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**BOARD EXTENDS WAIVER FOR THE U OF I TO ELIMINATE
ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT DEFICIT**

The Idaho State Board of Education today gave the University of Idaho three additional years to eliminate a budget deficit in the University's Athletic Department.

The deficit is projected to be just under \$1 million dollars in State Fiscal Year 2018, which ends June 30.

“This Board has no interest in causing harm to student athletes, cutting athletic programs, or to micromanage this,” State Board Chairman Linda Clark said. “We do need to grant University leaders a fair amount of time to consider all factors and develop a plan. The onus for the plan falls on the University of Idaho.”

U of I leaders were directed to develop a plan that will eliminate the Athletics Department deficit by the end of State Fiscal Year 2021. The Board also directed University leaders to deliver annual progress reports at Board meetings each April, and mid-year updates to the Board's Business Affairs and Human Resources Committee.

A half-dozen student athletes, parents, and coaches testified in support of various sports that University leaders said they might have to cut.

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