

Dear Senator Rarick,

I am a 1969 (BA and BS), 1971 (DDS) and 1981 (MS) graduate of the University of Minnesota. I ran track for the great Roy Griak and was a part of the Big 10 Championship Track and Field team of 1968. I am very proud of my University of Minnesota education and track participation which also led to an Honorary PhD degree from the University of the Western Cape. During my years in Minnesota I also represented my home country of Norway in track and field for 10 years during my summers at home.

While a student I also competed in Track and won an individual Big 10 Championship at 300 yards indoors. I am very sorry that the University has now closed the Indoor Track program and this letter is in full support of reinstatement of the program. Indoor Track was a wonderful component of Gopher Sports and I am very sorry that Big 10 Championships are now embarrassingly held without participation from the University of Minnesota in indoor track.

I understand that the hearing on this issue is scheduled for February 15 and I want to make sure that it happens as scheduled. I will be carefully watching the results of the hearing and the actions of the University of Minnesota regarding the reinstatement of Indoor Track to the University roster of sports.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard J. Simonsen".

Richard J. Simonsen, BA, BS, DDS, MS, PhD(hc)
Rio Verde, AZ