



MEMO

TO: U SPORTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: PIERRE ARSENAULT, U SPORTS CEO

DATE: May 31st, 2023

SUBJECT: Report on the Application for membership by l'Université du Quebec à Chicoutimi

As a follow up to our previous discussions on this topic at recent board meetings, I am pleased to provide the following report on the application for U SPORTS membership by l'Université du Quebec à Chicoutimi (UQAC).

The U SPORTS policy that provides direction for contemplating and accepting new members is policy 10.0 (membership). The policy in its entirety can be found at this link - https://usports.ca/uploads/hq/By_Laws-Policies-Procedures/2019/EN/Policy_10_Membership_%282019-2020%29.pdf

I can confirm that we have received application for membership, and we have also received the \$5,000 application fee as prescribed in policy 10.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REVIEW

As indicated above, we have received a full and complete application for membership (included with this package) from l'Université du Quebec à Chicoutimi. As per the requirements of our policy 10 (membership), I completed a campus visit to UQAC on Monday, May 29th.

Using the conditions of membership as outlined in policy 10, here's a summary of how UQAC satisfies these conditions. The information provided below comes from UQAC's formal application, from my campus visit and from discussions with RSEQ staff and representatives from RSEQ member schools who have interacted with UQAC in recent years.

10.10.2.1 – I can confirm receipt of a letter of support from the RSEQ (included with this package).

10.10.2.2 – I can confirm receipt of a letter of support from the university's President (recteur), Dr. Ghislain Samson.

10.10.2.3 – The application provides detail for sections 10.10.2.3.1 to 10.10.2.3.8. This includes an established budget for their programs, investments in full-time coaching opportunities, a plan for





the funding and managing scholarships, a plan for managing student athlete eligibility, support for communications and marketing through the university and established codes of conduct for student athletes, coaches, and staff.

10.10.2.4 – UQAC is declaring for the following sports - women’s volleyball; men’s and women’s cross country; men’s athletics.

10.10.2.5 – The programs that UQAC will declare in have been in existence with varying degrees of experience. The programs all have previous established competitiveness with their RSEQ counter parts.

10.10.2.6 – During my visit it was immediately apparent that there is a good relationship with the community of Chicoutimi and that the university is well positioned as both an important facility resource and an important provider of sport leadership. The administration with Athletics embraces their opportunity and responsibilities to be able to help develop sport throughout the region.

10.10.2.7 – There is demonstrated evidence of commitment to gender equity through the programs being supported.

10.10.2.8 – The established programs have a good entry point with demonstrated investment in coach leadership positions already and with continued further investment planned.

10.10.2.9 – The administration understands the needs around sports information management and communication. They appear to be well supported by the university and are prepared for commitments in this area.

10.10.2.10 – UQAC will work closely with RSEQ to ensure that all conditions for technical officials are met.

10.10.2.11 – The core field house and athletic centre facility was built for the 1983 Canada Winter Games, and it continues to be a functional and effective facility today. In addition, there is an arena on campus and there is currently a \$7M renovation project happening for their stadium. The finished product will include a full-sized artificial turf for soccer and football and a regulation six lane running track.

10.10.2.12 – There is no current or planned involvement with the NCAA.

10.10.2.13 – There is no current or planned involvement with the NAIA.

MOTION

Based on the above information and review, I am pleased to recommend without reservation that the U SPORTS board support the following motion:





PROPOSED MOTION – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors recommend to the Membership that l'Université du Quebec à Chicoutimi (UQAC) be approved as a probationary member for two years, in compliance with Policy 10.10.1, with effect on June 15, 2023.

Thanks everyone.

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