# Attendance:

**Members Present:** John Gol (Chair), Jason Barrett, Mike Binder, John Grosso, Kevin Hyde (ex-officio), Chris Lazzara, Paul McElroy, Steve Moore, Nik Patel

# Minutes:

## Item 1 Call to Order

Chair Gol recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order.

## Item 2 Public Comment

Chair Gol confirmed there were no requests for public comments.

## Item 3 Arena Improvement Financing

Vice President Bennett asked Athletic Director Morrow to describe the projects for the Arena resulting in the request to approve financing brought before the committee.

Director Morrow said the current Arena locker rooms for men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball located on the north side of the Arena haven’t been renovated since the building was built 30 years ago. There are two locker rooms underneath those areas that were used for recreation and general use prior to the opening of the Wellness Center and are now occasionally used for visiting opponent locker rooms and special events. These spaces are 500 – 600 square feet larger than the current locker rooms and the renovation will give men’s and women’s basketball athletes 50% more space. It will also allow UNF to be competitive in the recruiting process, provide a better student life experience, and will benefit the team’s chemistry by providing better facilities for the students and their success.

Volleyball would move to the vacated women’s basketball locker room also giving them an added 500 square feet of space. The vacated men’s basketball locker room would transition to a video training room for coaches and athletes. The training room would be expanded and modernized with better equipment and training tables.

Phase II of the project includes a new dedicated basketball practice facility expanding north of the Arena into the back parking lot. The Arena currently hosts the UNF commencement ceremonies followed by high school graduations in the spring where a floor covering is down for five weeks, eliminating the ability to practice during this time and sending the athletes home during Summer A. Hosting special events throughout the year results in the Division I programs and athletes losing additional practice times to host those events.

Three Division I programs currently practice in the Arena for 9 to 10 hours every day. The added practice facility would free up space creating opportunities to host more events in the Arena which in turn would drive traffic to campus, provide more exposure to UNF, create revenue streams, and other student life experiences.

Vice President Bennett said the Athletics Department will share in the total project cost through a fundraising matching program. The total estimated cost will be $3M, including contingency and buffers. Athletics will raise $1.5M and the university will match dollar for dollar with existing auxiliary funds and other unrestricted fund balances of $1.5M. To enter any project contract, all funding must be in hand. Most of the Athletics pledges received so far, especially large ones, are over a five-year period which would result in waiting the five years to begin. Athletics has $1.3M - $1.5M in verbal or signed agreements so far.

The committee is asked to approve the full $3M loan with the match of auxiliary and other unrestricted fund balances for $1.5M, and to front the other $1.5M to Athletics over the next five years and start the project immediately. The loan interest charged to Athletics will be at the same rate each auxiliary receives. Interest is currently budgeted at 3.2% and it will be recalibrated each fiscal year until the loan is paid in full.

Vice President Bennett presented the list of auxiliaries supporting the project to the committee. The central general auxiliary has built up over the years and will fund $1M of the project, not requiring repayment. The English Language Program and Food Service will provide $500,000 each and will be reimbursed in full, and the Direct Support Organizations / TSI (IPTM) will support $1M, where $500,000 will be paid back and the other half will be given to athletes.

Director Morrow stated the design process has started, with expected completion in June. A construction firm should be selected in the next month and depending on the company’s timeline, work could begin in July.

Trustee McElroy asked where UNF is in comparison to other schools. Director Morrow responded that most conference peers have renovated their locker rooms within the past five years. A new Division II school that recently transitioned to Division I is already making improvements to their locker rooms. The basketball coaches were asked by Director Morrow for their preference to set up money for more scholarships, more operating budgets, or renovated locker rooms. He said both coaches, without hesitation, chose the locker room improvements and said it is what’s hurting UNF in the recruiting process.

President Limayem announced a tour of the potential new areas is being organized for the next Board meeting. He stated this request for funding goes back to the strategic plan, which is our roadmap and compass for how we spend our resources. The support for this project hits almost every aspect of the strategic plan in terms of student engagement where Athletics serves as a vehicle for this and the community partnership priorities, allowing us the opportunity to host more community events.

The request requires committee, full Board of Trustees, and Board of Governors approval.

Chair Gol asked for a MOTION. Trustee Lazzara made a MOTION to APPROVE the funding for Arena improvements. Trustee Moore SECONDED the motion and the committee unanimously APPROVED.

## Item 4 Adjournment

Chair Gol adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.