

University of Iowa News Release

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Report: UI Athletic Merger Successfully Completed

The University of Iowa Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has successfully implemented all of the recommendations of an Athletics Merger Review Committee, UI Interim President Gary Fethke announced today. Fethke's announcement came after he received and reviewed a report on how the UI Athletics Department has responded to the 24 recommendations of the Merger Review Committee that were presented to the UI President's Office in December 2005.

"All of the departments and people in the athletics department who were asked to respond to the merger review report have done so in a proactive and exemplary fashion," Fethke said. "The UI Athletics Department is now truly one organization and moving in the right direction to provide the best possible experience for both women and men student-athletes.

"The spirit of the merger is best exemplified by the 'We're all Hawkeyes' attitude that I have witnessed firsthand," Fethke added. "My thanks to Gary Barta, his administrators, the coaches, the student-athletes and staff members for making that ideal a reality."

The review of how the merger committee's recommendations have been implemented was conducted by Pat Cain, UI vice provost and chair of the NCAA self-study steering committee. In a July 3 memo to Fethke, Cain noted that "all recommendations have either been addressed or are in the process of being addressed."

The Athletics Merger Review Committee was appointed in fall 2004 to review the merger of the UI men's and women's athletics programs, which took place in August 2000.

The merger review committee was asked to study a variety of issues, including assessments of the climate for female athletes, staff and coaches; equitable allocation of financial and other resources; authority exercised by the position of senior women's athletics administrator as proposed by the original task force that recommended the merger; the athletics department's leadership in serving as an advocate for women's programs; and the role of women in the leadership/organizational structure of the athletics program.

The full report of the merger review committee is available at the web site for the merger review:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/president/task-forces/athletics-merger/index.html>

Cain's review of the action on each recommendation is available at:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/president/task-forces/athletics-merger/070307cain-memo-fethke.pdf>

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