Alpine Ski Team (#939)
2013-1-24

Student Services Fee Request for the 2014 - 2015 Academic Year

Address 300 Washington Ave. SE, 55455

Phone 651-894-2001 Fax --- Email skiteam@umn.edu

“We acknowledge that the Fee Committee does not award actual dollars, but rather a penny fee that earns dollars based upon student enrollment levels. Any differences between anticipated and actual income resulting from changes in enrollment are the responsibility of the student organization, not of the Fee Committee.”

Preparer’s Name Scott Sievert Co-Preparer’s Name Christopher Boser

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Is your organization an IRS 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit? Yes X No
If yes, please provide proof of your organization’s 501(c)(3) status.

Funds are being requested for (check all that apply):

General Operating Support: X Start-Up Costs:
Capital:

Project / Program Support: X Technical Assistance:
Other (List):

Budget
SSF Dollar Amount Requested $21,877.00
Total Annual Organization Budget $25,564.00
Total Program Budget (apart from General Operating) $21,173.00
Mission
The Alpine Ski Team at the University of Minnesota is a student group that competes in official ski competitions as the University's Ski Team through the Midwest College Skiing Association (MCSA) and nationally as part of the USCSA. In these events, we compete against other colleges and universities in the Midwest every weekend in January and February. Typically competitions last two days with giant slalom (GS) events being held one day and slalom events being held the second day. Places and trophies are given at the individual level and at the team level as determined by a combination of overall times in the two different skiing disciplines.

Our mission is broad:

- Be competitive within the MCSA and to routinely place within the top three teams annually.
- Qualify as a team for Nationals. This requires that we place in the top three at MCSA Regionals, a high goal since there are 33 teams in the region, one of the toughest in the midwest.
- Represent the university well. All team members are proud of their association with the University and represent every college at the university. We're all Golden Gophers and we want others who see us to respect us and for prospective skiing students to want to be part of this team.

Narrative

Because of the technical nature of ski racing, and the demanding performance required of a ski racer, we practice during the week at a local ski area in the Twin Cites. Training is expensive since each student athlete must purchase a lift ticket for each practice (approximately $35 per practice) Often it is more cost effective to just buy a season’s pass at the chosen area ($400 to $500 per year).

Currently, the athletes cover entry fees, equipment maintenance costs (waxing and tuning), uniforms and equipment costs as well as race tickets individually, either through dues or out of pocket individually. We were funded by the SSF Committee last year and through that we are able to cover travel expenses (gas), coaching and one twelfth of the total race lift ticket cost.

Alpine ski racing is an expensive sport, but one that is a passion for those who have reached the level of alpine ski racer. Getting to this level is unlike becoming proficient in many other sports because it requires years of dedication to the sport. As a result, many of the current members of the team report that having a collegiate ski team that they could join was a significant deciding factor in their decision to attend the University of Minnesota. Ski racing is often a big influence in the life of the athlete and one which
they want to continue pursuing at a high level during their university career.

Alpine ski racers have a significant investment in their sport. Before they even join the team and compete, they will have acquired all the equipment and clothing necessary to compete. In general, the expense comes to about $3500 per racer. A typical set of equipment would be two pairs of skis at about $1000 each, a pair of racing ski boots at about $700, a GS speed suit for $500, and various other things like helmets ($200-300), goggles ($150) and ski poles ($150).

Each racer cares for their own equipment and a fair fraction of it is replaced every year. For example, waxing skis is necessary for many high level practices and for all meets. A 180 gram bar of wax costs about $85 and lasts for about half a season. Athletes will need several of these to address different snow conditions. Waxing and tuning equipment can easily run to $500 and a much of it is essentially consumables and a recurring expense. All of this expense is paid for by the racer and is not part of the fees request.

Practice requires a considerable amount of equipment, including gates, battery powered drills to permit installation of the gates on the hill and some assorted tools necessary for course maintenance. Gates cost about $50 each and are surprising complex being composed of a base to anchor in the snow, a hinge and a shaft. These are essentially a consumable item and frequently break throughout the year. The team needs a stable supply of gates with a total of around 60 gates per year with about a quarter of these being fully destroyed and needing replacement annually. In addition, battery operated drills are needed to set the gates in the snow, 1.5” 2’ long drill bits for drilling in the snow, and an annual replacement of batteries are required.

Ideally, the team would like to acquire a set of timing equipment for practices to judge progress made during practice. This helps because it immediately allows skiers to see evaluate techniques to assess improvement.

Ski meets are held throughout the upper Midwest. This year, venues for these meets are Spirit Mountain in Duluth, Mount LaCrosse in LaCrosse, WI, Afton Alps and Wild Mountain in the Twin Cities (no overnight travel required), Giant’s Ridge in Biwabic, MN, and Marquette Mountain in Marquette, MI. Typically, each meet is two days with one skiing event held on Saturday and the other on Sunday. Overnight travel is required as well as meals and a hotel stay of two nights in order to compete in the meet. Typically between 25 to 44 athletes travel and compete at each meet.

The three year plan for the ski team is to increase membership to 65 members, to improve the results of the team in competition to win a spot to represent the the conference (MCSA) and University at the USCSA Nationals, and to represent the University well. This means that increasing the recruitment of ski racers within the University community and the incoming freshman class is a priority as well as a more precise and targeted training plan that is supported properly with equipment and resources is required to meet
these goals.

In order for the team to be successful and as a primary priority, a high quality coach is required. The duties of the coach are to deal with officiating issues, registration issues, to organize practices, set courses and then to critique athletic performance and offer guidance in technique. Without coaching, these issues must be handled by the athletes and take away from precious practice time. High quality coaching is very hard to find because, again, a coach is one who has spent many years gaining competence as a racer and then being trained by the USSA (parent organization of the US Ski Team) to specific coaching standards and is able to critique performance of racers, offer suggestions for improvements as well as having the skill to set courses for practice.

This is the first year this team has a full-time and highly trained coach. Chris Setchell, our coach, is also the head coach of a local racing program and a coach of a 400-person USSA program in Canada. Setchell is a Level 300 USSA Coach (highest possible level of coaching expertise available from the USSA). He has had experience coaching Canadian National teams, he has run large high quality youth racing programs, and has been highly instrumental in improving the UMN Alpine ski team this year. Setchell’s coaching fee was paid for using the funding provided by the University for this season. Setchell as coach was a significant enabler for the Team’s success in training this year (GDM 10).

Setchell conducted “dry land” training through November until on snow training began in mid December. He also has been coaching training sessions and directing the assistant coach (Asst. Coach is at no cost to the team) for other practices in which he could not attend.

Coach Setchell wants to devote more time to this ski team and provide more structure to the team’s training, including training camps and being present at practice more frequently. That means that we have three plans to propose to the SSF committee, and the most desirable plan can be chosen. The leadership of the team has developed these plans with Setchell and concurs that this is an appropriate plan to achieve the team’s goals of representing the conference at the USCSA Nationals. In the attached budget, a significant part of the request this year will be to increase coaching support.

Currently, the cost of the equipment when added to the travel expenses is a high and a very difficult financial burden for almost any student athlete. This has caused some racers to either not compete as often as they should or would have liked to or have to leave the team after a year or two. In either case, an opportunity was lost to the student because of financial reasons rather than from desire, passion, or because of a lack of interest. In the process, the representation by the student of the University is also lost. The student athlete also loses an important connection to the University and the University community.
Long story made short, presently the athletes on the Alpine Ski Racing team are racing as representatives of the University with modest financial support but yet have incurred significant costs per athlete to do so, including substantial travel and competition costs. This fee request would ask that the University help defray much of the operational costs of this team. This funding has shown positive benefits. For example, participation is way up and we have nearly doubled the size of the team.

To put this in perspective, other Universities with ski teams that compete in MCSA and USCSA conferences, including most of the teams against which the Alpine Ski Team competes, are partially or totally funded by their respective college or university. Some of our direct competitors are: UMD, Northern Michigan University (NMU), St. Olaf College, University of Michigan, Illinois State University, University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse, University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, and the University of St. Thomas. These are the competitors to our university both as alpine ski racers AND for the prospective students who are ski racers and for whom having a quality alpine ski racing team is a key deciding factor in their selection of a college. See section with testimonials from current Alpine Ski Team athletes.

It should also be noted that there are no student groups at the University that have our same mission (GDM 1a). There is a Ski and Snowboard Club but they are a student group that operates as a means to go on ski outings in a social setting and they do not train or compete. In other words, there is no outlet for alpine ski racing within the University student groups of athletic teams other than the UMN Alpine Ski Team.

Most members of the ski team were racers in high school in school sanctioned and supported competition. Others also raced in USSA sponsored events. Currently, the amount of support that the University supplies to the University’s ski team is substantially exceeded by the high schools that supply the students to the university. This disparity in support is not the same with the peer schools against which our ski team competes. Some schools, specifically St. Olaf, actually provide scholarship support up to and including 100% financial academic support for some of their student ski team athletes. We know, through our recruiting efforts and our relationships with many of the athletes at our competing schools, that some of these very same student athletes would have chosen the University of Minnesota instead had there been more support for the ski team.

If the University where to fund this program at the level requested, we believe that the number of athletes participating would be commiserate with the University’s size and prestige in the world of athletics. We would have a team that would be proportionate to the size of the University and would lead to results that would be appropriate the University of Minnesota which has a rich legacy of excellence in athletics.

This year, in large part because of the funding supplied by the University, we are off to a good start on increasing the size and quality of our team. We have nearly doubled the size
of the team from a roster of 24 student athletes to 46 student athletes (GDM 3). We have attracted many new experienced successful racers that have improved the quality of the team. Our results to date this year are better than last year indicating that this plan is appropriate and successful.

Looking at last year’s data, it’s obvious that the Alpine Ski Team only partially followed SSF Committee’s recommendations (GDM 12). We used the funds allocated for a coach and the MCSA fees. However, with the remaining funds we decided not to use towards racing supplies. Instead, we feel and felt that it costs too much to attend meets. Any college student feels this cost, so we instead decided to cover travel costs.

In terms of types of funding and payment scheduling, our income is one-time for operating costs, mainly in team dues. However, it’s most natural to represent what these costs go for (mainly meets) in the programming section. This is a minor quirk on the budget sheet.

We believe that if the University where to continue to fund this team that there would be substantial benefits that would accrue to the University. From a modest investment by the University, a weighty number of prospective students could be recruited to the University simply from the Alpine Ski Team’s reputation -- the team being a notable differentiator from most Big 10 schools, as well as smaller colleges with whom we compete.

The Alpine Ski Team is open to anyone who wants to join (GDM 4), even if they have never skied before. This has happened in the past and present, and we devote coaching time and effort to helping them improve. For example, this year we had a student who only skied several times before joining our team. We helped coach her and encouraged her to attend lessons, eventually resulting in her going on a ski trip to Colorado with many members of the team and racing weekly. The Ski Team is open to anyone who is interested in ski racing regardless of ability (GDM 5) and we have worked hard to be a welcoming and supportive team environment.

We have previously attempted to fund our group through other sources (GDM 7), such as the Sport Clubs (aka Rec. Sports) program, a prestigious program containing high level teams that are essentially one step below NCAA. However, no new applications are being accepted due to funding issues. Because of this we are again applying for support for the team from the Student Services Fee Committee. We are trying to demonstrate how serious this team is, and plan to be a functioning Sport Club without the label.

Again, this year, we know of skiers that have raced in high school, and are not racing in college solely due to financial reasons. If we can continue to be funded (in part) by the University and reduce the cost of being on the team (approximately $1,000 per person), this would hopefully change and we’d see a larger population join our team. It is in this manner that the Alpine Ski Team would enable the ski racing portion of the student body
to compete. A good example of this was also shown this year: we know of a student who couldn’t join simply because of the costs even though she wanted to join.

As ski teams can only operate in the winter (when there’s snow), we will not be operating in the summer. We do, however, operate in the fall by conducting dryland training sessions before we can begin training on the snow.

Being competitive in the MCSA is difficult. Being composed of some of the colleges and universities in the northern latitudes, and drawing students from areas that have strong high school alpine skiing programs or are served by vibrant traveling ski teams that are part of the USSA (feeder organization for the US Ski Team), these schools often are the schools from which the high school alpine athletes select their colleges. Many prospective students, who are ski racers, consider having a ski team that they can join to be very important in their selection of a college and university.

It should be noted that Minnesota is the home to some of the better ski racers in the US, regardless of where they ski. For example, at the high school league’s state tournament it is not uncommon for some of the US Ski Team and US Olympic Team members to compete in. This experience is not foreign to Minnesota, as it is replicated in at least Wisconsin and Michigan as well. Minnesota alone is where Lindsay Vonn got her start, Kristina Koznick a former US Ski Team and Olympic Athlete. Current US Ski Team members from Minnesota include Mike Ankeny and Paula Moltzan.

In the high school arena, Minnesota is seen as a leader with exceptional skiers. At the college level, this is simply not true. We routinely place in fifth place at our weekend competitions, behind schools like St. Olaf, UW-Madison, NMU and UMD. As a state with a strong high school skiing background, we should be placing ahead of Madison and NMU at the very least, if not UMD. Note that difference between second place and fifth place is significant. The teams above us have quality teams while we previously did not.

This year (2013-14), we can already see improvement having finished either 2nd or 3rd in the two meets so far this season.

Currently, the Alpine Ski Team has a roster of 46 students, 92% increase from last year’s roster of 24. Last year’s funding greatly helped with this. We became better organized and were successful in our fall recruiting this year largely because of the positive changes were were able to make to the program with this funding. In order to take the next step in our plan, we will be increasing the leadership of the team with better definition of officer roles/division of labor and increasing the number of leadership positions all to support a larger more focused and successful team.

Other schools have large teams, and in the past we’ve been uncompetitive in terms of team size. UW Madison, a school similar to our university but in an area less active for skiing, has a team of 66 members. St. Olaf has a team of 17 members and provides scholarships for all of these members. NMU and UMD each have over 40 members. With
SSF funding, we are competitive with these numbers but we would like to grow our team to be in the vicinity of 65 athletes, commensurate with UW Wisconsin and to sustain that over time.

In order to achieve our goal of being more competitive in the MCSA and of having the team go to Nationals, in addition to a larger team, we need more complete coaching support in order to attract some of the more talented skiers coming out of high schools and to entice those who are already UMN students to join the team and compete. We cannot increase the size of the team without reducing the cost and providing more complete coaching. The level of coaching support is also a deciding factor for student athletes who are making decisions to join both the University and the ski team. It goes without saying that besides recruitment, increased coaching support leads to a better trained and more successful team.

Finally, a larger team means better and more visible support for UMN as well as a cadre of athletes who become ambassadors for the University through their team as alumni of their respective high schools (GDM 6). Because ski racing is such a long term commitment for an athlete, the ski racing community is very tightly knit with many college racers having long and enduring ties to their former high school teams. Ski Team members as ambassadors become some of the most personal advocates for the University and essentially are ad hoc recruiters. There are many examples of just such successful recruiting (GDM 1a).

Many of our team members are still connected with their former high school teams or coach other high school teams. Our members are connected with the Stillwater, Edina, Holy Angels, Mahtomedi, Woodbury, Hastings, Eden Prairie, Wayzata and many more high school teams as well as USSA teams in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. These teams are seen at our fundraising events (high school invites) and during breaks when athletes travel home for the holidays. See the performance report for testimonials about how skiing is a significant factor in deciding what college to attend.

We currently have strong sense of community on our ski team (GDM 1c). We attend most of the practices and races together, and we all gatekeep (necessary requirement of MCSA for race administration) together. As with many teams, we and our teammates have a strong bond and a connectedness to each other and the University. We also have initiated team bonding trips such as a trip open to team members to Colorado for recreational skiing over the winter break.

Since any student can join, and no there is no academic prerequisite, we are open to any member or fan from any department and academic unit who has an interest in ski racing regardless of ability (GDM 4).

We feel that this team will increase and continue to provide positive publicity for the
University that will encourage more students to attend the University (see Performance Report testimonials for more detail). As well, Ski racing teaches mental toughness, perseverance and the ability to prevail despite tough environments. Ski racers are conditioned to standing outside in -20°F weather to train, compete and support their sport. This same attitude translates into the same toughness, perseverance and determination to succeed in other environments too, including the academic environment. Ski team athletes are often excellent students (GDM 1a).
Performance Report

A quantitative description of how well our team is doing is how many skiers go to each meet and of our memberships numbers. This aligns with our mission, to attend these meets, do well and have large participation (GDM 2). The number of skiers that go to meets on a year- to-year basis is relatively constant, as shown in the table below. We also believe that these numbers would rise given additional support given team size as a constant and would rise significantly as team size grows. In other words, the limiting factor is the cost rather than the desire of athletes to compete. The total cost for a single racer to attend a single meet is approximately $180, a significant cost. Despite this, we still have a decent turn out at the ski meets. Note that the same skiers do not attend the same meet, but rather it depends on who is free that weekend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meet</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afton Alps</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Mtn.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. LaCrosse</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giants Ridge</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit Mtn.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquette</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>18.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>26.8</strong></td>
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(The meets dashed off are still coming up)

The Alpine Ski Team has operated for a number of years and we are unsure of the exact beginning of the team. Anecdotally, we have heard of ski racers that were on our team in the 90’s. Note that this is remarkable because we heard of this while we were gatekeeping for a fundraiser, which shows the dedication of ski racers and the connection that alumni maintain with the team.

Members of the Alpine Ski Team participate in numerous fund raising events such as gatekeeping at high school skiing invitationals. Typically this is about 6 students per event, and there are about 3 such events per year.

The table below shows the relative proportions of ski racer by school by school population and showing how UMN is deficient. While we have made significant progress in this during the 2013-14 season, we still have a way to go. We feel that if we maintain our plan, we will reach the appropriate levels of participation during next season.

The undergraduate populations are taken from Wikipedia and the ski team sizes from the results. These ski teams all compete with UMN in MCSA’s league. Notice how colleges have a fair number of skiers per 1,000 students, except in UMN’s case. Every other college has between 1.5 and 4 times as many skiers per 1,000 student as UMN does.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Size of undergrad population</th>
<th>Size of ski team</th>
<th>Skiers per 1,000 students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UMN</td>
<td>30,375</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Madison</td>
<td>28,897</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>NMU</td>
<td>8,578</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMD</td>
<td>9,452</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>4.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Olaf</td>
<td>3,007</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>6.31</td>
</tr>
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</table>

We are in the middle of our three year plan for the team. The performance to goals are:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Progress and status</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Attain team size of 65 athletes (GDM 3)</td>
<td>2012-13: 24 athletes&lt;br&gt;2013-14: 46 athletes (84% increase),&lt;br&gt;2014-15: Expected 65 athletes (39% increase year on year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Represent the University well (GDM 1a, 6)</td>
<td>2012-13: Initiated parent booster club support. &lt;br&gt;2013-14: Larger contingent of athletes/ambassadors at each meet over the Midwest and Colorado. Continued significant presence in volunteering at MN high school ski meets. Aggressive recruit of high school racers to the University. &lt;br&gt;2014-15: Continue and expand initiatives with parent boosters, volunteerism, and recruitment.</td>
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</tbody>
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This is significant progress, but we are planning on expanding to be commensurate with our peer schools. For purposes of comparison, UW-Madison has has 66 skiers and and an even more experienced roster. UMD, UW-Madison and St. Olaf all have past MN high school state champions on their roster. We feel that the enhanced Alpine ski racing program at the University of Minnesota as well as the strong academic reputation of the University will be key in attracting such capable skiing talent to the team.

Despite this, we believe we are in the hunt for a spot at USCSA Nationals this year.
Previously, we felt it might take up to three years to grow and improve the team to compete for a spot at the USCSA Nationals and we think we have greatly accelerated our plan.

We think that an objective review of our performance to plan would show our results to be strongly positive and ahead of the projections that we made in our request last year.

A survey for the Alpine Ski Team would be impractical, so we instead have testimonials from members below. These are narratives to illustrate how the group feels to first-year members -- largely, it does not feel as organized as the high school’s program.

**Personal Narratives**

**Andrea Dahl -- Women’s team member. Microbiology.**

Seventh grade was the year I began a sport that will last a lifetime -- alpine skiing. After signing up for a winter sport I knew little about, I was launched into a freezing, painful, expensive sport. Braving the coldest days in northern Minnesota to practice ski racing, I look back and wonder why I ever stayed with the sport. It was absolutely miserable during those January days. However, I can confidently say that my high school coaches are what kept me going. Bill Magajna taught me everything I know about skiing, and I came to practice ready to work on anything he would ask of me. His highly effective coaching style came to an end in my high school career when he retired after my ninth grade season. Skiing wasn’t the same. I wasn’t improving, which put a huge damper on my love for the sport.

Coming to the University of Minnesota, I took the same blind sign-up to ski when I joined the Alpine Ski Team here at the U. Since it is a Big 10 University, I thought the ski race team would be very big and have a great coaching staff. Boy, was I wrong on that notion. The team was under 30 racers, most of whom were just average skiers, nothing of the caliber that I thought I would be intimidated by. In addition to the small team, there was not a legitimate ski coach! After skiing 3 years of high school with a stand-in coach who knew little about effective ski coaching, I would have yet one more year with a stand-in coach.

When the end of my first season as a racer for the U of M alpine team came, I decided I would not be joining next year. I was not willing to make the huge investment into a sport I loved, but that was carrying no forward momentum.

This year changed my thoughts on the team. I was pleased to hear that the team had received a grant, and that we would be able to have a bonafide ski coach, one of the best I could ever imagine. I have gone to practices a couple time with Coach Chris Setchell in attendance, and his style of coaching is incredible! His feedback is helping my improvement greatly, only after two practices. I regret not joining the team this year - instead making the commitment at the beginning of the semester to join the Men’s Hockey athletic band, which conflicts with every race of the season. I have told my peers that I would join the team, of which I have become
close friends with a few (preparer edit: GDM 1c), again if Coach Chris comes back. If we cannot afford to pay his salary, I will not be joining the sport I love due to lack of a more serious racing culture.

Kelsey Sievert -- Women's team member. Biomedical engineering.
Growing up as a skier and eventually a racer, ski racing was something that I never considered giving up during college. I knew I wanted to continue skiing through my college career as well as throughout my life. When looking at colleges, I only considered colleges that had a ski team that competed in the USCSA.

When I joined the U of M team as a freshman, it seemed the team was struggling to remain competitive with other teams in the USCSA after the U of M team was no longer supported in the sports club program. I was unimpressed at the size and level with which the U of M team competed. Ski racing is an expensive sport. Many experienced racers are interested in joining a ski team, but the price tag of racing is too costly, despite their desire to continue competing. Acquiring more support for the team in order to have more racers join and remain on the team is one way to improve the level of competition and to grow the team into a legacy here on campus.

With the funds provided for this season, we have been able to make steps in the right direction. I was glad to hear that we obtained enough funds to hire a coach, Chris Setchell. With the short time he has had with our team, I’ve seen the potential level that he could elevate our team to. We are truly lucky to have snagged such a coach that not only fits well within our team dynamic, but also has a high level of expertise and experience. He is truly a specialist of the sport of ski racing and coaching it. This season he has already made an impact on me as a racer. In our dryland practices he has pushed me to be a stronger athlete and on the hill he has driven me to be an even stronger racer. I’m grateful he is willing to donate some of his time at a reduced rate this year and I hope that we can obtain the funds to bring him on full time next season. He has a lot of expertise to offer and I hope to continue to work with him in the future.

While my experience on the team last year and half has been a rewarding one, the team still has many areas to improve. My hope is that this will become a team that is a serious contender to compete at nationals. I want to help create and grow a more competitive and more organized team that has a larger, stronger presence on the ski hill, and our campus.

Philip Tanner -- Men's Captain. Mechanical Engineering, Honors.

When applying to colleges, ski racing was a must for me. While I knew that my education was extremely important (it is, of course, the true reason to attend a university), I also knew that ski racing was a part of my life that I was not willing to give up. After being admitted to the University of Illinois Mechanical Engineering program and also to Cornell University, I chose Minnesota over these other highly accredited schools due to the fact that I could ski race at the U of M.
While my experience as a member of the ski team has been phenomenal these past 3 years, I have been disappointed in the size and draw of the Alpine Ski Team. Considering the size of such a prominent and prestigious university I would think that the University of Minnesota ski team would be far larger than it is. I have come to realize that many talented racers at the university have decided to stop racing once attending the University of Minnesota. Why? Not because they simply stop loving the sport (in my experience I've found that ski racing is a difficult sport to stop loving), but rather because they can't afford to be a member of the team. If the Alpine Ski Team were to become partially supported financially by the university, I believe that the team would grow and would become a far more prestigious program in the collegiate alpine racing circuit. It is not simply a matter of size, but also a matter of school pride.

I believe I speak for all members of the Alpine Race Team when I say that we want to be proud as a Gopher not only in the classroom but also in something that we truly love: downhill alpine racing.

Financial Data

The primary reason student athletes drop from the team is financial. It’s expensive to be on the team, and often college students just can’t afford it. With increased funding, we could help reduce this cost, leading to higher retention.

With University funding, there’s no doubt we recruited more athletes. A problem in the past has been that these freshmen have quickly dropped the team. The SSF funding from last year has help us be better organized through better coaching and we have made many improvements for next year. Athletes are more engaged and are already more likely to return in subsequent years.

Reserve Accounts

We have no reserve accounts because the ski team’s finance are run largely out of the checkbooks and personal funds of the student athletes. A balance of approximately 10% of our dues balance is kept in our checking account.

Fees Request

Our total fees request is of $26,213 dollars. This is a second-time request. This request is for funds to support lift tickets for competitions/meets and/or travel expenses and coaching support. This request includes some one time costs for capital expenses for items like timing equipment for practices.

The request for funding by the team is to augment substantial personal funding provided by each of the athletes and from fund raising that the athletes do as team members.
The increase requested for this year is increased over the grant of $10,000 for last year’s request because of two reasons:

1. The increased number of skiers (84% increase over prior year) leads to higher expenses for travel and meet expenses.
2. We believe that because of the size of our team much more coaching time is required to achieve the same per athlete coaching exposure as well as an increase to help move the team to the next level and increase competitiveness.

Priorities for funding (in order of importance) are:

We feel that the most important funding priority is to reduce the per athlete cost at each meet. We then feel that keeping our coach is also extremely important – so important, we increased dues to meet it. But, Coach Setchell has agreed to come full-time, something we'd love to see and are asking for more funds for this reason.

**Description of a 10% Fees Request Reduction**

As demonstrated in the past, the members of the team would carry the burden of a 10% fees request reduction.

**External Funding**

We have approached the Rec. Sports about perhaps becoming a Sports Club program. However, they turned us down. We hope to become a functioning Sports Club program, but without the title. We are hopeful that they will be willing to fund a functioning team.

Other efforts to raise funds include some fundraising as well as individual dues. Individual dues cover the majority of the cost, meaning that members bear the cost themselves.

Many of the grants seem to be for one-off events, such as a movie-showing in Coffman open to all students. Obviously, our ski meets are planned by the league far in advance and while open to all students, require extended stay on-hill and in hotels. As for providing funds to help coach, we could not find any grants for that.

The percentage of our proposed budget that will be met with SSF is 47% of our total budget.

**Organization Chart**

Current organization chart:
Next year’s organization chart:

- **President**
- **Vice-President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Women’s Captain**
- **Men’s Captain**
- **Organizer 1**
- **Organizer 2**
- **Registration Officer**
- **Fundraising and Recruiting Officer**
- **Treasurer**
- **Clothing/Equipment Officer**

We feel that this organization chart is much, much better. We have well defined roles and know what we’re supposed to do. We won’t be a bunch of students without roles thrown together to form a team. For example, the Fundraising/Recruiting officer will be responsible for finding grants and applying for the SSF. Before, it was just however had the motivation and idea to do that.

The roles for each officer is described by the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Primary duty time</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organizer * 2</td>
<td>Ski season</td>
<td>Organizing rides, planning Welch/Wild/Buck invites, planning run orders,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruiting + fundraising officer</td>
<td>Info session, early-on winter break</td>
<td>Putting posters up for the info session, finding fundraising opportunities including both grants and SSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Winter break, ski season</td>
<td>Keeping track of the books, keeping a ledger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration officer</td>
<td>Nov./Early Dec.</td>
<td>Officially registering with USCSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment officer</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Sweatshirts, jackets, hats, tshirts… + gates/keys/drills/etc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chris Setchell Biography

USSA (United States Ski and Snowboard Association) Level 300 Coach
CSCF (Canadian Ski Coaches Federation) Performance Level Coach
CSCF Certified Coach Mentor/Evaluator
CSIA (Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance) Level 2

Chris Setchell is a professional alpine ski racing coach who has worked with all levels of athletes ranging from 6 year-old entry-level racers through to elite athletes competing at national and international events.

Chris is currently the Race Program Director at Trollhaugen Outdoor Recreation Area in Wisconsin. Chris manages and trains a staff of 21 coaches, develops the seasonal plan as well as weekly training plans for coaches and 130 athletes, provides the point of contact for parents and plans and coordinates race events. In three seasons, he has transformed Trollhaugen’s race program; increased the proportion of coaches with USSA certification from less than 30% in 2011 to over 80% this season, dramatically increased compliance with the USSA’s long-term athlete development model and significantly increased both parent and athlete satisfaction.

“The past 2 seasons, Chris has been an asset to Trollhaugen’s race programs, specifically the D-Team. Each week, he works with the D-Team coaches to ensure consistent curriculum among all age & skill levels. He is extremely professional and highly skilled as a coach and makes himself readily available to the coaches, athletes and parents.”

— Brook Grubs, 2012, Trollhaugen parent, Director of Professional Services at Tightrope Media Systems

Prior to moving to Minnesota due to his wife’s job transfer to the Midwest, Chris held many full time coaching roles in Canada.

He was Head Coach of Caledon Ski Cub’s K1 Individual program for many years. This is a specialized full-year program for elite 12 and 13 year-old skiers committing to over 120 days per year on snow and aiming for top finishes at Provincial and National Championships and international competitions such as the Whistler Cup and Can-Am Championships.

Chris “... has very good coaching skills, and motivated the young racers to both learn racing basics and to prepare them very well to compete. He also helped Sydney set up her equipment to help a young racer get maximum performance out of her gear. He played a key role in helping Sydney develop racing technique, as well as respect and love for the sport.”
Sydney finished 3rd in the Provincial Championships this year and will race for Team Ontario in this year’s prestigious Whistler Cup. Chris, thanks for all your help in getting her there!” — Stuart Payne, 2010, parent, President / CEO at Saatchi & Saatchi Canada

He also served as **Head Coach** at Earl Bales Ski Centre in Toronto, Ontario. This urban ski race program supported the athletic endeavours of over 300 athletes. Chris’s role included management and training of all coaching staff, program planning and day-to-day management. He was also the primary on-hill coach for members of the Canadian Masters Alpine Ski Team (CMAST) who trained at this facility. Chris was awarded **Coach of the Year** in 2010 for his performance in this role.

Chris believes in continuous education, training and certification as essential elements of being a professional coach. As a coach evaluator, he conducts coaching certification courses for both USSA and CSCF each season. Chris has already trained one UMN Alpine Team member as a USSA coach. In Canada, he is also certified as a Coach Mentor – providing long-term advice, monitoring and testing of younger coaches as they develop their careers. Chris applies the same commitment to his own development typically spending between two and four weeks every year updating his own skills. In addition to technical and tactical skiing skills, his training includes courses in athlete physical and psychological preparation, ethics, risk management, program planning and management and conflict resolution.

“I have witnessed Chris’ progression of certification through the alpine ski coaching body in Canada (CSCF) with admiration. His attention and dedication to the learning aspects of becoming a good ski coach has been exemplary for his co-coaches and the staff directly under his supervision. His ability to communicate with and get results from his athletes is an aspect of his commitment to ski racing that every coach strives for.”

- Ralph Ferguson, 2010, Head Coach, Caledon Ski Club

Chris other recent roles have included Head Coach, Breck School Alpine Ski Team; Coach, Alpine Ontario Skills and Recognition Camps; Assistant Coach, K2 Speed Program; and Nancy Greene Program Supervisor, Caledon Ski Club.