier, we currently have a Student Fee Revenue budget of \$1,264,666. This amount is most likely higher than what we will actually receive. The majority of this revenue is used to support our operational expenses. In FY25, we budgeted approximately \$678,000 for operational expenses, yet we spent \$1.6 million due to escalating costs out of our control. Additional Student Fee support in FY26 will help us close this financial gap.

2. To maintain current Student Fee Revenue levels of support.

- a. While Athletics is budgeted to receive \$1,264,666, we feel that this amount may be closer to \$1,186,250. This would equate to an increase of \$35,231 from FY24 to FY25. In our request for FY26, we are asking for a \$.50 increase so that we can generate an additional \$36,500. This would help us maintain our current levels of student-athlete support amid budget constraints being placed on all areas of CSU Pueblo.
- b. Provided below is an overview of our Student Fee Revenue with FY24 Actual Expenses, FY25 Budget and our Proposed FY26 Budget. Scholarships and administrative line items will remain unchanged, but support for sport-specific operations will be adjusted accordingly to provide ongoing support to our student-athletes.

| Student Fee Revenue Budget | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | Proposed |
| | FY24 Actual | FY25 Budget | FY26 Budget |
| | (\$15.50 Credit Hour) | (\$16.25 Credit Hour) | (\$16.75 Credit Hour) |
| Scholarships | \$ 350,000 | \$ 350,000 | \$ 350,000 |
| Operations | \$ 678,140 | \$ 789,666 | \$ 747,750 |
| Administrative Costs | \$ 122,879 | \$ 125,000 | \$ 125,000 |
| | | | |
| Total | \$ 1,151,019 | \$ 1,264,666 | \$ 1,222,750 |

3. To align better with our Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) peers.

- a. Since CSU Pueblo sponsors 20 varsity sports and supports 578 student-athletes, we are lagging behind our RMAC counterparts in terms of the amount of support provided per student-athlete. As stated before, there is a difference of \$2,929 per student-athlete provided to other RMAC student-athletes as compared to CSU Pueblo.

As we look to downsize our rosters in order to increase our support, we will become better aligned with other schools. An increase of \$.50 per student (per credit hour) next year will help us align even better to support our student-athletes. Additionally, this will help us attract and retain student-athletes on our campus.

- b. In a recent analysis of RMAC budgets, CSU Pueblo currently sits third overall. The chart below shows the actual expenditures of most RMAC schools in FY24. Private schools are not required to share financial data, so those schools are not included in this analysis.

It is important to note that we sponsor the second most sports beyond Colorado Mesa, while also having varsity football. While Colorado Mines and Colorado Mesas are funded much better than CSU Pueblo, there are several schools who are funding their sports better than CSU Pueblo based on the number of sports they sponsor. Western Colorado, Fort Lewis, UCCS (no football) and Metro State (no football) are spending as much or more than CSU Pueblo on athletics based on each sport. An increase of \$.50 per student (per credit hour) will help us to maintain our competitiveness within the RMAC.

| RMAC Schools | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Colorado Mines | \$16.96 m | 18 sports |
| Colorado Mesa | \$14.92 m | 22 sports |
| CSU Pueblo | \$11.70 m | 20 sports |
| Western Colorado | \$9.61 m | 13 sports |
| Fort Lewis | \$8.60 m | 16 sports |
| UCCS | \$7.80 m | 14 sports |
| Metro State | \$7.67 m | 14 sports |
| Adams State | \$7.47 m | 20 sports |
| Chadron State | \$7.25 m | 14 sports |
| New Mexico Highlands | \$7.01 m | 12 sports |
| Black Hills State | \$6.74 m | 13 sports |
| South Dakota Mines | \$5.59 m | 13 sports |
| *Private Schools | Do not report | |

4. To help Athletics maintain our appeal and enhance student success.

- a. Lastly, Athletics has risen to national heights while performing exceptionally well in the classroom and serving our community. This is mainly because of our student-athletes, coaches and staff. It is an honor to work with a most dedicated group of individuals. People from all walks of life from all over the country come to CSU Pueblo and perform admirably for us. It is believed that these individuals have done more for CSU Pueblo Athletics than any other group in our history. An increase to our Student Fee would help Athletics to maintain our appeal and enhance student success.

- b. As our University approaches FY26, we will be charged with making significant base cuts within our organizational infrastructure. This includes deep cuts to Athletics. It is paramount that we work to protect mission-critical entities such as Athletics. While cuts are imminent, we would hope that the Student Fee Governing Board would acknowledge the work done by Athletics over the years and provide additional support requested. We understand these are difficult times and will support any decisions made. It is our hope that we can maintain our strong strategic position for the University while managing our budgetary constraints.

DEVELOPING CHAMPIONS

In closing, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics greatly values its partnership with the Student Fee Governing Board. Our classroom excellence, competitive success and community engagement are heavily dependent on your support. Our success reflects your investment and will help us all attain our goals.

With the increase of \$.50 per student (per credit hour), we believe that we will be able to take a step closer toward attaining our fiscal objectives of a balanced and sustainable budget while maintaining our operations. We have also fulfilled and reported back to both the Sub-Committee for Athletics and the Student Fee Governing Board how we have engaged our students, created Pepsi Student Sections at sporting venues and provided Marching Band with a new location at the ThunderBowl. We are also open to more suggestions for better collaboration and support for our students.

If there are other areas of concern or items you would like to address with Athletics, we would welcome that opportunity to engage with you. Our intent is to make CSU Pueblo proud of our accomplishment while also being a great partner for our students, faculty, staff and community members.

Student Fee Sub-Committee for Athletics

Jeremiah Carter, student

William Downey, student

Ashley Tosh, student

Faith Valdez, student

Dr. Krista Bridgmon, Athletic Board of Controls

Jenna McKinley-Fall, Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator

Dr. Paul Plinske, Vice President for Athletics and Strategic Partnerships