
From: Jeff Long
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 10:36 AM
To: G. David Gearhart
Cc: Alan Sugg
Subject: Confidential: Medical For Student-Athletes

Confidential

Chancellor,

AS we have discussed previously, as a result of our combining our two athletics programs we must develop a new model for providing the highest quality Healthcare to our student-athletes. The demands for caring for our combined 460 student-athletes in 19 sports necessitates our need for a new way in which to provide care.

We have received proposals from our two current providers on the Men's side, MANA and Ozark Orthopedics. The women's program was utilizing multiple providers who were unassociated, this model was no longer viable when we combined due to the number of student-athletes.

We are very close to finalizing a agreement with MANA as we have been able to work out an acceptable model for care. An agreement with Ozark Orthopedics has been much harder to forge. Ozark is unwilling to accommodate our model, we believe our model is a widely utilized on at Division IA Institutions and does not make unusual or extraordinary demands. The key stumbling block from my view point centers over being able to provide clinics on campus for our student-athletes, particularly our female and Olympic Sport Athletes as well as providing one Physician to cover Football throughout the year. We believe these are critical to providing continuity of care for Student-Athletes.

When we began this process we did not believe there was a viable alternative to Ozark. However, we have received an unsolicited proposal from a new group of Orthopedic Surgeons who are Board Certified in Sports Medicine and appear to be a well educated and trained Physician group with the facilities to provide high quality care to our Student-Athletes.

I wanted to let you know that we have consulted with Don Peterson and David Martinson to insure that we were going about our process in the appropriate manner and have been advised that we should make a decision on quality, quantity and availability of care and not on any type of "low bid". We have proceeded in this manner.

I also want to reiterate that while we hope and anticipate that our Medical Partners will also want to be sponsorship partners, this is not part of the medical partner decision making process. Any substantive or formal discussion of sponsorship will come after medical providers have been determined on the merits of their care model, physician training and experience. We have informed each of the potential medical partner of this early in the process.

I wanted to provide this background because I sense that if and I emphasize if we decide to move away from Ozark there may be some fallout in the community as a result.

My desire remains the same since the beginning of the process and that is with our new combined program to have the highest quality of care delivered as conveniently and expeditiously as possible for the benefit of our student-athletes.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will keep you informed of our progress.

Thank you,

Jeff