

My name is Mark Witmer and I am a former athlete for the University of Minnesota's men's gymnastics team. I graduated in 2008, so it's definitely been a bit. Anyway, 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 baffled 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 U of M's gymnastics team was in existence for over 119 years, and suddenly it was thrown out?

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

Mark Witmer