

Manhattan College Athletics Committee (MCAC) Statement to be made at the College Senate Meeting on Tuesday, February 16th at 3:30 pm:

1. Background Information: The Senate passed a motion in spring 2016 (plan to read the motion—see below) and explain why it was passed.
2. It was determined that the MC Athletics Committee was a good place to have this cost-benefit analysis realized.
3. Fall 2015 - The MCAC had three meetings with discussion about motion and multiple guest speakers (admissions, finance, and athletics) to start the process of conducting such an analysis. Information was presented that illustrated the complexity of an analysis. The MCAC also discovered through its analysis a precedence, that when college and universities consider a change in athletic divisions and/or conferences this initiative originates with an institution's Board of Trustees and President.
4. Thus, with this information plus the current flux and transition in the Athletics Department, the MC Athletics Committee will not continue this work.

Motion from Senator Paul Droubie for Senate Consideration at the 4/21/2015 Meeting (MOTION PASSED)

Whereas the financial landscape of the NCAA Division I is rapidly changing as the Power 5 conferences have made new rules—such as covering the “full cost of attendance” gap for student-athletes on full scholarship—that will likely result in increased expenses for any participating athletic department, including at Manhattan College; and

Whereas the Director of Athletics reports that recent legal issues regarding scholarship athletes also appear to indicate potential increased expenses such as for the licensing of likenesses of current and former athletes; and

Whereas the Manhattan College faces a challenging athletic facilities situation in the Mid Atlantic Athletic Conference and this will be difficult to change significantly due to geographic, financial, and real estate constraints; and

Whereas all the above issues point towards an increasingly challenging financial situation for Division I athletics at Manhattan College in the future; and

Whereas the Senate believes it is better to perform an in-depth analysis of the costs and benefits of any and all options before the landscape changes too dramatically and the College finds itself without sufficient time to gather the requisite data to make data-informed decisions,

The Manhattan College Senate requests that Manhattan College form a study group of faculty and administrators to examine (in consultation with the Council of Faculty Affairs standing committee on athletics) the costs of the athletics department, with a particular focus on a cost/benefit analysis of participating in Division I athletics versus other options (such as moving to Division III) with the intention of allowing data-informed decisions on these issues in the future.