

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Item Name: Adaptive Athletics Funding Allocation

Action Item

Requested Action: The board office asks the board to approve the FY 2024 Adaptive Athletics Special Line Item funding allocation, as described in this executive summary.

Background/History of Previous Board Action

- The FY 2024 General Appropriations Act (Laws 2023, Chapter 133) appropriated \$160,000 to the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) for the Adaptive Athletics Special Line Item (SLI) in FY 2024. The following language is from the SLI's footnote in the bill:
 - "The Arizona board of regents shall distribute monies appropriated for the adaptive athletics line item to each university under the jurisdiction of the board to maintain and operate an intercollegiate adaptive athletics program that provides opportunities for competitive wheelchair and adaptive sports to students and community members with disabilities. The monies may be spent only when the university collects matching monies of gifts, grants and donations for the intercollegiate adaptive athletics program from sources other than this state. Universities may spend the monies only on scholarships, equipment, uniforms, travel expenses and tournament fees for participants in the intercollegiate adaptive athletics program. The monies may not be used for administrative costs, personal services or employee-related expenditures."
- Adaptive athletics is a competitive sports program dedicated to promoting athletic activities for students with disabilities.

Discussion

- The ABOR office requested proposals from the universities, and UArizona was the only request submitted.
- UArizona requested funding up to the full \$160,000 appropriation.

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- Pursuant to the footnote in the FY 2024 General Appropriations Act, the university must provide matching funding from non-state sources.
 - UAArizona has received \$347,702.17 in non-state matching monies.
- The footnote requires the funding to only be spent on scholarships, equipment, uniforms, travel expenses, and tournament fees for participants in the program. Monies may not be spent on administrative costs, personal services, or employee-related expenditures.
 - UAArizona will spend the \$160,000 to expand scholarship offerings, purchase sports equipment, and provide proper uniforms and travel support.
- UAArizona supports the largest adaptive athletics program in the United States with eight competitive teams and an adaptive fitness center. UAArizona will also be adding sled hockey in the near future to bring their offerings to nine competitive sports. UAArizona recruits athletes from across the country. The program includes wheelchair track and field, rugby, tennis, men's and women's basketball, handcycling, golf, swimming, and para-triathletes.

Statutory/Policy Requirements

FY 2024 General Appropriations Act (Laws 2023, Chapter 133, Section 90)