

## **SRAP Targeted Action Group (TAG): Athletics, Recreation and Club Sports**

### **Project context and purpose:**

The Non-Instructional (NI) SRAP Group brought forward several recommendations regarding athletics and recreation, including merging the two organizations, moving oversight of club sports to athletics, phasing out a specific varsity sport and reassessing funding for several other varsity sports, and to explore varsity sport offerings overall. The SRAP Steering Committee views these recommendations pertaining to athletics, recreation, and club sports in a broader, strategic context requiring additional consideration.

This project will continue the comprehensive review of the College's athletic, recreation, and club sport programs to ensure that the programs are strategic in meeting the student expectations, are right sized for a college of our size, location, and type of institution, and are properly resourced to ensure excellence.

### **TAG team members:**

- Ryan Bowles, Athletic Director and Co-Chair of the Project
- Judy Tegtmeier, Campus Recreation and Co-Chair of the Project
- Charles Gray, Faculty Athletic Representative and Professor of Music
- Suzie Smalling, Associate Professor of Social Work
- Rachael Sushner, Sr. Woman's Administrator and Head Women's Soccer Coach
- Jon Mergens, Ass't Director for Wellness, Gender and Sexuality
- Chris George, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

### **Project objectives:**

The TAG team will consider options for the athletic, recreation, and club sports programs' directions for the next decade plus to ensure the programs:

- Meet student expectations and are attentive to student health and safety
- Are right sized for an institution of our size, our location, and type of institution
- Consider existing and potential new athletic and/or recreation offerings
- Comply with NCAA and Title IX regulations
- Uphold the St. Olaf standard of excellence
- Recognize the distinctive health and co-curricular role of recreation
- Provide a balance of athletic offerings, recreation programs, and club sports
- Consider physical resources as well as financial resources
- Are fiscally responsible and sustainable
- Provide options that are comprised of proposed savings and proposed reallocations

### **Key project resources**

- Relevant SRAP reports submitted to either of the review groups
- Expertise of St. Olaf athletic and recreation staff
- MIAC and NCAA data
- Student Athlete Advisory Committee

**Assumptions distinctive to this project:** In addition to the assumptions guiding all TAG projects, this project assumes the following:

- Group is empowered to think strategically about all sports and recreation offerings
- Group is challenged to consider what right-sized athletic and recreation programs are for St. Olaf, without bias or prejudice to existing program offerings
- Group is empowered to consider synergies that may result by organizationally restructuring the athletic, recreation, and club sport programs

**Intended project timeline:**

- Report and recommendations submitted by Dec. 30, 2018