

Must reading for University Presidents, Trustees—IHL Members, Faculty, Students, and Most of All by Alumni and Sports Fans

The Chronicle of Higher Education [published an article](#) that is must reading for everyone. Here's an excerpt:

Many people mistakenly assume that most athletics departments with teams in Division I football and basketball are self-supporting. But an NCAA analysis found that in 2009-10, just 14 athletic departments in the country would have been able to cover their expenses without student fees or other subsidies from institutional funds—and those subsidies are skyrocketing.

Between 2005 and 2010—a period during which many states cut higher-education support—spending by Division I athletic departments rose more than twice as fast as academic spending on a per-student basis. Public colleges and universities in Division I spent roughly \$92,000 per athlete in 2010, compared with less than \$14,000 per full-time student.

A good portion of the money to support athletics programs comes from student fees, which are tacked on to tuition whether a student is interested in athletics or not. In 2008-9, students at public Division I colleges paid nearly \$800-million in fees to support athletics programs—at a time when many cash-strapped students are worried about rising debt burdens and being able to afford college at all.