

Dear Senator Rarick,

I am writing to plead for your help in reinstating the recently cut programs at the U.

My name is Lynden Reder and I coached for 8 years for the Gopher track of program. I am also an alum of the team as an athlete, the track program was one of the most important aspects of my life - more than any class or sport in either high school or college.

I was heartbroken when the team was cut and I will never stop fighting for it to be reinstated.

While at Minnesota I coached 5 Big Ten Championship Teams and 15 Ncaa all americans and 10 individual Big Ten event champions during my time as a full time assistant coach.

As an athlete, after graduating from Luverne Minnesota high school I dreamed of being a Gopher and walked-on to the team with no scholarship in 1999. During career, I worked very hard to become an NCAA All-American award winner - team captain- and was our school record in my event of hammer throw. Our team won a big ten championship on our home track in 2003 for Coach Phil Lundin and Gopher legend Roy Griak.

After beginning my coaching career at Hamline for 5 years, I returned to coach for the U of M during the Joel Maturi era and into the Norwood Teague era - where the winds of change towards corporatism was becoming very clear.

During that time the mens track team was the most successful program in the department - winning 5 big ten team titles in a row despite the fact our track was in such disrepair we couldn't host a home meet.

I left the U in 2016 even though it was my dream job. The toxic corporatism had taken root during the athlete village project with Teague at the helm. The ncaa arms race and some of the most sleezy behavior in department history was so prevalent and was really the beginning of the teams being cut with actions form administration years earlier.

I earned my masters degree from the U in sports management with a focus on the ncaa arms race during this time - this is a topic I know a lot about, and the writing was on the wall when I left in 2016.

Cutting the non-rev sports to benefit the football and basketball program is fundamentally wrong. It's wrong for college sports and it's wrong for the state of Minnesota. It's wrong ethically and it's wrong for the foundation of college athletics.

Only YOU have the power to stop the greed taking root. Only YOU can stop these few individuals from highjacking the department financially and morally.

This is not a professional league - this is a place of higher learning and you are charged with protecting that.

I pray that you will.

The hearing on Feb 15 is tentative and I'm asking that it happens!

I am available as a resource should you ever want or need it - feel free to reach out with any requests.

Please right this terrible wrong that was done when these teams were cut- most other teams cut around the country during that time have been reinstated and we ask that you lead the charge to do the same at Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Lynden Reder
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