

# UNITED FACULTY

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## **UNI Quietly Shifted More than \$1 Million to Cover Athletic Deficits** *General Support Funds Bail Out Athletics While Academics Suffer from Low Funding*

(CEDAR FALLS, Iowa) – The University of Northern Iowa administration has quietly shifted nearly \$1.06 million of General University Support Funds to the UNI Athletics in the past two fiscal years, to bail out the athletics program for shortfalls in its budget.

The shifting of General University Support Funds, from which the university’s academic affairs operations are funded, to UNI Athletics comes at a time when UNI academic programs are suffering from deep cuts and shrinking faculty numbers.

“We are completely astonished to discover this,” United Faculty president Chris Martin said. “This amount is equivalent to funding 10 or more tenure-track faculty positions, which we desperately need as many faculty positions have remained unfilled. It’s a gut punch to our high goals and expectations for UNI academics.”

The number of tenure-track and instructor positions at UNI have decreased substantially, from 506 in 2018 to 408 in 2022.

The transfer of funds was revealed in [UNI’s Comprehensive Fiscal Report for FY 2023](#), which was received by the Iowa Board of Regents at their Nov. 15 meeting on UNI’s campus.

The report notes:

- UNI moved nearly \$1 million (\$906,593) of General University Support Funds to UNI Athletics in FY 2023, which ended on June 30, 2023.
- This came at time when funding for faculty salaries and faculty lines continued to be reduced — by more than \$2.087 million in FY 2023 from the previous year, making it the single largest line for defunding.
- [In FY 2022](#), UNI administrators shifted \$148,606 General University Support Funds to UNI Athletics, making a total of \$1,055,209 in General University Support Funds moved to UNI Athletics over the past two fiscal years.

The shifting of the funds to UNI Athletics was done with no consultation with faculty leadership.

“The loss of academic funding ultimately affects students at UNI,” said United Faculty vice president Fernando Calderon. “It also raises a significant question about the budget priorities of this institution.”

UNI Athletics is an auxiliary program, which the UNI Factbook defines as “essentially self-supporting operations of the institution.” Yet, unique to Iowa regents universities, UNI Athletics is already annually

supported with about \$3.4 million in General University Support Funds, and \$1.28 million in scholarship support. The \$1.06 million shifted to UNI Athletics was unplanned and in addition to the typical annual support.

The fund transfers came at a time when [UNI Athletics had been cited with a “yellow” warning](#) for the BOR’s internal audit process on Sept. 14, 2022. UNI Athletics remained in yellow audit status as it [missed its May 2023 original follow-up report deadline](#) for corrective action.

In FY 2023, UNI Athletics came in over-budget in several sports, and simultaneously [fell short \\$871,212](#) in budgeted revenue from football, athletic marketing, and miscellaneous sources, according to the regents report.

United Faculty, established in 1976, is the chief negotiating agent for the University of Northern Iowa’s faculty, and is affiliated with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

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From the [COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL REPORT FOR FY 2023](#), Iowa Board of Regents, Nov. 15-16, 2023, p. 18.

<b>UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA ATHLETICS</b>			
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2023 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2023 Actuals</u></b>	<b><u>Variance</u></b>
<b>Sports:</b>			
Football	1,100,332	937,909	\$ (162,423)
Men's Basketball	765,175	851,409	86,234
Men - All Other Sports	191,000	228,542	37,542
Women - All Sports	127,000	457,780	330,780
<b>Subtotal - Sports</b>	<b>\$ 2,183,507</b>	<b>\$ 2,475,640</b>	<b>\$ 292,133</b>
<b>Other Income:</b>			
Student Activity Fees	1,814,348	1,814,348	-
General University Support			
General Support	3,343,490	4,250,083	906,593
Scholarship Support	1,283,481	1,283,481	-
Alumni/Foundation Support	1,703,000	1,795,046	92,046
Athletic Marketing	2,140,500	1,487,817	(652,683)
Athletic Conf/NCAA Support	1,369,600	1,626,943	257,343
Novelties-Outings	297,494	307,163	9,669
Miscellaneous	551,100	494,994	(56,106)
<b>Subtotal - Other</b>	<b>12,503,013</b>	<b>13,059,875</b>	<b>556,862</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 14,686,520</b>	<b>\$ 15,535,515</b>	<b>\$ 848,995</b>