

University Athletic Committee
September 28, 2010
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Devin Cornwall, Michael Doughty, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Art Keown, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Jacqueline Nottingham, Scot Pleasant, Glenn Reynolds, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Joseph Tront, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Kenny Jarels, James Penven, Steve Prisley

Representatives: Brennan Shepard for Dwight Shelton;

Guest Present: **Mike Brizendine**, Head Men's Soccer Coach, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, **Pamela Linkous**, Human Resources and NCAA Initiatives for Athletics, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator, **Tim Parker**, Senior Assistant Athletic Director, Compliance.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

BUSINESS

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. He thanked Rosemary Goss for her leadership as past chairman of the UAC and for assisting in the transition.

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

Minutes for the April 1, 2010 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Art welcomed new members and guests to the committee and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the committee. Art passed out University Policy Memorandum no. 94 which was written in 1988 and served as the impetus for the UAC. The charge of the committee is: "To review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics."

Future meeting schedule for fall semester (Art Keown)

- October 27
- November 30 (Like to meet at Christiansburg Aquatic Center, CAC)

Please contact Art to recommend future agenda items, issues or speakers.

REPORTS

Coaches Perspective – Men's Soccer (Mike Brizendine)

Mike Brizendine took over as head coach in June 2009 replacing Oliver Weiss. Mike had been on the staff for five years prior to assuming the role of Head Coach. Mike stated that December 8, 2007 was the best moment of his coaching career. That was the day Virginia Tech participated in the Final Four of College Soccer. As preparations for the game against Wake Forest were made he realized how special it was. There were hundreds

if not more Virginia Tech faithful who attended the semi-final game and they were a strong encouragement to the team.

I make note of that because my goal now is to get us back to that place, where we can compete for and win the national championship. We are concentrating our efforts in three areas: academics, athletics and character development.

Athletic Goals:

- To learn the attacking brand of soccer that we are going to play.
- To finish annually in the top half of the ACC. The ACC is the toughest conference in the country for Men's Soccer. Six of our leagues nine programs are ranked in the top 15 in the country.
- To be invited back to the NCAA Tournament on an annual bases. Nine newcomers are either starting or coming off the bench and contributing. This will aid our development as a program.

Academic Goals:

- Team GPA above 3.0.
- Have the highest grade point average among all male sport teams.
- Attract the best student-athletes to Virginia Tech that the staff can find.
- I require everyone to send me their transcript before they come on a visit. We evaluate for potential admission in advance
- We expect players to attend all classes and sit in the first three rows. Our Student-Athlete's have great resources available to them through academic services. Mike Swanhart, their coordinator, does a very good job with our players. He provides tutors, spends time with them and informs me so that we can trouble shoot any area before it becomes too big of a problem.
- Recruiting: my staff and I go out to tournaments and see hundreds of student-athletes. We come back with a list of 20 or 25. First thing that we do is contact them and get them to send us their transcripts and SAT scores. If those are good, we then invite them to campus. And then when they come we tell them that the most important aspect is figuring out their character. Because you can be captain of the national team, have a great grade point average, but if on this visit and during our time with you we find that you do not have integrity demonstrated through truth, honesty, self reflection, accountability we will end our recruiting process right there.

One thing that I am trying to really impress in men is to think of others rather than themselves. It starts with our team, then within our athletic department and then our community. I found that talking with them about our team values, truth, honesty, self reflection and accountability that all these young men have an antenna to serve. But some have not used it in a while. I see it as part of my job to reintroduce to our players opportunities to help others.

Q: Since you took over what have you changed?

A: *A more attacking style of play
*Pursuing a more athletic recruit earlier than we have in the past.
*Greater emphasis on character development

Q: Have you changed where you recruit from?

A: Look close to home and work our way out across America. Many signees from California in 2010 class and 2011 class is mostly made up of Virginia residents.

Q: The ACC has 6 of the top 15 teams in the country? This has got to be best kept secret on campus. And those teams come here to play on campus? Students can walk across campus and see that type of competition?

A: Yes and it is free for them to come and see.

Q: How many scholarships are you permitted to offer?

A: 9.9. In our sport not too many students get a full scholarship. We carry a roster in the mid to high 20's.

Q: Talk about your staff.

A: We have one of the better staff's in the country. My top two guys are older than I am. Kevin Doyle who spent time at Penn State and Creighton has been to the Final Four a number of times and went to the NCAA Tournament 12 years in a row. He brings a knowledge of the mid west to our recruiting. Then I recruited the Assistant Head Coach at James Madison University, Pat McSorley. I played with him and his

knowledge of the game are strong assets. His Virginia recruiting ties are starting to pay off in our 2011 class. Recently we picked up the Head Assistant coach at American to come and be our volunteer assistant. He is very much tied in with DC United Youth Development Program and has been coaching youth soccer for the past eight years at a very very high level. He has won national championship.

Q: What is your target time for reaching the top 25?

A: I would like to next year but our goal is the 2012 season.

Q: That is a lot of new people coming in. Did we have a lot of attrition?

A: We have had a lot of attrition for a number of different reasons. People wanted to get back home, financial constraints when you cannot provide full scholarships.

Team Schedules and Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon) Handout

Our Scheduling Policy and Procedures are always discussed in the September meeting. 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.
- Specific waiver request were approved by Dr Daniel Wubah.

Q: How did you do so well with Baseball? Isn't that your biggest challenge?

A: It can be. Coach Hughes likes to play more homes games. We only have a hand full of non conference games that we play away from home and those are typically in late February early March when the weather here is not conducive to baseball. We go south for a couple weekend tournaments

Q: Flying or driving?

A: Driving. We go to Myrtle Beach and to Charleston miss only a day. We leave on Thursday and back late Sunday night. We have 30 games in conference 15 are away so 5 weekends we go away other than those other 2 that I mentioned.

Q: Real busses where they can sleep and study if they want to?

A: Yes real busses 45 or 50 passengers

Q: Is there any one tracking to make sure that there isn't some super star that is missing all 13 class days?

A: Specifically no, but we will make that a priority in the spring for tennis and track.

Last column is exceptions that we have requested and been granted approval from Dr Wubah concerning final exam week. The policy states that we prefer not to have any competition during final exams. In the fall the two basketballs' routinely play that weekend of exams. They are both playing again this coming December.

In Baseball, in order not to have 15 days off between baseball games in the middle of the ACC schedule, we have been playing double headers on that Sunday of finals week. It starts at 1pm in the afternoon and a double header can last for 6 to 8 hours. The players asked me this past year if we could play single games on Saturday and Sunday as opposed to all day on Sunday. It was better suited for them to play that way and only have about 4 hours each day devoted to a game. We were fortunate enough to attract James Madison to come down here to play us on Saturday at 7:00 pm on May 8th and turn around and play them again at 1:00 pm on that Sunday. I explained to Dr Wubah that we will have no baseball player miss an exam or change exams on that Saturday or miss any type of study or group session that need to occur Saturday night. We have a squad of 35 individuals and only 9 or 10 can play at once so we can fill in a gap if we have someone that has an exam or study session. Art this is a report that we gather all the information from our coaches to present to UAC.

Q: Does the visiting team (JMU) like the idea of playing one game and having to spend the night?

A: JMU is finishing their exams before they come that weekend. They are having commencement that Saturday. It is very had to play non-conference opponents in the middle of the season because it is rare to find another opponent that is not playing conference games that weekend.

Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Jermaine Holmes) Handout

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

- See handout

Q: Football roster member that went below the 2.0, is he still with the program or university?

A: Yes still with the university. Went to summer school and is now above 2.0.

Q: Has the second person indicated already graduate?

A: No he is not with the university anymore.

Q: Does that count against us in the APR?

A: He is included because he was on a roster in the spring. APR wise he has already graduated.

Q: So we only count those that haven't graduated in the APR. We do not have to count the post graduate students that stay on?

A: A student that has graduated will always earn a retention point for APR. They can lose the eligibility point. A student who graduates will appear on the APR cohort and can earn or lose points for the team.

Q: One additional concern, that middle column in the GPA breakdown references those who earned GPA's between 2.1 and 2.9. I would like to see that broken out 2.0 - 2.5 in one column, 2.5- 2.99 in the next column.

A: That is something that we do in the future.

Q: Do you also track credit hours the athletes are carrying each semester?

A: We track it but we do not report it. We track it on a semester basis. If that is something that this group would be interested in seeing we can include that in future reports.

Q: Is that tracked by academic eligibility by the compliance team?

A: Yes

Q: Do we have university averages for the semester?

A: I know that information is available through institutional research. I do not know if they break it down like we do.

Q: How many of the 486 are graduate students?

I do not know that number right now. No more than a dozen. Fall semester has more.

Q: In light of what has happened in North Carolina are we doing anything proactive to prevent some of the problems that others may be experiencing?

That is actually something that Dr. Killough and I will be exploring further here in the coming weeks. But we currently have a process by which our tutors are trained. We have compliance come in at times. We have programs in which we work through the English Writing Department so that our tutors that will be working with students in writing and English know how we do things here at Virginia Tech in respect to the departmental requirements. We have a couple of people that work on our staff as learning specialists who also work to additionally train our tutors. Those are the things we are doing on an annual basis. We also have educational sessions with tutors. We require them to come in and go through additional training. We have been doing a combination of those things for the past several years. We have anywhere from 80 to 100 tutors on staff at any given time.

Q: Does a subject like that come up in your dealing with your counter parts at other schools. Do they share?

A: We have always shared at ACC meetings. We have always shared with one another when we have situations that we can all learn from. We talk about specific details of what happened and what can be done to avoid common problems we all face. We share concerns. One of the biggest concerns that we have now and will be more prevalent in the future is increase of on-line classes. How do you police that?

All of what we do takes place in our facility so that is one of the ways in which we can have control of what is going on. We see and hear what is going on with the interaction with the tutors. We have people on our full time staff in our facility at all hours it is open. That enables us to have better control over the environment.

Role and Duties of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR)

(Larry Killough)

Dr. Steger has asked this committee to recommend to him some parameters associated with appointment of the FAR. AS a result I have asked Larry Killough our current FAR to share with us his current responsibilities in this role.

The responsibilities on campus:

- Shared oversight responsibility for Senior Assistant A.D. for Compliance, Tim Parker.
Tim and I meet once a month.
Tim is responsible for keeping me informed of all rules violations and current compliance related issues
- Review pending NCAA legislation.
We send our consensus vote on legislative matters to the Atlantic Coast Conference each fall.
They collect all the ACC institutional opinions and submit the conference vote to the NCAA.
- Serve on a number of appeals committees as it relates to student-athletes

The responsibilities in the ACC:

- The FAR is the voting member of the institution to the ACC. We have a meeting on one of our university campus' each year and the meeting will be here next week.
- Other meetings are:
 - December - Legislative meeting at ACC Football Championships
 - January - Faculty Athletic Representative and the Athletic Director
 - March - Faculty Athletic Representative with the Presidents that alternates years with Women's Basketball Tournament or Men's Basketball Tournament.
 - April - Luncheon with ACC Post Graduate Scholarship recognition
 - May - Faculty Athletic Representative, Football Coaches, Men and Women's Basketball Coaches.

Q: How long have you been FAR?

A: 6 Years. Prior to that the FAR was in name only.

Q: How long do you think it takes for someone in that role to learn the role?

A: First meeting I attended in the ACC there were six people there that were on their way to serving their second term as president of the FAR's in the ACC. To become familiar with legislation (what is going on) and the problems, two or three years.

Q: How long is the term?

A: Year to year right now.

It is not an easy position. He or she has to learn a totally new language as it relates to athletic and NCAA matters. Jim Weaver commented that he has been totally impressed with the ACC FAR's and their enthusiasm to do their job and how much care and concern that they express for the different issues that confront all of us on a daily basis.

Committees Assignments for 2010-2011 (Art Keown) handouts

- Academic integrity
 - Freshman/Transfers orientation.
 - Academic progress monitoring and reporting.
 - Learning assessments and degree selection.
 - Post-eligibility programs
 - Academic evaluation of prospective student-athletes.
- Governance and Rules Compliance (**This year special dispensation from the President to pass over**)
 - Financial Aid
 - Rules Education
 - Rules Violations
- Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being
 - Title IX

- FAR Selection Process (due early fall)
To establish a process and regular appointment cycle for the FAR

Questions for the Athletic Director Jim Weaver

Q: When are we going to reseat Cassell and Lane?

A: We are going to do it. But with down turned economy we are looking at some time in the future.

Q: What is the next building project?

A: New Field house behind the present football practice fields.

Every time we do something we try and make some improvements, the current football locker room will be divided into three new locker rooms for Olympic Sports. Then we will go in and move some women's teams and men's teams around after that. It has all been approved as part of the football building project. Then it will be time to start refurbishing lots of other space.

Q: How about the soccer stadium is there any thought of adding to that?

A: Not at this time. We have already added to the original structure.

Art Keown adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.