

University Athletic Committee
September 13, 2011
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Hannah Billings, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Scot Pleasant, Glenn Reynolds, Holly Scoggins, Dwight Shelton, Don Shoemaker, Joseph Tront, Jim Weaver, Lorenzo Williams.

Members Absent: Margarita McGrath, Jacqueline Nottingham, Stephen Schoenholtz, Susan Short, Dean Stauffer, Franklin Warren

Guest Present: **Megan Burkner**, Head Coach, Women's Lacrosse, **Reyna Gilbert-Lowry**, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Affairs, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate A. D. Administration,

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

BUSINESS

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Art welcomed the new committee members. Handout of committee charge.

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

REPORTS

Coaches Perspective – Head Lacrosse Coach (Megan Burkner) Handout

First year head coach of the Virginia Tech lacrosse team in 2011 serving as interim head coach for the 2010 season. This will be Burkner's sixth season at Tech after serving as an assistant coach for four years. Megan graduated from Stanford in 2006. I came to Virginia Tech the summer after graduating. I wanted to come to a program that was building and that faced some of the challenges that I had while I was on the west coast. I have a MBA from Virginia Tech from this past spring. Academics are very important to me and I wanted to bring that mindset to the team. I think that the girls that are the most independent and academically motivated will perform the best for me on the field.

First year 2011

- Setting a foundation by defining success
- 4-0 start = best since 1999
- 10-8 final record = first winning season since 2000

Core Values

- Understanding how to connect our goal setting with the process of improvement.
- What can the girls do every day to commit to communicating better as a group?
- How can that communication translate into success on the field? (Integrity, Respect, Trust, Commitment, Pride, Ownership).

Leadership Development

- 10-week series with the Junior Class:
- The program initially emphasized the ability to lead by example and then address the challenges of vocal leadership.

- Underclass Leadership Academy, which will identify younger leaders on our team and encourage them to exercise their influence on their peers.

Goal Setting

In 2011, we outlined the process that would set our program on a path toward long-term success. In the long-term, we are working toward more national recognition, which is defined by NCAA Tournament presence and ACC Conference wins. Our goal in 2011 was to finish with a winning record. In pursuit of that vision we have been able to understand that smaller, more process oriented goals may be able to help us continue building from our success. 2012 will be defined by our ability to set shorter-term goals and measure our growth.

My emphasis in setting goals is to help our team understand how to evaluate what they want and what they are athletically capable of and to teach them how to motivate themselves and each other with a common vision.

We want success in our conference and nationally. ACC has 6 teams and 5 of them went to the NCAA Tournament last year. We are playing the #1, #3, #4 and #10 team in the country. We had our first win against a ranked opponent since 2005 last year.

Academic Mission

Our goal is to become one the top three women's team GPAs at Virginia Tech.

I hope that in the end they exceed the academic mission and leadership development goals we set. Core values are something that stretch us in the classroom and more importantly after they graduate.

Q: How many of your players are on scholarship?

A: It varies, we are an equivalency sport, so we give percentages. 35 on our roster and I believe 30 to 32 are on some portion of a scholarship.

Q: What about the freshman or sophomore who is quiet? Maybe lost at college. Do you get to know them and meet with them? Who is watching out for them?

A: My angle for the leadership development is that we are trying to create a culture where our team starts to enforce the culture themselves. We talk to our seniors and juniors about taking the initiative to come into the office. You have to have that initiative to start that relationship. We are having more freshmen to come in but we are using our upperclassman to encourage and to learn to take that initiative to come in. .

Q: Talk about your recruiting philosophy and where you recruit.

A: Our sport is the fastest growing women's division I sport. There are a lot of new programs every year. The growth nationally is disproportional a little bit. It is very geographic. It has grown out west. Maryland is fairly strong. Virginia is somewhat strong in certain regions. North Carolina is a developing region. A big part of our focus has been to attract geographic diversity. The majority of our team will always be from Virginia and Maryland. I also think it is valuable for the experience of our team to have some different areas of the country coming in. Lacrosse is a very small world. A lot of girls that are from Maryland have all played together at some point or had the same coaches. It is the same in Virginia. So it is valuable to your program to have fresh energy and to get girls from different areas so that they have different influences on their playing style. I want freshman coming in ready to play.

Q: Can you compare academic programs here and other places you have been. Are there things that you can see we can do to help improve our academic programs for your sport?

A: I have only been one other place unfortunately. But at Stanford it was very different dynamic. It was a much smaller school. We had academic support but no organized study hall set up. So for me the academic support was fairly new when I came here. I think there are some athletes that are not as independently motivated as others and you are always going to be more successful if you are independently motivated. And that is the challenge that I have put on myself. The best thing that I can do is tell my girls at the beginning of the semester go introduce yourself to your professors. Get into the academic facility as much as possible. Use that as your study area or if that is not what is going to help you find a coffee shop where you can study. I think the mentor program is really unique. It is a really nice support system for them to have. But the biggest thing that I emphasize is that face to face relationship with someone that they feel they can connect to academically. I guess because of the values and the different system we had that is why I push that.

I believe my job is to teach Lacrosse but also to teach them to be strong individuals because in the end that is what is going to make them stronger in Lacrosse. There is only so much I can do 2 hours on the field every day and I find that the most valuable hours are off the field.

Q: Tell us a little about you new locker room.

A: We will be getting a new locker room at the end of the fall. It is an exciting space for us to be able to interact with the girls more. They are excited; it is something they use a lot. It is just another space for them to take advantage of the resources around here. Especially since the profile of Tech is that a lot of girls move off campus. That is a really valuable space for them to interact with each other, to come up to the office more, to use the academic facilities more, to have a place to be on campus.

Q: When you go on trips how do they study? Do you set some particular time or place?

A: We have done different things. With our sport we do not travel as far or long as other teams. Our schedule is still changing. We typically play Wednesday and Saturday. We have done study hall on the road. I have found that we do not have time for a study hall because we try and leave as late as possible so they do not miss classes. We get there, get up and play the game and come right back.

Q: How do you deal with low grade point average students? Do you do anything special to see if they get back on track academically?

A: We actually have a tier system. My standard right now is if you are under a 3.0 as an upper classman you are in study hall. My goal is to be one of the top 3 women's GPA teams at Virginia Tech. As much as a 3.0 is good. There is no professional Women's Lacrosse and there are not a lot of post collegiate opportunities in athletics for us. The bottom 5% of GPA's on our team we meet with every other week to get updates on. The lowest GPA person was asked to set her own academic support program. We were setting the structure and she was still struggling to be successful. I understand some people struggle academically. We try and take advantage of the learning specialist. We try to communicate with them and get them to communicate when they are struggling. We have created some positive incentives if they get above a 3.0 for the semester we will cut their study hall in half the second semester.

Future meeting schedule for fall semester (Art Keown)

- Wednesday, October 12
- Tuesday, November 15

Team Schedules and Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon) Handout

The UAC Scheduling Policy and Procedure is an annual September report that I give on behalf of the Athletic Department. I gather the information based upon the policy that this committee established a number of years ago. I then forward to the Provost office and Dr Daniel Wubah has reviewed this and compared it against the policy and approved specific waivers. Refer to handout distributed by Jon Jaudon on expected missed classes for student athletes based on the fall and spring competitive schedule. On the bottom of the handout is how we calculate the number of days missed.

- The policy does not want any single student to miss more than 9 classes. We are in compliance with the policy with the exception of Men's Tennis and Track & Field. The numbers listed are the maximum absences.

Q: What does the lack of Provost approval in Track mean?

A: It is just a number. He has approved them missing more than 9 days in the spring semester. Anything in yellow was requested as a waiver and has been granted

Q: Jon does the fact that Men and Women Tennis traditionally have the highest GPA's help them when Dr. Wubah looks at this.

A: Probably does not hurt.

Q: Can you clarify expected missed absences verses excused absences.

A: We do not have the authority to excuse absences. That is up to the individual professor. The Student Athlete Academic Support Services office provides our student athletes letters to take to their professors explaining their travel schedule and the classes they will miss. It is up to the professor to either excuse them or not. Some professors enforce their own policy, that if you miss an exam or quiz it counts as one of your drops. You do not get a chance to make that up. If information is provided to the professor's early we have headed off

some potential issues and been able to change classes, if necessary. The vast majority of faculty are supportive of the students dilemma when it comes to travel for athletic contests.

Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Jermaine Holmes) Handout

We take a snapshot of all the student athletes who are on an active roster on a specific date and use that as our roster for reporting grades.

- A total of 523 student athletes on team rosters.
- 49 % of student athletes achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA
- 41 % of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA
- 139 student athletes made the Dean's List Spring Semester.
- 16 student athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA
- 10 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA
- 9 teams maintain a 3.0 or greater cumulative GPA

Q: Can you break out GPA's by class?

A: I do not currently have that information. But I can get it.

Q: Do we have the graduation rate?

A: The current graduation rate is 73%. We are in 8th place in the ACC, the graduation success rate is 4th in the ACC.

Q: What is the GSR?

A: It is a matrix that was developed six years ago by the NCAA that allows us to account for student athletes who transfer in and out. It still looks at six years of data but it allows us to take advantage of those situations from a graduation perspective. It give us a more accurate picture of where we are. The federal rate does not allow you to count student-athletes who transfer. It does not replace the federal rates.

Q: The numbers you gave are 2011?

A: 2010.

Q: How does that compare to the general Virginia Tech student body graduation rate?

A: The federal rate for the student body is 80%. The athletic department is 73%. The federal rate only looks at the student-athletes who are on athletic aid.

Q: Please give the committee an overview of Chris Drager's academic experience.

A: Chris Drager, a football student-athlete had already graduated and is in a graduate program right now received the male Skelton award and he is currently applying for a Rhodes Scholar. Martha Blakely, Women Tennis is also a candidate for a Rhodes Scholar and a Truman Scholarship. She is a former female Skelton award winner.

Q: I noticed that the gender equity numbers for women are down from what they normally are.

A: It may be that this is spring and people quit teams.

Office of Student Life Annual Report (Reyna Gilbert-Lowry) Handout

- We are another resource for students here at Virginia Tech.
- We try to help with their transition into college.
- Provide as many resources as possible while they are students.
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)
- Programming inspired by the NCAA CHAMPS Life Skills which forces on personal development, professional development and community outreach.
- Leadership development has been a special emphasis for us
- Collaborative initiatives which create a positive environment and enhance learning experiences.

Year in Review

- In May, an informal survey of 1/3 of student-athletes (183) was taken to get areas identified that students wanted addressed.

- Results: Career planning, time management and studies skills/tips for both student-athlete and coaches topped the list.
- Stress management and transition out of sport were tops for student athletes.
- Alcohol/drug use education and nutrition for coaches.

Career Development

Career Game Plan Programs

- Freshman: New Student-Athlete Orientation
- Sophomores: Majors Fair
- Juniors: Junior Jumpstart
- Seniors Senior Transition Seminar
- Outside campus
NCAA Women's Leadership Symposium
NCAA Career in Sports Forum

Personal Development

- Mentors in Violence Prevention
- HAZE
- Etiquette Dinner
- Financial Planning

Community Outreach

- Last year we won an award with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports Outreach and Community Service.
- The ACC Community Connection. This program is aimed at teaching life lessons to elementary and middle school students in the that host ACC Championships. ACC Men's and Women's Track & Field student-athletes visited Gilbert Linkous Elementary School on February 24, 2011 and read books to the students and spoke to them about their student-athlete experience. The ACC also made a donation of books to the school library.
- This year we will be hosting the ACC Swimming and Diving Championships so we will be doing that again.

Academic Excellence.

Each year, the Office of Student Life nominates student-athletes for scholarships, internships and additional opportunities to honor their academic and athletic achievements.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)

The SAAC leadership team was voted on by other SAAC members and handpicked by the OSL staff in order to ensure the best fit for the positions.

- Collecting toys for the Montgomery County Christmas Store through the Brother/Sister Toy Drive Challenge.
- Collecting 1300 lbs of canned goods at the Spring Football Game on April 23rd for local food banks
- Hosting a Hokie Dodge Ball Tournament to raise funds for the American Cancer Society
- Hosting a tailgate prior to the home football game vs. Georgia Tech.

Leadership Development Opportunities

- Softball student-athlete Whitney Davis served as the student-athlete representative on the University Unions and Student Activities Advisory Board during the fall 2010 semester.
- October 21-24, 2010 – Jess Dong (Wrestling) and Marra Hvozovic (Softball) attended the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Orlando, Florida.
- December 10, 2010 – 2010 Skelton Award Recipient, Martha Blakely, provided a keynote speech at the Rotary Leadership Conference at the Inn at Virginia Tech.
- May 26 – August 14, 2011 – The following student-athletes traveled to Hoa An, Vietnam for three weeks through Coach for College

Christina Patten – Lacrosse
Julie Wolfinger – Lacrosse
Ryan Rotanz – Lacrosse
Colleen Thom – Women’s Cross Country
Jessica Trapani – Women’s Cross Country
Drew Dillon – Women’s Cross Country

Aunye’ Boone – Women’s Track & Field
Devin Cornwall – Men’s Track & Field
Keith Ricks – Men’s Track & Field
Morgan Allen – Women’s Swimming
Kaleigh Gomes – Women’s Swimming

Growing Leaders: Habitudes

The Virginia Tech Department of Athletics has a deliberate focus on leadership development for student-athletes. Through Habitudes, a collection of images that form leadership habits and attitudes, the department is intentionally growing leaders. The department is currently discussing piloting a leadership study abroad trip to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic sponsored in conjunction with the Office of Outreach and International Affairs for summer 2012.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Recruiting: The Office of Student Life was involved in on-campus recruiting visits with Men’s and Women’s Swimming & Diving, Men’s and Women’s Tennis, Men’s and Women’s Soccer and Men’s and Women’s Track & Field. Presentations were given to visiting recruits and/or parents during their time on campus.

Reyna Gilbert-Lowry presented to prospective football student-athletes and their parents at Football Junior Day on February 26, 2011.

Athletic Facility Tours: Danny White, Coordinator of Student Life served as the tour liaison and was in charge of tour requests and scheduling tours. The OSL is responsible for the facilitation of all tour requests received by Virginia Tech Athletics from community members. During the 2010-2011 academic year, 37 tours were given to approximately 1944 visitors.

Committee assignment for 2011-2012 (Art Keown) Handout

- Academic Integrity - Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) Evaluation Subcommittee
Study Hall, Tutoring, Technology and Computing Resources, Mentoring, and Academic Advising.
- Governance and Rules Compliance
Financial aid, rules education and rules violations.
- Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being – Title IX and Equity
Title IX and equity

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

Mike Ellerbrock

This past year, the faculty senate and staff senate spent a lot of time working with the administration on parking issues around campus. Not just the Thursday night dilemma but also the price faculty and staff pay for parking permits. Out of concern for what I call modest staff employees there was a desire to hold the line on the costs. I want to thank Jim Weaver and Dwight Shelton and their offices because there is some good news, Due to a voluntary offering of money from Athletics and due to some very helpful budgeting in Vice President Shelton’s office about how to fund the parking garages, parking permit fees this year have been increased at a very minimum cost. Otherwise it would probably have been a significant increase in fees. You do not need me to tell you that when you bring up Athletic Department Budget in faculty senate you get some pretty stridden opinions. Both the athletics and university administrations assistance was much appreciated. Thank you.

Art Keown dismissed the committee at 5:10 pm