



Athletics Impact Advisory Report

Project Recommendations

Office of Internal Auditing

October 2024 – Report dated July 2024

Internal Audit Background & Objectives

Our review focused on:

- » Governance structures and strategic priorities to guide decision-making for athletics department operations
- » Impacts of athletics for colleges and universities, including financial, enrollment, student experience, academic performance, Title IX, Name, Image and Likeness (NIL), and student employees

Risk – Why does it matter?

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities provide athletic opportunities for over 4,000 student athletes and athletics expenditures total over \$65 million annually. Athletics provides unique benefits to each campus (e.g., leadership opportunities, connectivity with local community), but benefits and financial impacts are hard to define as there are not consistent approaches to recording and reporting impact.

Recommendations

Minnesota State should consider:

- Designating leadership at the system office for athletics
- Encouraging athletics knowledge sharing among institutions
- Enhancing connectivity between Title IX coordinators and athletics departments

Recommendations (continued)

Minnesota State should consider:

- Defining expectations for budgeting and financial reporting
- Requiring reporting and measurement on key indicators

Management Response Next Steps

System leadership agreed with recommendations and is collaborating to implement activities to address recommendations.

Evolving Issues in Athletics (links to articles)

- [House vs NCAA](#)
- [Name Image Likeness \(NIL\)](#)
- [Treating Athletes as Employees](#)