



October 13, 2018

Dr. Michael Amiridis
Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago
601 S. Morgan St
2833 University Hall
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Chancellor Amiridis,

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. I believe you would agree that the benefits of athletic participation for, both, the student-athlete and the university are nearly immeasurable. The student-athlete learns tenacity and perseverance while the university's profile is expanded beyond campus. It should be the primary responsibility of university administration to protect and expand opportunity throughout the institution.

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. Perhaps there are models where public and private efforts can coincide and offer a solution.

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

Thank you,