

**University Athletic Committee**  
**October 27, 2010**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center**

**Members Present:** Fred Benfield, Devin Cornwall, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Kenny Jarels, Art Keown, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Jacqueline Nottingham, James Penven, Scot Pleasant, Glenn Reynolds, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Joseph Tront, Jim Weaver.

**Members Absent:** Larry Killough, Steve Prisley.

**Representatives:** Scott Case for **Richard Benson**; Jake Carter for **Michael Doughty**, Melinda West for **Dwight Shelton**;

**Guest Present:** **Dave Cianelli**, Director of Cross Country/Track & Field, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator, **Tim Parker**, Senior Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance.

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

### **BUSINESS**

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

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

Minutes for the September 28, 2010 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

### **REPORTS**

#### **Coaches Perspective – Cross Country/Track & Field (Dave Cianelli)**

Entering his ninth year as Director of Virginia Tech Track & Field and Cross Country, Dave Cianelli has built the Hokie program into a national title contender. Women's Team has won a total of 4 ACC Track & Field Titles and the Men's Team is very close to winning an ACC title. We have a very young team on both sides this year and I feel we will compete for an ACC Title. We have finished in the top 10 at the national meet 4 times, three with the women and one with the men. Queen Harrison won three NCAA titles this past year in the hurdles and is the first athlete in the history of the NCAA to double in the 100 and 400 hurdles outdoors. She graduated this past May and has decided to stay here and train with Coach Charles Fosters. She is now running professionally and preparing for the world championships and the 2012 Olympic Games.

- We have 100% graduation rate.
- Before these students come to Virginia Tech, the student and their parents know what they are getting into as far as expectations associated with our program.
- The students know what is expected of them academically at Virginia Tech and they also understand what kind of academic institution Virginia Tech is and that it is going to be a great challenge.
- SAASS is a major part of our team success in the classroom.
- Women's Track & Field Team had an a cumulative GPA of 3.34 and a spring term GPA of 3.64.
- Huge recruiting point to parents, that you can be great in athletics and great in academics at the same time.
- My coaching staff and I share the same philosophy, we want to be great in the classroom and on the track. We recruit the highest level athletes that we can find that will be successful here at Virginia Tech.

Q: Where did you recruit Queen from?

A: She is from the Richmond area, Hermitage High School.

Q: Do you recruit primarily Virginia?

A: We spend a lot of time recruiting Virginia and trying to get the best student-athlete out of Virginia. Virginia is a very good state for our sport. If the talent is not in state then we go anywhere to find the best talent available.

Q: Would you talk a little bit about Cross Country. The distance's they run and what events they would run in track.

A: The cross country athletes will run from the mile up indoors and the 1500 up if we are outdoors. A few run the 800. In Cross Country the men will race 8K which is 5 miles and championship races, NCAA's is 10K or 6.2 miles. The women run 6K which is 3.6 miles

Q: What does the NCAA allow in terms of scholarships for cross country?

A: Unless you sponsor cross country by itself and no track. The limit for cross country is 5. But since we sponsor cross country and track and field, they just group them together. The limit for women is 18 and for men is 12.6.

Q: What do those numbers mean?

A: Number of scholarships that you can have at any one time. When we get outdoors in the men's events we have to cover 22 events including your relays with 12.6 scholarships. You are obviously going to have a number of walk on athletes and some partial scholarship athletes to be able to field a conference level team. Typically teams will tend to focus on certain event areas. Depending on the strength of their staff and how much money they have. Just because the NCAA says you can be at 12.6 and 18, not every program is fully funded. It is more difficult with the men just because you are working with a fewer number of scholarships in order to field a deep team.

Q: How many total student athletes do you have and how many assistant coaches?

A: I oversee Men's and Women's Cross Country, Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Men's and Women's Outdoor Track. They are all counted as separate sports. The Cross Country athletes do all three. My roster right now consists of 45 women and 44 men. I have 5 full time staff members and several volunteer coaches.

Q: Do you anticipate hosting any outdoor meets since the outdoor track has been resurfaced?

A: My boss, Mr. Helms, and I have visited since we have a new surface, we want to look at that. The things that we have to consider:

- 1) Weather in Blacksburg for outdoor season
- 2) Getting teams to commit

Q: Why do we host so many indoor meets.

A: Our indoor facility is considered to be one of the best in the country. We have many, many teams that come here to compete because of the facilities and because we run quality meets. We have had to limit the number. For us it makes a lot of sense to stay here.

Q: With roughly 90 athletes and 30 scholarships how good does an athlete have to be for you to award a full scholarship?

A: A full scholarship athlete has to be a high performer nationally.

Q: How often do you have a non scholarship student athlete out perform a scholarship student athlete? Does it cause problems?

A: It can. That happens. We have had several students come in that were initially non scholarship athletes and as time progressed improved their level and some even made All American. In those cases what I try to do is have some money set aside where I can award them some scholarship money as they reach certain performance level.

Q: Do you ever cut the Full Scholarship student athlete?

A: NO. Basically as long as they are achieving the academic expectation and they are giving us their best effort every day and being a good citizen then I am renewing their scholarship at what level it is. And if it does not pan out athletically at least I know that they have their degree and they can go on and do something productive.

Q: What do you see as a program want or need?

- A: More funding for the student athlete academic support services so they can add more counselors and more tutors because our program is growing and because the athletics department has grown to over 500 plus athletes.
- Q: What is the next step?
- A: We were one of 5 programs last year to be in the top 10 in both men and women outdoors. University of Oregon, Texas A&M, Louisiana State, University of Florida and Virginia Tech. I consider us to be one of the elite programs in the country now. Budget increases help with equipment and travel. I always work within what I am given, that is my job. We do have one of the best collection of coaches in the nation. It is always hard to retain coaches when you have success, other programs come in and try and buy assistants away. That is always going to be a challenge. The next thing on the horizon is the new football indoor facility which would make Rector field house a full time track facility. That is the biggest facility issue that can help track program in the immediate future. If I can hold on to the coaches we have right now and we can continue to recruit the type of students that we are recruiting I see us continually being a program that can be in the top 10 nationally and compete for ACC titles.

### **NCAA Governance Structure (Tim Parker)**

- Currently, there are more than 1,000 NCAA member schools. For competitive purposes, the NCAA is divided into three classifications: Division I with 420 members, Division II with 326 members and Division III with 281 members.
- Board of Directors
- Leadership Council reports to Board of Directors
- Legislative Council reports to Board of Directors
- Six Cabinets report to both Leadership and Legislative Councils
  - Academic
  - Administration
  - Amateurism
  - Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid
  - Championship and Sports Management
  - Recruiting and Athletics Personnel Issues

### **NCAA Membership**

- Prior to 1997, all legislative proposals were debated and voted on at an annual convention, one school / one vote.
- In 1997, the philosophy shifted to representative governance. School interests are voiced and voted on collectively by representatives.
- The NCAA Division I Manual currently has 420 pages, it consists of a six-article constitution and **17 operating bylaws**. In addition there is a searchable database of case precedent. It has over 7,000 interpretations issued by interpretive committees and NCAA staff members over the past 25 years.
- These bylaws exist as part of an organic document, (on line) which is updated continuously, mainly through the amendment process.
- Some amendments are effective immediately when adopted, most carry an effective date of August 1.
- The NCAA Legislative Council has 32 members, each representing one of the 32 Division I conferences.

### **Legislative Council**

- Current composition of the Council, by position:
  - Conference Staff Member (13)
  - Senior Woman Administrator (13)
  - Director of Athletics (3)
  - Faculty Athletics Representative (2)
  - Other athletics administrative personnel (1)
- Each council member casts a single vote, which is weighted (51 total votes)
  - 3.0 – seven “major” conferences
  - 1.5 – All other conferences sponsoring FBS football

1.2 – conferences sponsoring FCS football

1.0 – The Pioneer Football Conference

Q: How does Notre Dame fit into this?

A: Notre Dame is represented by the Big East Conference.

Q: Are there Virginia Tech people in all the slots on the organizational chart or does Legislative Council have Virginia Tech representative?

A: Currently Virginia Tech is not represented other than by conference representation.

### **Legislative Proposals come from:**

- Six Cabinets in NCAA structure
- Conferences
- NCAA Sport Committees
- National Coaches' Associations
- NCAA Task Forces
- NCAA "Working Groups"
- NCAA "Focus Groups"

### **Legislative Process/Cycle**

- Potential proposals are discussed and drafted during the spring and summer.
- Those that are formally submitted are then reviewed by the relevant committees and cabinets during the summer and fall.
- November through early January is the window for review by schools and conferences.
- Proposals gaining sufficient support land on the agenda of the Legislative Council at its January meeting
- The Council may choose from three primary options:
  - **Defeat the proposal**
    - ◆ It is dead
  - **Adopt the proposal**
    - ◆ It is subject to review by the Board of Directors later that week. Unless defeated by the Board, the proposal becomes officially adopted, and enters a 60-day override period. If the proposal carries an "immediate" effective date, the resulting amendment becomes law at the conclusion of the Board's January meeting.
  - **Forward the proposal** to membership for comment
    - ◆ 60-day comment period begins. The proposal is re-visited by the Council at its April meeting, where it can be defeated, tabled or adopted. If adopted by the Council at the April meeting, the proposal is subject to review by the Board of Directors two weeks later. It becomes officially adopted and enters a 60-day override period. If the proposal carries an "immediate" effective date, the resulting amendment becomes law at the conclusion of the board's April meeting.

### **60-Day Override**

- ◆ The override format is one vote per school. A minimum of 62.5% of schools voting to overturn results in defeat.
- ◆ If during the 60-day override period, an adopted proposal/amendment receives at least **30 override requests** from the Division I membership, it will be reconsidered at the next NCAA convention in January.
- ◆ If an adopted proposal/amendment receives **100 or more override requests**, it is immediately suspended, and will be subject to reconsideration at the next convention.

Q: Would any proposal for a football playoff structure have to go through that process?

A: No.

### **Committees Assignments for 2010-2011 (Art Keown) handouts**

- Academic integrity  
Jacqueline Nottingham, chair, Holly Scoggins, Michael Doughty, Fred Benfield, Don Shoemaker, Mike Ellerbrock, Kenny Jarels. Resource members: Jermaine Holmes, Chris Helms.

- Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being  
Scott Pleasant, chair, Rick Ferraro, Devin Cornwall, Margaret McGrath, James Penven, Susan Short, Richard Benson, Contacts: Pam Linkous, Sharon McCloskey
- FAR Selection Process (due early fall)  
Art Keown Chair, Joe Tront, Larry Killough, Jon Jaudon, Glenn Reynolds

### **Questions for the Athletic Director Jim Weaver**

Q: New ACC Television contract with new funding. How does that impact us?

A: We are still trying to learn all of the aspects of the funding of the contract.

Q: Is expansion over? Or do you expect more?

A: I believe it is over for the next 3 to 5 years.

Q: When a student-Athlete graduates from Virginia Tech and chooses to stay on like Queen Harrison. How is the Institution compensated and how are the coaches compensated?

A: It is not and they are not.

Q: Queen Harrison is training and using our facilities, she is not an enrolled student anymore but a former student athlete, any compliance issues?

A: Coach Cianelli would have checked with Mr. Parker before he gave the green light on any type of relationship.

She cannot be involved in a team practice situation.

Q: If she became a graduate assistance could she then become part of the practice situation?

A: She could be a student assistant coach or a volunteer coach.

Q: Virginia Tech is supportive of continuing to work with the students who have success enabling them to continue on to next level. What risk does Virginia Tech have by letting them come in and use our facilities while they do not technically have any relationship other than as a former student-athlete?

A: There is a mechanism in the NCAA legislative process that enables certain sports to do that. We do not feel that there is risk. We think the fact that they decide to stay here and train enhances the recruiting process of all of our athletes in that sport.

The NCAA exception for alums allows them to come back and practice with the current student athletes but only on an occasional basis.

Q: Do we have to keep track of that?

A: We do.

Next meeting is moved to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center at 3:45 pm  
Art Keown adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. for committee breakout sessions.