

Travis Proctor

Fri, Jul 15,
9:00 AM

to Craig, Glenn, Travis

Hello Craig and Glenn,

Let me begin by stating my sincere thank you for your impassioned support for Florida Tech and for our scholar athletes involved in rowing at the university. It has been my pleasure getting to know the two of you a little better despite the challenging situation, and you both represent why we are so proud of our Florida Tech alumni.

Please find attached a response prepared for you and the members of the Friends of FIT Rowing Association based on the outcome of yesterday's executive committee meeting.

As previously shared, I am headed for a cabin in the mountains of Colorado for the next 10 days and will have very limited access. However, if a future opportunity for dialogue exist after your group has an opportunity to reflect and consider the board's response, I would certainly make myself available.

I understand there is little current interest among your group in supporting a club program; however, should that ever change, the type of support outlined in your proposal would make you a major force in establishing an impressive club program that would keep rowing an integral part of Florida Tech. It would provide the opportunity to establish a strong track record of support for future conversations in a program that is less restrictive than the current structure while also creating the opportunity to build an endowment that could potentially reach a point that could better justify a varsity program at competitive funding levels in the future.

My best regards,

Travis '98

7/15/22

Dear Friends of FIT Rowing Association,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the executive leadership of Florida Tech, allow me to thank you for your support of the university and its rowing program. Your group certainly represents some of the university's most active and impassioned alumni.

In particular, I want to acknowledge your president, Mr. Craig McCay, and Mr. Glenn Bunting for the impressive leadership and professionalism they have demonstrated while communicating with me and the other members of the executive committee. Mr. McCay and Mr. Bunting presented us with a proposal to reinstate rowing as a varsity sport earlier this week, and we had the opportunity to discuss it with them yesterday.

The executive committee and university management have thoughtfully and carefully considered this proposal, and we have all been inspired by the Panther spirit and hard work it reflects. We appreciate the willingness of the program to consider cost and scholarship reductions and were impressed by the creative approach to identify some potential annual funding support through the alumni base.

Unfortunately, even with the successful execution of this proposal, rowing competitiveness would be hampered with funding at a materially lower level than today, and the university would remain in a position of substantially underfunding our varsity programs. This would be in direct contradiction to our identified strategic objective to competitively fund these programs with currently available resources.

Therefore, we are unable to recommend the board consider a reversal in course at this time, and university management will move forward with its plans to transition rowing to a club sport.

It is our firm belief that the tradition of excellence in rowing is an important part of our university's history as well as its future, and we are confident that a well-supported collegiate club rowing program has great potential to enrich the lives of scholar-athletes and achieve recognized excellence. The type of support identified in your proposal would make you a major force in establishing an impressive club program that could keep rowing an integral part of Florida Tech.

I understand and respect that this not the desired outcome for which you have worked. It is, however, my sincere hope that the Friends of FIT Rowing Association, along with the greater community of rowing alumni and supporters, will accept my invitation to collaborate with campus leadership to ensure a bright and positive future for the club rowing program at Florida Tech.

Sincerely,

Travis Proctor
Florida Tech Board Chairman