

My name is Anne Feucht and I am the parent of three team gymnasts at TAGS South in Apple Valley, MN. I have a 13-year-old Level 6 daughter, and two 10-year-old Level 5 sons. All three of my children have been in gymnastics since the age of 2 ½ years. It goes without saying how much they enjoy gymnastics and are passionate about excelling in this sport. It has taught them so much more than physical fitness, strength, and flexibility, but also teamwork, goal setting, discipline, and concentration.

All three of my children have also been avid fans of Gopher Women's and Men's Gymnastics for many years. We've attended several meets, followed the journeys of several of the Gopher gymnasts—both women and men, and loved cheering on our hometown stars, especially Shane Wiskus. Shane in particular has been an incredible role model for my sons, showing them how hard work and a great gymnastics program can help make your dreams come true.

Whether or not my children will ever make it to the collegiate level as gymnasts has yet to be determined. Regardless, the dreams are there. No one should take that away. Yet, the reality is the Board of Regents at the U of MN did when they eradicated the U of MN Men's Gymnastics program.

The U of MN Gopher Men's Gymnastics program has always produced exemplary models of not only great athletes and Olympians, but also incredible students and admirable human beings. Our young male gymnasts need this program to continue to give them these role models as well as to foster their dreams of becoming collegiate gymnasts in their home state.

Therefore, I am writing to support the public hearing your committee has scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 1 pm to hear testimony regarding the three dropped sports at the University of Minnesota. I have been outraged and incensed since the decision to drop these sports was first proposed by Athletic Director Mark Coyle at the 9/11/20 U of M Board of Regents meeting.

The hearing on February 15 is extremely important to me. Please do not cancel it as I have heard that some are trying to get the hearing canceled. I plan to attend this hybrid hearing (in-person and/or zoom). I am following very closely what comes next, especially any positive movement toward transparency of the use of taxpayer money for higher education and benefits to student athlete programs (specifically the reinstatement of Men's gymnastics, indoor track, and tennis).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Anne Feucht