

9-25-2019

Resolution 20190925

Faculty Senate

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Resolution on Athletic Complex Capital Improvements

In August, 2019, the University released the following news item to announce the grand opening of the Student Athlete Performance Center: <https://emueagles.com/news/2019/8/27/general-emu-hosts-grand-opening-for-student-athlete-performance-center.aspx>

There has been significant local press coverage about this new facility, and the fact that the original plan proposed to fund this \$20M development with \$12M in donor funding, of which only half has been raised:

<https://www.michiganradio.org/post/eastern-michigan-opens-new-athletic-facility-still-looking-6-million-pay-it>

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2019/07/emu-sports-facility-short-of-fundraising-target-as-opening-nears.html>

Due to declining enrollments, the University cannot afford capital improvements that are not serving the student body as a whole. Although we support our student athletes, institutional priorities to support academic programs and services must take precedence. The concerns of faculty regarding the issue of excessive athletic spending were fully articulated in the April 2016 report, "Moving Toward Financial Sustainability: Student and Faculty Report on the University Budget." (

<https://www.emich.edu/facultysenate/resources/studentfacultyreportathleticbudget042216.pdf>)

Therefore, be it resolved that the full \$20M cost of the Student Athlete Performance Center must be paid for with donor funds. Only earmarked donor funds must be used to pay for any additional capital improvements to the athletic complex. Furthermore, phase two of the Championship Building Plan, estimated to cost \$15M, must be put on hold until the full dollar amount needed to fund that facility is raised through outside giving.

Approved unanimously by Faculty Senate, 9/25/2019