



October 13, 2018

Garrett Klassy  
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
839 W. Roosevelt Road  
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Mr. Klassy,

I write to you today to ask that you reconsider the decision to eliminate your UIC Men's and Women's Gymnastics Programs at the end of the 2019 season. Gymnastics at UIC is the model for for what is possible in NCAA Athletics. These programs are competitive, popular, and academically successful. They provide a top notch student-athlete experience, and are not subject to the rapidly rising costs that affect so many other sport programs. In short, UIC Gymnastics is what UIC athletics should be striving toward, not away from.

I would like to ask you to consider building toward the future needs within your athletic department rather than divesting in your student-athletes. The core of the student-athlete experience begins with opportunity, the benefits of participation in collegiate athletics are well documented, and it is the primary responsibility of university administration to protect and expand opportunity.

I believe that there is a solution that includes your goals as well as the long term goals of gymnasts across the United States. Right now there is an ever increasing number of young gymnasts who want to consider UIC Gymnastics in their future. University administration serves as the steward of an institution on behalf of its students, alumni, fans, and benefactors. As a member of one of these constituencies I hope that you will take my request seriously.

I look forward to cheering on UIC Flames Gymnastics in 2019 and beyond!

Thank you,