

University Athletic Committee
March 15, 2011
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Michael Doughty, Art Keown, Margarita McGrath, Glenn Reynolds, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Joseph Tront, Franklin Warren, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Devin Cornwall, Kenny Jarels, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Jacqueline Nottingham, James Penven, Scot Pleasant, Steve Prisley, Dwight Shelton,

Representatives:

Guest Present: Sarah Armstrong, Associate Director SAASS, **Reyna Gilbert-Lowry**, Assistant Director of Athletics, Student Life, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiative for Athletics, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator, **Chris Riley**. Head Volleyball Coach

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

BUSINESS

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

The agenda was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Minutes for the February 1, 2011 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

REPORTS

Coaches Perspective – Chris Riley Head Volleyball Coach

- We had a very successful year in volleyball we finished the year 21 -11 and made the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history and made it to second round and lost to Penn State at Penn State who went on to win the National Championship.
- Our program is based on making our student-athletes better people. It is getting the right people involved in our program and trying to teach them how to better human beings.
- We think about being selfless, disciplined, together and relentless. These four concepts or ideals are what our whole program is built on. Everything we do athletically, academically and socially, is all based on these key ideas. Our students have matured and become much more grounded since we have done this. They have learned to be better people and to embrace the ideals this community is all about.
- With our program we have a list of priorities. It is important that our students, parents, club coaches, or anybody who is attached to these students before they come to Virginia Tech to know that academics are first, athletics is second and the social experience is third. We want to make sure that before they come here they know this list of priorities. We are always diligent in reviewing with them these priorities so they remain focused. We try to never lose sight of the fact that the college degree that they receive is way more important than the win or losses. We try to stress that to them as often as we can. I will be the first one to say that there might be a couple of times during the year that I may lose sight of that on occasion but I work hard to remind myself and my staff to make sure that we do not lose sight that academics comes before athletics.

- We always want to make sure that who they are when they leave is different than who they were before they got into our program. We want them to be able to count on themselves. We want to make sure they know how to handle themselves, their own situation, and conflicts.
- We have a meeting at the beginning of every season with the parents. We let the parents know exactly what we expect from them and from their daughter. Parents are allowed to call me about anything when it comes to academics, health, housing, or anything like that. They cannot talk to me about playing time or practice time.
- Their daughter can come in at anytime and talk to me about playing time, practice time or anything else. We do that because the students need to learn how to handle their own situation.
- We explain this during the recruiting process. We want them to be able to make their own decisions when they graduate.
- We want them leaving Virginia Tech humble. It is very important that they realize how everybody in the department works for them to be successful. It is a team effort.
- We have a leadership program for our freshman designed for them to get to know everybody who is part of our program. They become much more aware of the people that help them and how big a role they play in the success of our program and how vital it is. We make sure that they do not feel any entitlement for what they have. We want them to be gracious about everything that they have been given. We try to establish and instill that as much as possible.
- And then we want them to know that they are expected to be engaged. I say engaged not to be married but engaged within the community.
- Community service is an important part of what we do. We participate in three programs every year.
- Our Junior class organizes community service opportunities. They will be the one to make sure our whole team is getting the benefit of participating.
- In our minds our leadership program is a building block to the rest of their lives. We do not want to just pick captions, we want everybody to have the opportunity to be a leader and learn what that is because that lasts a lot longer than the four years they have here.
- From an athletic standpoint we had a very successful year. We are moving in the right direction. The recruiting class we have coming in is one of the best we have ever had.
- Last year's class was the first top 25 class we have ever had.
- The 2012 class we have coming are some of the best players in the country.
- When I was hired the program had a 110 RPI ranking and we finished this year at 36.
- This is the first year that every student on the roster was recruited by our staff. We are really excited about the program and the family that we have created.

Q: How many scholarship or partial scholarship do you have?

A: We are fully funded, 12 Full Scholarships. We are a head count sport and can only give full scholarships. We have 12 Scholarship players and 5 walk-ons.

Q: What is the point of the NCAA to treat sports differently?

A: That is a great question.

Q: How does everybody get along with the 12 scholarships and the 5 walk-ons?

We do a good job of leaving all that at the door. It does not matter if you are on scholarship, you have been recruited to be part of our team. Even our walk-ons are recruited.

Q: Some of the walk-ons get to play?

Yes they do. To me it does not matter if you receive money or not. The chemistry of the best 7 together is what helps us. I want the best 6 at anytime on the floor. They are part of our family.

Q: Do all the walk-ons travel with you?

We travel 15 as an ACC limit.

Q: Non scholarship student that does well, could they be in line for a scholarship?

We are honest to our students when they come in. The way I always explain it to them is you have to plan on coming here to play and pay for four years. If there is a time when I can help you and reward you, I will. If someone else leaves and we have a scholarship available I will do that but do not plan on it. The parents also understand. We are always going to be up front and tell the truth. Our student-athletes are committing to come here in the 10th grade. We are recruiting 15 year olds.

Q: Where are you recruiting?

I am recruiting all over the world. I just got back from Rome. We are not going to scholarship anyone who cannot help us. Now our RPI is at 35 and the people that can help us has shrunk. We are recruiting for 2013 and there are only 35 or 40 students in the country that can help us and you are talking about 35 other programs out there recruiting also.

Q: What kind of expectation do you have now at 35 RPI?

We have crossed a threshold of expectation now. We made the NCAA tournament, made the round of 32. For our group, that was our goal and now that goal was accomplished. Now there is a new goal. Making it to the NCAA tournament is not enough we want to be sweet 16 now. We are focused on winning the ACC and making the sweet 16. We had 5 teams from the ACC make the NCAA tournament and all but one won their first game. Duke made it to the elite 8 and they were number 1 in our conference and we beat them.

Q: What are the other top schools in the ACC?

Duke finished 12th in the country, North Carolina finished 19th, Florida State 24th, Miami 25th, Virginia Tech 35th.

Q: If you have a non athletic scholarship student that is offered an academic scholarship can they accept that by NCAA rules or does it count against your 12?

Academic scholarships have changed. It used to be that any money coming from the university counted against our 12 scholarships. Financial aid legislation is opening up opportunities.

Jon Jaudon comment: Virginia Tech, as an institution, has very limited academic aid in comparison to our peer institutions.

Q: Chris has your group been a beneficiary of shifting locker rooms?

We had a locker room renovation about 18 months ago. We now have one of the best locker rooms in the ACC, state of the art.

Q: Do you find that you upperclassman live together?

All of our students live together. We encourage them on campus to live with anybody. Our time line is different from other students.

Subcommittee Updates:

Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being

Scott Pleasant, Chair, Richard Benson, Devin Cornwall, Rick Ferraro, Margarita McGrath, James Penven, Susan Short.

(Handout)

1. Review of Operating Principle 3.3 and the University's Plan Report
2. Verification that the Student-Athlete Grievance and Appeals Procedures were incorporated into the Department of Athletics Policies and Procedure Manual
3. Verification that travel policies have been incorporated into the Student-Athlete Handbook and Planner.
4. Review and evaluation of Student-Athlete Exit Interview policy

Subcommittee suggests

- Use the same Exit interview for all sports
- Review the currently used Exit Interviews, and methods of administration, analysis, and reporting with the Office of Academic Assessment (OAA). Make revisions as appropriate.
- Investigate methods to get better response rates (particularly from football student-athletes)
- Clarify how results are shared with decision makers.

Q: Reyna, has there been a big shift or anything different that you see now in terms of the content? Not a major change.

Q: About how many students are graduating each year?

Around 100.

Q: Why do you not just make it mandatory to take the exit survey?

Jon Jaudon: We have a 70% return rate overall. We could do that but that is more work than that is worth and we end up on a negative note with our students.

SUGGESTION: Change the contact person for football.

Q: Did we see any appreciable difference in the survey results?

Jon Jaudon: There was a question that we have always kept on the survey. "If you were a senior in high school again, would you choose Virginia Tech again?" seven to eight years ago we were getting 40 % to 45% saying no. We have seen that number decrease substantially in the past three to five years.

Q: That is a good example I would think of why the coaches would want to learn what you have learned, Football coaches in particular. If it is no value to the football coaches, the students will blow it off too.

Rick Ferraro: There is a distinction between the survey that are done on line and the ones that are done in person.

Q: On the academic side we face the same thing with the exit interview on each course. Our department uses electronic survey. Initially we had dismal response because previously we gave out paper ones in class and they did not get to leave till they turned it in. We convinced the students that this was important to us as well as to them and the people that read them. We got a much higher response rate and our electronic response rate has gone up significantly since we now e-mail them to get them to respond. We tell them what there survey suggestions have created in the past and it seems to help.

Need to empower the student-athlete to respond to the electronic exit interview.

Q: Any value in an entrance survey? What are your expectations? What are you goals? Where do you see yourself? And then the exit interview say "Did you meet your goals?" "Did we meet your goals?"

Is that not already covered?

Q: How about looking into other marketing for the exit interview other than e-mail. I have found that response rates go up if you use other media such as facebook, twitter, etc. other media that they are on all the time.

Reyna: I agree.

Questions for Athletic Director – Jim Weaver

How many people involved in NCAA basketball tournament selection?

Eighteen I think.. They are AD's, Conference Commissioners, and other athletics officials occasionally.

Q: How is this committee selected?

It is selected by the NCAA

Q: Is there any carry over from year to year.

There is carry over. I think 3 year terms.

Q: Do they receive any training?

I do not know the answer to that.

Q: When you say the NCAA selects them what is the process?

I do not know if they are nominated by their conference or if they fill out an application to be on the committee

Q: Somebody makes the decision as to who gets on that committee who is it?

I do not know the answer to that.

Q: If you are on the bubble for one or two years. It really does not count or have any effect on the following years. Are each year's selections separate?

Yes.

Q: The rules need to change. When you beat a team when they are in the top 50 it should stay a win over a top 50 team.

Yes, but that is not how the it works

Q: What is the time frame and process for selecting a new Women's Basketball Coach?

Time frame is I do not know. The reason I say that is there are people still playing and you do not want to upset and have something public come out that Jane Doe Coach of XYZ college is talking to another University. The process is that Sharon McCloskey and I will be the committee. It needs to be a private process when hiring Basketball coaches or Football Coaches. Dr. Steger has given me the authority to conduct these searches all the while keeping Human Resources in the loop.

Art Keown dismissed the committee at 4:57 pm.