

University Athletic Committee
September 22, 2005
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center

Members Present: Susan Anderson, Coleman Collins, David Ford, Art Keown, Rosemary Goss, Frank Gwazdauskas, Cathy Lally, David Lowe, Steve McMullin, Dwight Shelton, Terry Swecker, Joe Tront, LaChelle Waller, Jim Weaver, Whitney White.

Members Absent: Candi Clemenz, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Jerry Niles, Dixie Watts Reaves, Jesse Richardson, Larry Taylor, Mallory Soldner, Norrine Bailey Spencer.

Representatives: Bill Champion for Zenobia Hikes, Greg Reaves for Dixie Reaves

Guest Present: Chris Helms, Coordinator, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The minutes of April 21, 2005 were approved. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

Business

Committee Charge (Joe Tront)

Handout

The UAC was formed July 1, 1988. Joe Tront read the President's charge to the committee.

General Charge: To review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics.

Specific Committee responsibilities include:

- A. Provide advice to the Athletic Director on such matters as financial aid for student athletes, residential life for student athletes, program balance between revenue and non-revenue sports, recruiting, admissions, NCAA compliance, and general intercollegiate athletic budgetary and operational matters.
- B. Provide advice to the Provost on matters related to academic progress of athletes, the admission policy for athletes, academic advising of athletes, and relations with academic departments and faculty in general.
- C. Participate in the search process for the selection of the Athletic Director. The Committee will also participate in periodic evaluations of the Athletic Director in coordination with the University official to whom the Athletic Director reports.

Future Meeting Schedule

Future meeting dates for this year are October 19, November 10, and December 8. Joe Tront also asked committee members to please let the chairman know if you have any agenda items for future meetings.

Announcements: (Joe Tront)

Congratulations to Chris Helms for the success of the Summit on “Student Athletic Success” held in May 2005.

Three standing subcommittees are functioning as follows:

Gender Equity:

Will examine the practices within Athletics and make any suggestions as appropriate back to the UAC Committee members so far are Art Keown (chair), Dixie Reaves and Sharon McCloskey as ex officio. We invite anyone else who would like to work on this committee to notify Joe Tront.

Rules Compliance Oversight and Advisory:

This committee will conduct an audit to evaluate the athletics compliance office against NCAA and ACC rules and regulations that govern athletics. This audit is in addition to the internal audit program conducted each year. The annual report of this subcommittee will be forwarded to the President after approval by the UAC. Frank Gwazdauskas (chair), Larry Killough, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Dixie Reaves and Tim Parker as ex-officio. Anyone willing to serve on this subcommittee should contact Joe Tront.

Academic Athletic Alliance:

This subcommittee, “Huddle with the Hokies”, was tasked with putting together mechanisms that will bring academics and athletics closer together so that faculty and students can see the positive collaboration. The subcommittee has starting a colloquium series which will run in conjunction with athletic events. Committee members include Rosemary Goss and Jon Jaudon as ex-officio. We are again looking for more members.

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

Q. Do you think we are entering an age with an arm’s race on coaches’ salaries? How do you manage a budget and manage keeping good people? Please give us an overview.

To a degree it is an arms race. Institutionally you have to do the best you can do with the resources you have. A major movement right now is with the Knight Commission that’s in touch with the Presidential group of division 1A institutions. You will see some things in the latter half of this academic year that will try to slow down the arms race. The worse thing in my opinion that has happened to Athletic Departments is a few institutions have unlimited resources and they have just taken the salaries and benefits of coaches to a level that is hard for institutions that have to budget and rely on fund raisers to meet their standards. We have already tried to do the best we can at any given moment of time for all our employees with the resources we have. Our people ask for what they need.

Q. Are all coaches under a contract and do the contracts say how long they are?

All coaches have contracts. Most of the Olympic coaches have one year contracts. We have a few Olympic sport coaches that have multiple year contracts. Basketball has longer contracts somewhere around 5 years. Coach Beamer's contract is a 5 year rolling contract (every December 31 he has 4 years left on the contract and on January 1 he has 5 years left). The worse thing about contract negotiations is the agents that we have to deal with on behalf of the coaches.

Q. Could you give us some details on the completion of the West Side?

The west side expansion project is still a very fluid project that is impossible to put a completion date on. We will operate the game against Georgia Tech and Marshall like we did Ohio U. We have a temporary occupancy permit and it allows for people who have a game day function to occupy new sections. We started to develop contingency plans when we learned in late July that the stadium would not be ready for the first home game. We identified 24 game day functions that we needed to house in the new portion of the stadium to operate a game. We had to change one thing in the original plan; it was to subdivide one big box on the top floor (seventh floor operational boxes) into two sections to provide an instant replay location.

Q. How many camera's are available for instant replay?

It depends on the network covering the game. We have more cameras if ABC is here or ESPN than if Jefferson Pilot. Some games that do not have television will use the video feed for the score board and game delay. ABC and ESPN have a minimum of 6 to 8 and maximum of 10 to 12 cameras.

Getting back to the West Side

There is a very good chance that we will not occupy the west side of the stadium for the luxury suite and the indoor clubs for all of this year. If there is occupancy, the earliest it could happen in my opinion is the game against Boston College. The offices that are located in the west will probably not be ready till next summer. Turner Construction has not met the first deadline during this build.

Q. Will Spring Road stay open?

Spring Street should stay open now as all the high cranes are out of there and not needed any more.

Q. How much grief did you take from the people who own the sky boxes?

I have not had the first complaint from the Hokie Nation regarding the west side not being finished in time for the suite, club room and box seat holders to occupy for the games this year. We have met weekly since the last week of July on three categories, the public relations, the construction and the financial impact. We have tried to communicate as honestly and to the best of our ability and I have not had the first e-mail or call of a complaint from an indoor suite holder or indoor club patron.

Q. Kick-off time for the Marshall Game.

All of our kick-off times are set by television. In the event that there is no television we have always opted to have a 1:00 kick. But yesterday, we decided that the best time for the Marshall game if there is not television is 3:30 p m because of the seating arrangement we have for the suite and club room ticket holders who are advanced in age. Kicking off a little later will make it a little better for them being outdoors. Normally we get notified 12 days in advance of kick-off if television is picking up our game.

Q. The lights on the east side are no problem?

We felt it was very important to go ahead and purchase new lighting as the west side were already down and had to go back up. The west side has been burned in and the east side will be ready for the Marshall game. One side of these lights has the capacity to give more light than all four light poles that we used to have.

Q. Incident with a student back in the spring, can you tell the group what the dispensation was for the student with the BB gun?

The case was dropped and never came to me.

The Comprehensive Action Plan was developed during Dr Torgersen's leadership in February 1997 in response to some issues that were happening with student-athletes back in the mid 1990's. The Comprehensive Action Plan guides the Athletic Department through every type of situation that occurs and the different types of penalty options are listed for every type of offense. It has enabled us to deal consistently across our department with young people and has established a set of exceptions for our student athletes. They know what the Comprehensive Action Plan is because it is published in the student-athlete handbook that is given to each of them at the beginning of the fall semester.

Team Schedules 05-06 as related to Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon)

Handout

Jon went over the report to the committee and questions regarding missed class time for athletes were discussed.

International Academic Collaboration (IAC) of the ACC (Joe Tront)

Handout

Joe Tront announced that the ACC has put out a request for a proposal to produce what is called the "International Academic Collaboration" to develop a summer study abroad programs for 2006. If this group has any ideas of collaboration within the group or with some of our ACC partners, Tront indicated that he would be happy to help coordinate. The IAC/ACC will provide up to \$40,000 grant to support the first two years of operations of a new summer study abroad program. They are looking for studies to involve South/Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, or Eastern Europe countries that would require a two year commitment to establish this program and two institutions from the ACC to collaborate to build the program other than UNC Chapel Hill as they wish not to be included. If we do generate a proposal from Virginia Tech, this Committee might sanction the proposal and encourage the ACC to provide sponsorship to Virginia Tech and it collaborator. Please contact John Dooley, Virginia Tech IAC/ACC representative. The money that will fund this is coming from the ACC Championship Football Game. David Ford announced that there is also a program inviting participation in undergraduate research proceeds coming from the ACC Championship Football Game. The program will be hosted by Clemson this spring and University of Virginia will host next spring.

It is a two or three day conference and undergraduate students will be invited to come and present papers. Some will be poster sessions.

Reports

Grad Rates and Academic Results of 2003-2004 (Chris Helms)

Handout

At the beginning of each semester Chris Helms gives a report on the academic success of our student-athletes from the previous semester. The NCAA has been tracking the graduation rates of student-athletes since the late 1980's, when it first required that institutions submit this information annually. The grad rates for student-athletes are factored on students that start as freshman on athletic scholarship. They are tracked over six years to see if they graduate from their original institution as a positive number and if they do not it is a negative number.

The NCAA two years ago enacted an academic reform package that includes two new measures. Academic Progress Rate (APR) and Graduation Success Rate (GSR). The APR intent is to give each school an idea how their current student-athletes are performing academically. The GSR will some day replace Grad Rates (This information is actually produced by the Federal Government). The GSR will be different in that you will be able to add some students that the Grad Rates do not include (students that receive aid for the first time after their freshman year.) It will subtract students that the NCAA/IPEDS Grad Rate includes (students that leave your institution in good academic standing.). The IPEDS Grad Rate is a federal program that will continue after the APR and GSR is used. The APR is to be submitted next week to the NCAA on the 04-05 academic year.

The committee discussed the academic progress of athletes as indicated by graduation rates. The 74% rate in 2005 is the highest that Virginia Tech has ever posted and in the past four years Virginia Tech has posted its best three rates. The NCAA has been doing this for 15 years. The Athletic Department holds as our goal to graduate our student-athletes at a rate that is commensurate with or higher than the general student body population. As you can see we have met that goal this year. The numbers are small for student-athletes so the success or failure of one student-athlete can really affect the outcome. The APR will allow for former student-athletes who come back to graduate outside the six year window to positively influence their GSR. We have been working to get our people to come back to get their degree's after they leave.

The Academic Support staff has increased. Additions include a systems administrator and a learning specialist. The function of the learning specialist is to coordinate assistance for students that have learning disabilities and those who have demonstrated a need for special needs assistance.

In response to whether the support teams were included in the academic report Chris indicated that the Cheerleaders, Hokie birds, student managers, and student trainers are part of the athletic department and thus receive his office' support.

We have three seniors graduating that are in the Men's Basketball program but are not reflected on the Grad Rates because they did not have a scholarship or were not here their freshman year.

VT/ACC Colloquium Series (Rosemary Goss)

Reported that “Huddle with the Hokies” will present a morning program with poet Nikki Giovanni at 9:00 a m in the Skelton Conference Center before this week’s game with Georgia Tech. The committee hopes to secure Homer Hickam for the Miami game. The committee last year decided that they would like to get Del Curry to come and talk in the spring before a basketball game and Bill Snizek, core advisor, will join him in the presentation.

The Maryland Virginia Tech Veterinary School will host a similar event before the Maryland game. Dr Daniel Perez will talk about Asian influenza. It will be held in their new Alumni Center at 4:30 before the game.

Game day will be in the Alumni Mall with the camera background the Arch to Torgersson Hall. It will start at 10:30.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

University Athletic Committee
October 19, 2005
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center

Members Present: Susan Anderson, Candi Clemenz , David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Frank Gwazdauskas, Larry Killough, Cathy Lally, David Lowe, Steve McMullin, Lu Merritt, Dwight Shelton, Terry Swecker, Larry Taylor, Joe Tront, Melinda West, Whitney White.

Members Absent: Coleman Collins, Zenobia Hikes, Art Keown , Jerry Niles, Dixie Watts Reaves, Jesse Richardson, Mallory Soldner, Norrine Bailey Spencer, LaChelle Waller, Jim Weaver.

Representatives: Bill Champion for Zenobia Hikes, Brian Katen for Jesse Richardson, Greg Reaves for Dixie Reaves

Guest Present: Steven Clarke, Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center, Beth Dunkenberger, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Chris Helms, Coordinator, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Tim Parker, Assistant Athletic Director Compliance

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The minutes of September 22, 2005 were approved. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

Business

Coaches Perspectives: Women's Basketball (Beth Dunkenberger)

Beth said: I spent nine years here as an Assistant Coach and now is back as a Head Coach. I have tried to carry on as former Athletic Director Dave Braine told each student athlete that they were here for three reasons. First to be a student and get your degree, second play your sport to the best of your ability, third to be a good role model. Last year we had one senior that fulfilled all these. Her goal was to go to graduate school in physical therapy. As the leading scorer, she lead the Women's Basketball team to the NCAA for the third consecutive year, maintained a 3.5 GPA, got an internship at a local physical therapy clinic and has started physical therapy school at MCV in June and is doing great. We have 5 seniors on team this spring and all are scheduled to graduate this spring or the following spring. Coach discussed the various majors and player aspirations. Coach commended the academic advisors for doing a great job working with the players and coaches. Three freshmen this year are business majors with average GPAs of 3.9. Coach said: I think that when we recruit competitors they are competitors in the classroom as well as on the court. Some of them do not have the opportunities to be challenged academically or to be mentored along the way, but if they are competitors then they do the best to their ability whether it is school or basketball. That is a big key to us as we recruit. We have five commitments for next year. I will go with the brighter student any day when it is close. I know that a bright student will be bright on the court as well. As role models, we have partnered up with Shawsville Elementary School through programs in the athletic department. We started

practice last Friday; our first game is November 6, 2005. If you every have any complaints or questions about any of our student athletes you are welcome to call me. We have a unique way of getting student athletes attention that's Breakfast Club. You get up at 6:00 am and run.

In the Q & A that followed, coach Dunkenburger discussed her recruiting theme of climbing up ladders and cutting down nets. She said: Student athletes love to win championships and it is something that is catchy that kind of sticks. I took over at Western Carolina and they had never had a winning season. We recruited that next incoming class and told them that they were going to climb up ladders and cut down nets and in 4 years time sure enough they won their first championship in the schools history. I think you have to say it and you have to believe it in order to have a shot at it and it's a nice view up top.

She also discussed her thoughts on supporting her student athletes as they pursue careers beyond VT including careers as medical doctors, coaches, and other professions. She described her recruiting practices and said she recruits with a mind toward success in the classroom as well as on the court. The coach was asked about Rayna Dubose and she said that Rayna comes to practice each day and is on track to graduate next December. Coach commented that the teams to beat this year are Carolina and Duke, both of which we play at home. The committee thanked the coach for the great job she is doing both on and off the court.

Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center Study: (Steve Clarke)

Handout

Steve discussed his center's work and said: "We are doing a full scale project this year at football games. The Alcohol Abuse Prevention Center was formed in 1999 after the period of 5 deaths happening in late 1997 and 1998. Since then we have been able to slowly grow our program. We offer three or four different classes for students that are experiencing difficulties with alcohol. Ninety percent of them are referred to us as a result of contact with the judicial system. We also do a lot of alcohol abuse prevention on campus working with various programs around campus. For the first time this year we did a 25 minute program at new student orientation. We have been working on the drinking environment within campus and also within the town of Blacksburg. We work with the town council and the neighborhood associations to deal with student issues and conflicts. The other thing that we do is work with the local bars getting them trained. We also get involved in law enforcement working with the Blacksburg and Virginia Tech Police Departments. We have gotten a grant the past 4 years to help with law enforcement at football games. This year is the first year we do not have that money. This is one issue that we need to find a solution for."

Steve indicated that tailgate drinking is "not that bad." His group started a study of tailgate drinking in 2002 and repeated it in 2003 followed by a larger study in 2004. This year as a result of the earlier studies the center received a grant of \$100,000.00 from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol Prevention to develop metrology and for studying alcohol consumption in other related behaviors at tailgating parties. The center is trying to recruit ten schools to do a much larger scale study. "So far we have commitments from Nebraska, Oklahoma, Florida, and JMU. We are trying to get six division one programs that are consistently in the top twenty and we are also trying to get four division II programs that are consistently in the top twenty. The idea is to get a two year grant to explore ways to actually do some things to intervene on behavior and to deal with situations that revolve around them. The main thing we are concern about is drinking and driving."

Steve further commented that “for the most part we are not seeing a large amount of excessive alcohol consumption. We are seeing a lot of alcohol consumption. There is a great increase especially this year in the numbers of student tailgating in the Public Lot.” He noted that 45% of people in the tailgate lots have no affiliation with this university. We have had complaints from visiting fans using the Public Lot this year that we have never had in the past. Steve has pulled his researchers out of that parking lot because they were getting abused. Lu Merrit suggested that part of the problem could be the timing of the games this year. In the past we have had noon and 3:30 PM games and this year they are night games. Several committee members agreed that night games seemed to incur more drinking and bad behavior than day games. It was noted that West Virginia University problems began 15 years ago with excessive student tailgates near the stadium. They did nothing about it and that seemed to encourage non-students who go there to see the WVU football team as it is the professional team of West Virginia. That behavior spread and appears to be out of control. Committee members concurred that we need to do something about our situation before we end up like WVU.

Steve further commented: “Our mission is to reduce high risk drinking. Our mission is not to address underage drinking. We address alcohol overdose issues with educational programs since we have a death from that over in the Harrell Street area just a year ago after a football game. We do a series of programs that are geared toward what we call the harm reduction approach. Our goal isn’t to eliminate alcohol or tell students that they shouldn’t drink. We try to educate students to provide them the knowledge that they need to make their own personal decisions about alcohol.”

The committee expressed concern about not only the issue of abusive drinking at sporting events, but also about the trend toward abusive behavior in general.

Action Item: Steve and Joe Tront will discuss these issues with the SGA and encourage them to enact programs to remedy potential problems before they get out of hand or before they have to be remedied by enforcement officers. Further discussions will be held at the next meeting.

NCAA Compliance Legislation Update (Tim Parker)

Tim Parker presentation was tabled until next meeting.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.

**University Athletic Committee
December 8, 2005
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center**

Members Present: Susan Anderson, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Frank Gwazdauskas, Art Keown, Larry Killough, David Lowe, Steve McMullin, Lu Merritt, Jerry Niles, Dixie Watts Reaves, Norrine Bailey Spencer, Terry Swecker, Larry Taylor, Joe Tront, Melinda West, Whitney White.

Members Absent: Candi Clemenz , Coleman Collins, Zenobia Hikes, Cathy Lally , Jesse Richardson, Dwight Shelton, Mallory Soldner, LaChelle Waller, Jim Weaver.

Representatives: Bill Champion for Zenobia Hikes

Guest Present: Chris Helms, Coordinator, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Director of Athletics SWA, Tim Parker, Assistant Athletic Director Compliance

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The minutes of October 19, 2005 will be sent to members for email corrections and approval. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

Dates for meetings in spring 2006 semester are as follows: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27.

Business

Coaches' Prespectives: Men's Soccer (Oliver Weiss)

Unable to make meeting due to travel delays; tabled until February

Student Life Programs (Megan Armbruster)

Working with a group of students on the Extreme Makeover house. Tabled until January.

NCAA Compliance Legislation Update (Tim Parker)

Handout

Tim indicated that VT no longer has one vote as one school. Rather, now everyone votes through their conference. Every legislative amendment first goes through the NCAA management council. The ACC has three people on this council. It is made up of 51 members (Athletic Directors, Senior Women Administrators, Faculty Reps., Student-Athletes, Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners). After the management council approves a piece of

legislation twice (two readings), it then goes to the NCAA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, comprised of 17 members (Presidents and Chancellors), has the final say. Usually measures are passed by the management council in the summer and sent back to the membership for comments. The Management Council reconsiders the legislation 3 or 6 months after the comment period. Final approval by the Board of Directors usually happens in April and most amendments will take effect August 1st.

As of August 1, 2005:

- Individuals who are attending summer school prior to initial full-time enrollment, and receiving athletically-related aid, may, for some purposes, be treated as “student-athletes” rather than “prospects.”
- It is now permissible for a coach to leave campus to engage in off-campus Contact or Evaluation before another coach who is off campus returns to campus, provided the total number of coaches recruiting on behalf of the institution at any time does not exceed the permissible maximum.
- It is now permissible for university staff members to have off-campus contact with prospect while he/she is on an Official Visit (within 30 miles of campus).
- Student-Athletes can now participate in exhibition and/or scrimmages without losing one of the four seasons of eligibility.

There are 145 NCAA legislative amendments to be voted on this April 2006. Tim only mentioned three that follow:

- ❖ A proposal to exempt all types of non-athletics institutional aid from counting toward NCAA team financial aid maximums.
- ❖ Proposals to alter the operation of the “One Time Transfer Exception: (which applies to all VT sports other than Basketball and Football). These would affect the application of a one-year residence requirement when a student-athlete transfers from one Division I school to another.
- ❖ The creation and implementation of an Amateurism Clearinghouse run by the NCAA.

Continuing Discussion: Alcohol Abuse Prevention: (Joe Tront)

Tront opened the discussion by suggesting that we are likely seeing a behavior problem as well as an alcohol abuse problem. There was a suggestion that the problem could partially be resulting from the stadium reseating since the peer pressure communities have been broken up. Steve Clarke and Joe Tront met with the Student Government Association and suggested that they look into the problem from the student point of view and told them that the UAC would be interested in working with them on any programs or interventions that they might develop to correct problematic behavior. The UAC discussion indicated that students are not the only problem at the athletic events. We have a number of guest, alumni and visitors from the other teams that contribute to overall problematic behavior. Tront asked the committee to think about how the UAC can support what the students might want do to try to preclude problems. Swecker suggested that we conduct a town hall style meeting. Some opposed. Suggested that Joe check with Zenobia Hikes, Vice President for Student Affairs, to see what she is doing or plan to do about the same matters. Night games were determined to be the worst in terms of generating inappropriate activities including: drinking, rowdiness, fights, improper behavior and

dress. The committee noted that the problem is not just due to students, but also involved alumni, and other non-students.

The UAC will see what the SGA comes back with and if there is any support that the UAC can give to them. Tront will work with Zenobia Hikes to put together a task force to consider possible actions, interventions or programs to be put into place to improve fan behavior behavior. David Lowe expressed concern that the people that we need to get to are not jus the students but also the alumni, and the non-alumni who attend games – they are part of the problem. He also made the point that alumni have a real stake in the reputation of VT and can be a powerful force in addressing and correcting the problem.

An issue was raised about smoking in the stadium and other locations of athletic events. It was suggested that the areas where smoking is allowed be far enough away from non-smoking areas, that they be well-marked, and that the regulation be enforced.

In summary, the UAC has deep concerns over fan behavior at athletic events and strongly suggests that the university take the appropriate steps to correct inappropriate behavior.

Action Item:

Tront will contact Zenobia Hikes and work with her office to determine the appropriate next step(s) to take to address this issue.

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jon Jaudon, Sharon McCloskey)

Concern was expressed about the availability and price of the staff members for single game tickets.

McCloskey responded that we do not have single game tickets to sell unless the opposing university sends back tickets or student's do not pick up their allotted tickets.

A comment was made that there is confusion on football game days during the week as relates to class cancellation and parking lot usage. The memo that goes out that the university is closing at 4:00 p.m. but classes are not cancelled. Grad students that are holding the classes do not know if they can cancel the classes or not. David Ford, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs indicated that questions should be directed to his office. He also said that classes cannot be arbitrarily cancelled because of game day activities. David Ford will check on the wording of the memo that goes out via email.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

University Athletic Committee
January 26, 2006
Merryman Auditorium

Members Present: Candi Clemenz, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Frank Gwazdauskas, Art Keown, Larry Killough, David Lowe, Lu Merritt, Dixie Watts Reaves, Mallory Soldner Larry Taylor, Joe Tront, Jim Weaver, Whitney White.

Members Absent: Susan Anderson, Coleman Collins, Zenobia Hikes, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Jerry Niles, Jesse Richardson, Dwight Shelton, Norrine Bailey Spencer, Terry Swecker, LaChelle Waller.

Representatives: Bill Champion for Zenobia Hikes, Mark Crisman for Terry Swecker,
Melinda West for Dwight Shelton

Guest Present: Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life, Summet Bagai, President of the Student Government Association, Dave Cianelli, Director Cross Country/Track, Chris Helms, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Director of Athletics SWA.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The agenda was accepted as proposed. The minutes of December 8, 2005 were approved.

Business

Memo “Important Parking and Traffic Notice for Next Home Football Game” (David Ford)

Handout:

Last meeting David Ford was asked to check on an e-mail memo that went out to the faculty and staff last fall before a weekday home football game. The purpose was to check on whether the memo contained reference to canceling evening classes. David’s research revealed that that the memo did not cancel classes nor request faculty to cancel classes. There has been an arrangement between Athletics and the Faculty Senate that there will be no more than one football game played at home during the week. It was suggested that faculty be aware of the football schedule when they are putting together their class schedules before the semester starts in order to make provisions for parking or other difficulties that may occur.

Coaches’ Perspectives: Track & Field & Cross Country (Dave Cianelli)

Coach Cianelli was hired at Virginia Tech July 2001 as Director of Track & Field and Cross Country. He has six teams: Men’s Track and Field (indoor and outdoor), Women’s Track and Field (indoor and outdoor), Men’s Cross Country and Women’s Cross Country. Women’s Cross Country fall GPA of 3.25 and the Men’s Cross Country fall GPA of 3.33 were the highest of all fall teams. Dave said: “I feel that the students that we recruit are dedicated to their academics as well as their sport. Moving from the Big East Conference to the Atlantic Coast Conference, we have strengthened our program each year both on a conference level and on a national level. We have moved on the national level much faster as we had our first individual national champion last year.” Coach Cianelli noted that Spyrdon Jullien received individual national champion in indoor track & field in the weight throw and outdoor track & field in the hammer throw. Track Wire has our Indoor Women’s Track & Field team ranked 15th and our Men’s Track & Field team ranked 10th. His teams have three seasons. Cross

Country starts in August and ends in November, Indoor Track & Field starts in January and ends in March and Outdoor Track & Field starts in March and ends in June. Some of our students are in all three seasons. National's will be at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville this June.

Moving from the Big East Conference to the Atlantic Coast Conference is a better fit as the ACC is much stronger across the board in all the event areas. The Big East schools were more Cross Country and Distance oriented.

Coach Cianelli indicated that recruiting is a year around activity in which he never overlooks the top Virginia student-athletes. Our recruiting scope is national and some of our top student-athletes are international. We currently have five internationals out of our total of 72.

The NCAA limits scholarships to 12.6 for the men and 18 for the women. Cross Country and Track & Field scholarships are counted together. Because of how our sport is counted we can split up a scholarship. On the women's side right now we have not split aid; we have given full scholarships to the top athletes. In December, early signing this year, we signed up eight individuals and of this group six are ranked in the top 10 in their event nationally. This is by far, the best recruiting class we have had.

Coach also said that the indoor facility is critical to our program because of where we are located and the climate. It is a huge advantage over schools in this area of the country, northeast or midwest that do not have indoor facilities in attracting top level student-athletes. Jim Weaver noted that the next facility that the Athletic Department will undertake is a new Field House for football and other Olympic sports usage and Rector Field House will be turned into a year round indoor track facility.

Continuing Discussion: Alcohol Abuse Prevention: (Joe Tront)

Zenobia Hikes and Joe Tront have decided to form a task force to look into both fan behavior and alcohol use on campus. Joe is going to organize this task force and potentially chair it. He would like anyone who wants to participate in it to let him know. Joe would like to keep it to 7 to 9 people. He wants to get this going in two weeks. The task force will be giving interim reports and soliciting input from this committee. In response to a question, he indicated that there will be a student representative on this task force.

Reports

Student Life Programs (Megan Armbruster)

Handout

Megan implement's the NCAA Life Skill Program here at Virginia Tech Athletics. There are five sections: See Handout

NCAA Compliance Subcommittee Report (Frank Gwazdauskas)

Handout

Frank thanked all the members of his committee for their work. He went over the report and after a brief discussion the chair asked for a motion to approve. Rosemary Goss motioned for approval and David Lowe seconded and the majority approved. The report will be forwarded on to the President.

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

Football schedule was discussed. Our basic philosophy is to play the conference slate and one opponent a year from another equity/BCS conference. The 12 game schedule begins this fall and we had to add some I-AA teams to meet the scheduling demands.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM.

University Athletic Committee
March 23, 2006
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center

Members Present: Coleman Collins, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Frank Gwazdauskas, Art Keown, David Lowe, Lu Merritt, Dixie Watts Reaves, Mallory Soldner, Norrine Bailey Spencer, Terry Swecker, Larry Taylor, Joe Tront, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Susan Anderson, Candi Clemenz , Zenobia Hikes, Larry Killough, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Jerry Niles, Jesse Richardson, Dwight Shelton, LaChelle Waller, Whitney White.

Representatives: Chris Wise for Zenobia Hikes, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton

Guest Present: Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life, Randy Butt, Associate Athletic Director, Financial Affairs, Chris Helms, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Director of Athletics SWA, Oliver Weiss, Head Men's Soccer Coach

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The agenda was accepted as proposed. The minutes of January 26, 2006 were approved.

Announcements

Joe Tront reported that President Steger has accepted the 2005 Rules Compliance Report.

Business

Coaches' Perspectives: Men's Soccer (Oliver Weiss)

Handout of top 20 program goals and 42 simple goals and objectives to live by.

Mission: Teach all players the values of honesty, hard work, accountability, and create a mindset that fosters an attitude of excellence in academics, athletics, and other social behaviors. Coach Weiss stated: "I have held this job for 4 1/2 years. All players are my coaching staff's recruits. Two things I really strive for is excellence in everything and balance. What I like about my job is that I can open doors for student athletes and help them to overcome barriers that they thought they could not overcome." He went on to describe his recruiting practices and said: "My program is very goal driven, disciplined, and restrictive to an extent. I do not let student-athletes play if their GPA is not 2.3 or better." The Men's Soccer GPA is 3.00 and the team had two Academic All Americans over the last two years. Coach Weiss said that the fan base is good but would like more students attending games. Due to scheduling the team plays some week day games. Coach indicated that he will continue to emphasize that his student-athletes go see their college academic advisor.

Athletics Department Financial Status (Randy Butt)

Randy Butt stated that the year-end outlook of our finances is very good. We sold out Football again this year and that continues to increase our concessions revenue which goes up when we sell out games. Athletics will have a surplus on our operating budget this year. There are some one time expenditures this fiscal year that the revenues were collected in the previous fiscal year so our bottom line may appear to be in the red when it is not. Those expenditures are all facility or project oriented. We budgeted departmental operating dollars as part of the bowl game budget since the ACC only provides \$1 M for any bowl and it cost us more than that to go to a bowl. This was the first year for a football league championship game; the ACC only paid what it cost to attend. We did not make any money on that game. The revenue that the championship game generates goes into a general revenue pool that is distributed evenly to all ACC schools at the end of the year. One of the peculiarities about the ACC system is that some schools that do not go to a bowl game make more income than schools that do go because the ACC only pays out \$1M (travel funding) for a bowl-bound team and it typically cost much more to attend.

The South End Zone budget is set up to stand alone as is the West Side Stadium expansion. The West Side did not open this year, but we budgeted enough money to pay debt on the loan. In response to a question, Randy indicated that our loan cannot be paid off early because of the language of the bond issue. This is typical. Otherwise our current revenue stream would allow early re-payment. This stream is highly dependant on the success of football and basketball.

Student-Athlete Exit Interviews (Jon Jaudon)

Handout

Jon reviewed a handout showing the results of the student-athlete exit survey. Originally filled out in paper and pencil filled the return rate was generally only 20% to 30%. Megan Armbruster moved it to an online survey. We had 87% response in '04-'05 and so far 100% in '05-'06. We asked seniors to fill it out at the end of their season. Several suggestions on changing the questions were received from the UAC during the discussion including:

- Consider reducing the size of the survey.
- Compress questions and reduce redundancy
- Create some analysis options through VT survey program to look at data dependencies.
- Some typos were discovered.

It was recommended that after analyzing the data, Jon or one of the staff members should report back to the UAC on how the Athletics Department is addressing the concerns expressed by graduating student-athletes.

Reports

Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Chris Helms)

Tabled due to lack of time. Will be first on the agenda for the next meeting

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

Tabled due to time.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

University Athletic Committee
April 27, 2006
Merryman Auditorium

Members Present: Candi Clemenz, Rosemary Goss, Frank Gwazdauskas, Zenobia Hikes, Art Keown, David Lowe, Lu Merritt, Dwight Shelton, Mallory Soldner, Norrine Bailey Spencer, Ken Stanton, Terry Swecker, Larry Taylor, Joe Tront.

Members Absent: Susan Anderson, Coleman Collins, David Ford, Larry Killough, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Jerry Niles, Dixie Watts Reaves, Jesse Richardson, LaChelle Waller, Jim Weaver Whitney White.

Representatives: Greg Reaves for Dixie Watts Reaves

Guest Present: Shauna Cobb, Director of Compliance, Bill Champion, Rec Sports, Chris Helms, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Tom Gabbard, Associate Athletic Director, Bert Locklin, Assistant Director of Compliance, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Director of Athletics SWA, Tim Parker, Assistant Athletic Director Compliance,

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The agenda was accepted as proposed. The minutes of March 23, 2006 were approved.

Announcements

The Task Force to Review the Implementation of the CAP has reported back to the President and the report was accepted and expected to be implemented as university policy.

Business

Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Chris Helms)

Handout

Chris Helms went over the handout.

The committee reviewed the academic performance of all of the student athletes. Performance seems to continue to improve. The committee was pleased with the progressive increase in graduation rates along with increases in average GPAs.

Improving Fan Behavior (Zenobia Hikes)

Vice President for Student Affairs, Zenobia Hikes, stated that as of July 1, 15 departments will come under the Office of Student Affairs. Student Affairs see a lot of issues that grow out of athletic events and alcohol abuse etc. VP Hikes stated that she believes that a Fan Behavior Task Force (to examine the behavior of fans attending athletic events) should be created and that it should be operated under the auspices of the UAC. VP Hikes quoted some rough statistics as a foundation for the need for examining athletic event behavior including the fact that of all judicial cases, 50% involve alcohol. As an institution, an estimated 58% of our students engage in binge drinking while the national average is 42%. VT is comparable with other Virginia institutions that are around 54%. VT had 42 medical transports between July and February. Violations related to Lane Stadium totaled 106 and 48 people were removed from the athletic event. The president has charged an

Alcohol Abuse Prevention Committee to examine the alcohol abuse patterns across the campus. The charge is three fold. First, it will look at where VT is now, do some fact finding, gather some information on campus about what our numbers look like; what the statistics show and then from there start to look at best practices around the country. Once some of the best practices are determined, then a task force from that committee will be charged to come back to the committee and presenting for the university recommendations and a plan of action. VP Hikes also noted that although sometimes the students are blamed for being the rowdy fan, in many cases it turns out to be a non-student who is actually misbehaving. Expected outcomes from a task force on fan behavior are some ideas around marketing. How do we change the culture and climate such that people are not drinking to excess and/or misbehaving at athletic events?

A lively discussion ensued. A number of suggestions were made and details discussed. The committee was very much in favor of getting the Fan Behavior Task Force started and several volunteered to participate in the task force. Chairman Tront informed the UAC that he had sent a proposal to charter the task force to the Provost and was awaiting a reply.

Reports

Hokie Club (Lu Merritt)

Handout

Lu went over the handouts. July 05 through March 06 giving is up \$2.2 million from a year ago. Scholarship giving is up \$1.1 million and capital projects are up almost \$1 million. Athletic Initiative Fund is up almost \$200K. We are currently raising funds for a club house for the River Course and almost have that complete. The ACC development directors meet and share results and Virginia Tech came in second in overall fund raising.

Facilities Plans and Accomplishments (Tom Gabbard)

We are in our final push to request inspections for the west side expansion of Lane Stadium and a certificate of occupancy by June 1. Site work on the west side exterior was taken away from Turner in January and work was started this week by a different contractor. We plan on being ready for opening day. Tom discussed details of the site plan and the finishing touches for the stadium. He also acknowledged the problems seen in the past when large crowds attempt to enter the stadium. He indicated that several remedies were being put in place including the addition of a new gate on the east side.

Office Renovation: When we relocate offices into the new west side stadium we will renovate the spaces left. Air conditioning will be upgraded. Every coach will have an office and there will be more student areas as well as large meeting rooms. Work being this summer and going into late fall.

Cassell Coliseum: North and South concourses will be given a face lift like the east and west concourses. Bids due in May 2 and work plan to start after graduation and finished by first Basketball game. Renovations will include updated restroom facilities, electrical systems, etc.

We are in our finally stage of the preplanning for a new basketball practice facility for the men and women to share. We want to add to the legislation for a new Field House. Soccer has all its new seating in place now. There will be a new landscaped entrance.

Parking for football. Parking services will be paving Lot 9; use to be 500 spaces and will now go to 375 spaces. Lot 19 will become the new ADA lot as the old lot is being built upon. Lot 19 people have been moved to the Media Lot with a reduction from 350 spaces to 265 spaces. The CNC lot will be used for game workers.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM.