

Seawolf Athletics - \$2.5 million

State funding is needed to rebalance the public and private support funding Seawolf Athletics. Funding for university athletics should be a balance of public funding, private support, corporate sponsorships, and other earned revenue sources.

Years of funding reductions, which concluded in FY22, created a structural budget gap through dramatically undersized state funding for athletics while private support continued. Funding reductions were largely compensated for through use of university fund balance reserves (UFB).

Reliance on these reserves, for the publicly funded portion of the athletics budget, is not sustainable. Action is needed to restore base state funding needed to operate UAA's collegiate athletics program such as hockey, gymnastics and skiing.

Seawolf Athletics maximizes all sources of revenue to fund its operations. In FY24, more than 26% (\$2.3 million) of the Seawolf Athletics budget came from philanthropy and sponsorships.

Seawolf Athletics serves as the university's front door. It provides numerous benefits for UAA's growth, reputation and financial sustainability. For tens of thousands of Alaskans, Seawolf Athletics creates a connection to UAA that advances our university's goals.

A vibrant collegiate athletics program has been shown to help grow university enrollment and increase interest from prospective students. Athletics generates brand identity, awareness and marketing for UAA. This helps raise our university's profile, bolster alumni engagement, and increase private support and philanthropic giving.



UA athletics are an enrollment driver.

Nanook Athletics - \$2.5 million

The \$2.5M UGF request boosts enrollment growth at UAF while supporting base-level operations for Nanook Athletics. The expected standards include recruitment, retention, promoting, and prominent league membership.

This request supports necessary investments in athletic student financial aid by fully funding all team aid and maintaining Title IX compliance. This funding also moves necessary staffing to 12-months for team support, trainers, year-round recruiting, and camps. UAF must still reallocate or generate additional funding to meet program needs.

Nanook Athletics program needs are impacted by rising travel costs, labor and benefit increases, higher GNAC/NCAA fees, and increasing compliance requirements. UAF must keep pace with these costs, and are part of the \$2.5M FY26 request to ensure the new base operating level meets the needs of a program fit to move into the future.

UAF also expects to rely on external funds, to include corporate sponsorships, philanthropic giving, and other earned revenue which contributes to funding program needs.

Nanook Athletics plays a vital role in fostering community engagement both on campus and in the broader Fairbanks area. The role that Nanook Athletics plays is a powerful tool for UAF to achieve its enrollment goals (including retention), community outreach, and philanthropic goals.

Nanook Athletics serves as a significant asset for outreach, increasing brand recognition for UAF on a local, national, and international levels.

