June 17, 2019

Dear Friends;

My colleagues and family know that when I say I’m going to do something, I get it done. It is hard to accept that sometimes outside forces prevent me from fulfilling those expectations. This has happened with Phase II of the Kearly Stadium project.

This month, we planned to demolish the existing press box and begin construction on the new press box, which includes coaches and broadcast booths, a new concession area and restrooms. We were given an estimate project cost for Phase II of $1.3 million. Unfortunately, bids came in over 40% higher than expected, due primarily to a booming construction market and increases in material costs, specifically steel.

Husky Football Alumni have been exceedingly generous, contributing more than $1.6 million for Phases I and II. The University has invested also. There has been enthusiastic support for and commitment to the project. Unfortunately, with the higher bid and a very short Upper Peninsula outdoor construction season, I cannot authorize the project to move forward this summer.
We remain committed to doing what we promised. However, we need to work closely with our facilities partners, look for cost savings and raise additional funds so that we can construct a functional and attractive press box. We have already made progress with some engineering changes that will reduce costs. I also hope that the construction environment becomes more competitive and we find contractors who will work with us to build a great facility at a reasonable cost. We plan to rebid the project in late Fall 2019.

I do want to take this opportunity to share that we still intend to dedicate the stadium and honor the Kearly Family with the naming of Kearly Stadium on September 28th. The dedication and naming of the stadium is not contingent upon the press box and we have begun rebranding the stadium with Kearly Stadium language. We are very excited to celebrate both the renaming as well as the 1969 Football Team.

Many football alumni have been generous in supporting the program and facility improvements. If you already committed to Phase II, please know your funds WILL be used for the press box as promised. If you still have an outstanding pledge, we need your gifts, which are more important than ever. If you have not had the opportunity to make your commitment, we need you. In order to move forward with Phase II we need a significant amount of the funding in hand.

If you have not yet made your gift or if you have questions about the status of your pledge, Darcy Way, Director of Advancement for Athletics, is available to meet or talk to you. I would also be happy to answer questions or discuss the project further. As always, we hope to see you at the games and below is our 2019 Husky Football Schedule. Thank you again for your past support of Michigan Tech Football and we appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Sanregret, PhD
Director of Athletics
906-487-3070
srsanreg@mtu.edu

Darcy Way
Director of Advancement
715-577-0642
dgway@mtu.edu

2019 Football Schedule

SEPTEMBER
Sat. 7  at Hillsdale  1:00 PM
Sat. 14 at McKendree  2:00 PM
Sat. 21 at Saginaw Valley State  1:30 PM
Sat. 28 Grand Valley State  1:00 PM
(Kearly Stadium Dedication and 1969 Team Reunion)

OCTOBER
Sat. 12 Northern Michigan  1:00 PM
Sat. 19 at Davenport  TBA
Sat. 26 at Ashland  1:00 PM

NOVEMBER
Sat. 2 Ferris State  1:00 PM
Sat. 9 at Wayne State  1:00 PM
Sat. 16 Northwood  1:00 PM