

The University of West Florida Board of Trustees

In Support of Enhancing UWF Student Life

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida's strategic plan 2012-2017 says "UWF will further its efforts to foster student retention and timely progression to graduation by providing high-quality academic programs and support services; a safe and nurturing living and learning environment; and expanded student life activities such as clubs, recreation, multicultural events, student government, Greek life, and intercollegiate athletics," and

WHEREAS, UWF Intercollegiate Athletics has 14 sports, 275 athletes, 7 national championships and 71 Gulf South Conference Championships, the most of any school in conference history, and

WHEREAS, UWF currently has 260 student athletes whose average grade point average is higher than the UWF student body for 19 years consecutively, and

WHEREAS, A strong athletics program can increase national visibility, aid in growth of the university, enhance alumni and community support, build school spirit, enhance engagement opportunities, build a more vibrant campus experience, aid in fundraising, add to UWF's economic impact, and enrich the student experience, and

WHEREAS, In the Spring of 2009 the President Judith A. Bense commissioned an Athletics Visioning Committee who recommended the strengthening of the UWF athletic program, including adding football, and

WHEREAS, Subsequently an athletic facilities master plan was adopted by the UWF Board of Trustees in concept, as a part of the overall updated UWF Campus Master Plan in 2010, and

WHEREAS, In Fall of 2010 a fundraising study and Title IX Review were conducted to assess the overall needs of the UWF athletic program, and

WHEREAS, In Spring 2011 a Football Feasibility Committee was commissioned and included representatives from the community, academics, administration, student affairs, development, students, alumni, and benefactors, and

WHEREAS, This committee sought input from the Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee. Further recommending to President Bense that football be added to the UWF intercollegiate sports program, and

WHEREAS, In 2012 a Football Founders team was commissioned to focus on fundraising efforts; while an on-campus Student Life Implementation team began its work, and

WHEREAS, UWF will open its inaugural season of Women's Swimming and Diving on October 11, 2013, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on this day at the full board meeting of the University of West Florida Board of Trustees on September 20, 2013 that the Board expresses its support to President Judith A. Bense in her decision to set a date certain that UWF will play football in the Fall of 2016, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is spread upon the pages of minutes of this meeting and placed in the University's historical archives.



Lewis Bear, Jr., Chair, Board of Trustees
University of West Florida

