



Emerald Graphic

Budget slashes nearing Hawk expects decision on cuts by end of week

A final decision on next year's athletic department is expected before the end of the week.

"Our timetable places it so that we have to let the NCAA, Pac-10 and AIAW know our posture before May 1," said Ray Hawk, vice president for administration and finance, Tuesday. "There will have to be a firm decision made by then."

The final decision, said Hawk, will establish the athletic department budget, announce which sports will be retained and clarify which organization the women's program will be affiliated with — the AIAW or NCAA.

Athletic director applications flood University

More than 50 applications for athletic director have been received by the University administration, and more are expected by the May 15th deadline, Ray Hawk, vice president for administration and finance, said Tuesday.

"We hope to have all the applications processed and make a decision by July 1," Hawk said. "But we may not see anyone (on campus) before Sept. 1."

A committee of coaches, students and members of the faculty will be reviewing the applications and will make the first recommendation.

"That's an awful lot to do, but I'm confident we can finish it," Hawk said.

The athletic department, which has been asked to cut \$1 million from the budget, has to either cut its budget or show that its revenue will increase. The \$1 million includes the department's debt repayment to the University.

"That's the task. The three associate athletic directors, along with (University budget director) Ralph Sunderlund, are analyzing every part of the budget," Hawk said. "We're trying to reach a conclusion by the end of the working day (today)."

Scholarship cuts are being considered, said Hawk. "Cuts were recommended by the chancellor's office in all sports... I have little doubt that we're looking at a grant-in-aid reduction for other sports."

Football and men's basketball scholarships will not be touched, Hawk said. "Those sports represent at least 80 percent of the athletic department income. If you start tinkering with your income sources you're playing Russian roulette."

No move will be made to make out-of-state athletes eligible for in-state tuition, Hawk said. "Arizona has done this, and it has been an enormous help to athletic departments. But what the athletic department gains by lowering tuition, the rest of the University will lose."

"As much as I'd like to save the athletic department money, to reduce tuition would reduce

tuition income to the rest of the institution."

To balance the budget, the athletic department must look in different directions, Hawk said.

"I doubt we'll be able to save all 20 sports."

Hawk refused to say which sports would be cut, but did indicate that only football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's track and women's volleyball would be able to compete on a national level.

"As I understand it, that gives us one sport for both men and women during each quarter — fall, winter, spring."

Four of the remaining 14 sports are slated for elimination and the other 10 will compete only on a regional level, Hawk said.

"We cannot afford large travel budgets, nor can we afford lots of scholarships. We are prepared to cut down to a minimal level."

Hawk's minimal level could drop several University sports from NCAA Division I to Division II or III status, he said.

Competition in each sport would be centered on a regional level, said Hawk, much like the Pac-10 northern division concept currently used by men's baseball, tennis and swimming.

"You may even find us stratified into three levels — national, regional and state," he said.

"We have been through an intense evaluation of all the programs," Hawk said. "We don't know if the final decision will make anyone happy, but it has to be made. And it has to be made soon."

By Tamara Swenson



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