

University Athletic Committee
February 5, 2013
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

- Members Present:** Richard Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Bijan Peters, Glenn Reynolds, Holly Scoggins, Susan Short, Terry Swecker, Joe Tront, Bevlee Watford.
- Members Absent:** Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Kirsten Blue, Kelsey Brunton, Lu Merritt, Jacqueline Nottingham, , Susanna Rinehart, Stephen Schoenholtz, Don Shoemaker, Jim Weaver.
- Representatives:** Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton.
- Guest Present:** **Katie Cross**, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate A. D., Administration, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiative for Athletics, **Scot Thomas**, Head Coach Softball.
- Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.
The agenda was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).
Minutes for the November 2012 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

BUSINESS

Future Meeting Schedule – Art Keown

Wednesday, March 20

Tuesday, April 23

Coach's Perspective - Softball – Scot Thomas

- Keeping student-athlete eligible and on track to graduate
We are very fortunate that we have a whole department of people to help do that, from Compliance to Associate AD Chris Helms to SAASS.
- I am starting my 18th season. We do not set goals but have focuses.
 - ACC Title
 - Regionals
 - World Series
- We want to stay in the top 25. We are currently 30th.
- Preseason ranked for the conference is 4th out of 8 teams.
- Returned all starters from last year's team that went to the ACC championship game.
- Marra Hvozdovic senior in 2012 is ACC Director of Championships Intern. She is a third generation Hokie.
- Just completed graphic project in locker room – did a great job – Destination Oklahoma City is one of the themes. We put that up with the 2008 World Series Logo. I put it up as something we can focus toward.
- Academically I am very pleased where we are. Cory Byrd, our SAASS advisor does an outstanding job.
 - We are going to do first pitch promotion this year, selecting professors to throw out the first pitch at our games.

- Last year we ended up with a 3.06 team GPA
- 6 ACC All-Academic Team members
- 16 ACC Honor Roll members
- Pride in VT
 - To wear the orange and maroon
 - Channel 7 is doing a special on Courtney and Bailey Liddle put a video together in support of their mom's fight with breast cancer. Part of the interview is in the new locker room.
- Television
 - 15 times since 2007
 - 7 of those are on ESPN, ESPN2, or ESPNU
 - Other games have been on RSN, Sunshine network, ESPN3.
 - Softball is one sport that ESPN wants to air more. They aired 27 games last year to over 50 this year and we will be on twice.
 - Here against Florida State April 20th @ 12:00 pm (Spring Football Game Day)
 - At Virginia on April 29th
- Facilities
 - New Locker Room is the latest.
- Recruiting is going great and we want a well rounded student-athlete.
 - I do not agree with the way recruiting is today on the college level but we jumped in and are hanging on like everyone else. We have juniors and seniors recruited now and even a sophomore. We are looking at the 2015 class now.

Question – What year do you offer? At this point not earlier than the sophomore year.

Question – Baseball take a lot of trips in the spring. Do you have anything similar? We do. But we do not go for a week. We leave Thursday; fly to Orlando, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we come back. The worse trip we have is to Troy, Alabama. It is going to be a bus trip. The only reason we are doing it by bus is we have two other flights this year. We take the bus trip and come back and go to Kennesaw in Atlanta and come back and we are off the next week. We will be in California spring break. We only miss 3 days of classes but are gone for 10 days.

Question – Do you have study hours? We do.

Question – Where do you recruit? – All over the country and in Canada. There are not enough Virginia athletes to go around for us to be competitive at the level we want. There are three huge tournaments in the Denver Area that allows you to see the top players at one location each year.

Fall Academic Update – Katie Cross

(Handout)

- A total of 526 student athletes on team rosters.
- 46 percent of student athletes achieved a 3.0 or greater fall semester GPA.
- 41 percent of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA.
- 140 student athletes made the Dean's List Fall 2012.
- 12 student athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA.
- 4 student athletes maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA.
- The average team fall semester GPA is a 2.98.
- 10 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater fall semester GPA.
- 11 teams maintain a 3.0 or greater cumulative GPA.
- Enrollment overview Spring 2013
 - Liberal Arts and Human Sciences - 160
 - Business - 98
 - University Studies -91
 - Agriculture & Life Sciences – 58
 - Science - 52
 - Engineering – 46
 - Architecture & Urban Studies – 14

Question – How many lost eligibility? Less than 5.

Question – Does it go against Virginia Tech’s graduation rate if a student quits athletics and doesn’t finish school? Yes, if they start on scholarship quit and do not finish it goes against our rates. The few Olympic Sport student-athletes that quit teams usually stay and finish their degrees.

Gender Equity Plan 2012-13 to 2016-17 – Pam Linkous

(Handout)

- There is an NCAA certification requirement that every Athletic Department have a Gender Equity Plan with a five year vision.
- The plan is based on Helen Grant’s consulting report that she completed in November 2011. The following recommendations from that report were discussed.

Recommendation: Hitting facility should be jointly used by Baseball and Softball.

- Senior staff responded that the hitting facility was primary to baseball just as Rector Field House is primary to softball and that when Rector could not be used due to a track conflict softball could request use of the baseball center through the Facilities Manager.

Question – What is the time frame of the new hitting facility? Hard to pin point. The plan hinges on the new field house completion and the renovation of existing field house that includes softball upgrades.

Recommendation: Baseball, Men’s Cross Country/Track, and Men’s Soccer locker rooms should be reviewed as it relates to visiting recruits touring the facilities

- The coaches of the respective sports have worked out the issues related to recruiting visits and the common areas the three sports share as part of their locker room arrangement. No further action necessary.

Recommendation: Provide a training table meal open to all female student-athletes.

- Women’s Basketball has been providing meals to their scholarship team members for the past 6+ years. Each of our revenue sports (football, men’s basketball, and women’s basketball) has the opportunity to provide training table meals to their scholarship team members each year. This is possible since our largest on-campus meal plan is equal to 14 or 15 meals per week, depending on the year. The NCAA permits us to supplement that meal plan up to 21 meals per week two possible ways: 1) we provide actual meal(s); 2) we supplement their on-campus dining cards purchasing power for our on-campus residents or provide an additional refund check, to increase food purchasing power, to our off-campus residents. Our revenue sports combine both of these options each semester. They tailor their plan to meet their needs. Our full scholarship Olympic Sport student-athletes, residing on campus, all receive the supplement to their dining card in full. The off-campus residents receive the additional refund check in full.

Question – If you are a walk-on or non-scholarship athlete you would not be eligible to dine with the scholarship athlete team members? - That is correct.

Question – Could you define what a training table meal is? - They are prescribed nutritional meals designed to meet the needs of our student’s unique demands.

Question – Did Helen Grant say when she comes back she wants to see every sport have a training table? No. I do not think Helen really understood the meal enhancement process that we employ, but I cannot be sure. The other aspect that I want to share which you about nutrition is that we have a nutrition Oasis here in this building that is available for all our student athletes. They can go get the protein they need or they can get

electrolyte fluids. They can get fruit and nuts and bagels all through the day. We have also taken that to the Aquatic Center in Christiansburg. Recovery drinks, chocolate milk, protein, snacks and fruit. Our nutritionist is stocking them as well as here in the Oasis.

Question – In that case do non-scholarship athletes get access? – They do.

Question-The rules do not have any problems with the snacks? No

Recommendation: Provide courtesy cars/car allowances to all assistants of at least one additional women's sport (volleyball, softball, lacrosse, or soccer).

- Our revenue sports assistance coaches all receive the benefit of a car allowance or actual car. At the present time, we do not provide any Olympic Sport assistant coach with a courtesy car or allowance. However, we are researching this issue further from a peer institution/market perspective.

Question-Are the cars actually donated? Yes, they are used for a period of time or mileage amount and then replaced by the donating dealer with another car.

Question- Is the courtesy car given to the school or to the driver? The cars are used by a designated staff person. The car is titled to the VTAF.

Question- Being called a revenue sport does that mean you charge for attending? I am assuming that the university will get money as softball will be on TV. How does the NCAA define a revenue sport? No. The TV package that the conference negotiates includes all sports. We know that TV pays for football and basketball primarily within that TV package. However all program has some financial aspect to it within the package as a whole.

Question-If we come up with an ACC network to model the Big 10 network, it is revenue driven. Yes, a subscription based cable network would be the primary driving force of the revenue

Question- Softball, baseball, volleyball all those games are going to be on TV then would be generating revenue for their programs? Only as part of conference TV package as a whole.

Topic: Major changes in recruiting practices passed by the NCAA. Much of that package has been passed and will go into effect August 1, 2013

Question- Are there other changes that may be interesting? Initial eligibility changes are slated to go into effect for the fall 2016. It is currently under review even though it has been passed. Some of the options include delaying the effective dates or gradually instituting the full impact of the changes over several years.

Question-The new recruiting rules with unlimited text, phone calls, etc. do you see that as something that will benefit us? I do not see it as a positive for anyone.

Question – You hear a lot about sport enhancing drugs in professional sports but not a lot about this in colleges. Is it not a problem in colleges? We do not test for it. We are very proactive in talking to the student-athletes about the dangers.

Art dismissed the committee at 4:52 pm