

**Date:** 12/27/2024

**To:** Student Fee Advisory Board

**From:** Jobey Lichtblau, Director of Wallman Wellness Center  
Karin Hegstad, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Laura Oster-Aaland, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Institutional Equity  
Christopher Dick, Vice President for Student Government

**Re:** Request to increase the Wellness Center Student Fee to support the Intramural and Club Sports Vision

In 2024, President Cook appointed a committee to envision a premier club sports program that would attract and retain students by enhancing support and facilities for NDSU Intramurals and Competitive Club Sports (CCS). The committee's full proposal is attached. Recently, President Cook asked that we revise the proposal to position the oversight for Club Sports under the Wellness Center. In addition, the University is reviewing opportunities to enhance fields for utilization for Club Sports, Intramurals, and Marching Band.

**Vision:** To enhance and empower NDSU Competitive Club Sports to recruit and retain students by providing the on-campus competitive sport experiences they desire. This will lead to competition at the national level that will enhance and expand the NDSU brand leading to increased enrollment.

**Proposal to realize President Cook's vision of a premier club sports program at NDSU:**

- NDSU Competitive Club Sports would be a new designation and level of club sports that should be established based on criteria determined by the Associate/Assistant Director of Competitive Club Sports and other NDSU stakeholders.
- This position would report to the Wellness Center Director where the Recreation & Intramural Coordinator position resides, which would enhance collaboration between Club Sports and Intramurals.
- CCS athletes would be branded as Bison, have NDSU contracted coaches, access to on-campus facilities designated for CCS and Intramurals, and would travel and compete as athletes during their club's official season.
- Individual clubs would continue to receive funding through the NDSU Student Government funding model. Many competitive club sports already receive the maximum funding of \$25,000.
- Current operational funding of \$12,000 would be reduced from Student Activity Fee funds provided to the Memorial Union for the Student Activities Graduate Assistant supporting Club Sports.
- Anticipated new funding would come from a variety of sources including: CCS fundraising conducted by students on teams, CCS player fees, and NDSU Foundation/alumni and/or corporate donations.
- Increase to the Wellness Center Fee as defined below in the Proposed Fee (added in addition to the HEPI increase) to support operating a premier club sports program.

**Proposed Fee: Increase the Wellness Center Student Fee by \$.87/credit capped at \$10.44/semester:**

	Budget	Estimated Expense
1.	<b>Hire an Associate/Assistant Director of Competitive Club Sports</b> —This position would build the premier program, establish relationships, streamline processes, assist with fundraising, hire and supervise coaches, help students grow and develop as individuals and leaders and implement the overall vision for CCS at NDSU.	<b>\$120,000</b> <i>(annual salary and NDSU benefits package)</i>
2.	<b>Graduate Assistant</b> – Position transferred from Student Activities	<b>\$12,000</b>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Hire NDSU Coaches</b> —Coaches hired by NDSU to lead practice, manage games, recruit and retain students, work with club officers, and coordinate other responsibilities. (Approximately \$4,000 salary + benefits /coach for 12 teams.)	<b>\$52,000</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equipment replenishment &amp; maintenance</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Marketing, Branding &amp; Other</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>
	<b>Proposed Budget (6% of WC Student Fee Budget)</b>	<b>\$218,000</b>
	<b>6% of FY25 per credit fee of \$14.38</b>	<b>\$.87/credit</b>

**NDSU is reviewing opportunities to enhance fields for utilization for Club Sports, Intramurals, and Marching Band:**

- Harris Hall, Northern Crops Institute, and four greenhouses are currently being demolished in area #29 on the Campus Map. This space is being reviewed to determine if a grass practice field can be established, dependent upon cost. Due to the small size of the area and unknown long-term facility planning for NDSU, this field if built would remain an unlit grass field and would not be available until at least Fall 2026 after grass has established on the field.
- The current “Rugby Field” designated for competitive club games will be reviewed to determine if it can be enhanced further. Any further enhancements would be dependent upon donation and funding opportunities.