

University Athletic Committee
April 23, 2009
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Hap Bonham, Richard Cothren, Sam Easterling, Richard Ferraro, Leon Geyer, Charisse Ghattas, Rosemary Goss, Mike Kelly, Mary Ann Lewis, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Glenn Reynolds, Ken Stanton, Jim Weaver, Meghan Weyrens-Kuhn, Daniel Wubah.

Members Absent: Eileen Van Aken, Christen Callan, Eric Davis, Kenny Jarels, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Scott Pleasant, Stephen Prisley.

Representatives: Brenna Shepard for Dwight Shelton

Guest Present: **Mike Gentry**, Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Performance, **Natalie Hart**, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director for SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletic Director, Administration.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes for the March 26, 2009 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

BUSINESS

Coach's Perspective (Mike Gentry)

- Coach Gentry is our Assistant Director of Athletics for Sports Performance. He has been in athletics at Virginia Tech for 23 years.
- Concept that guides the Athletic Performance Team
 - Strength and Conditioning
 - Sport psychology
 - Sports Nutrition
- University of Kansas is the only other school that has a full time sports nutritionist and a full time sports psychologist.
- First year 1987 I had one graduate assistant, now a staff of 8 full time including our psychologist and our nutritionist plus 6 graduate assistants. The University of Nebraska was the model that I choose to loosely base my program on. I visited them and saw what they had in place and of course we played them in the Orange Bowl in 1996 and lost, but we also gained because we really found a good model. My goal at that time was to become the Nebraska of the East.
- Presentation of video to give some understanding of the depth and breadth of our program. It is not just football. We touch every student athlete here at Virginia Tech in many different ways.
- Commit from Richard Ferraro: I just want to complement the holistic approach, because dealing with the health and wellness areas, the things we worry about are issues about steroid use, eating orders that come up particularly with people that are high achievers. We see that in recreational sports and regular causal athletes so I think that is really great that you can really deal with that.

Questions for Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

- Comment from John Maher: Price of the student tickets is \$30.00 for the Alabama game of which \$10.00 is for a service fee. Is the athletic department aware that the service fee is 50% of the cost of the ticket?
- R: I was told the price of a student ticket was \$30.00 inclusive of the service fee. There are service fees for everything anymore. What we receive as an institution for the game is a set fee.
- Q: What does the construction of the new building and the buildings to come behind Wallace Hall do in terms of parking spaces for football?
- R: We will continue to have the same number of paid parking spaces on campus. But they will be moved further away due to the construction that had occurred over the last couple of years and is going to continue. We are better off than most universities in terms of parking near the stadium.
- Lu Merritt: One of our issues now is that we keep taking away benefits from our donors. We are cutting it off now in the Silver Level and a year from now we will be in the Golden Hokie group in the name of progress.
- Comment: A couple of weeks ago I read in the newspaper that the NCAA has asked NC State to take down a web page. (It was a face book page) Have you heard about this?
- A: Cease and assist by NC State to take down this. We have as an athletic department been involved in numerous cease and assist issues over the years when people try to get pictures, autographs of student athletes. I get very concerned about this at bowl games. There are always people that we do not know waiting in the halls of the hotels to get the student athlete's autographs and we always tell them to ask them if it is for themselves because we will have a problem if they try to sell them. Our compliance staff addressed that issue last week in a student athlete advisory committee meeting. We sent out notices to our student athletes not to be involved with Facebook, etc.

Discussion of Academic Progress Rates (Chris Helms)

Handout

- The APR (academic progress rate) is part of the APP (academic performance program) which includes several components adopted by the NCAA 5 years ago.
 1. The APR (Academic Progress Rate)
 2. The GSR (Graduation Success Rate)
 3. The increase in initial eligibility standards for high school students as they come to college campuses.
- The idea was to give more accountability to the colleague institutions for their students academically. Today we are going to talk about one part of that the APR. What they wanted was a snap shot in real time of what sports programs were doing academically. It is a four year rolling total that looks at each student athlete by sport and measures two things.
 1. If the student is **eligible** to compete
 2. If the student has been **retained** by that institution
- They reward a point for each student for those two factors each academic semester so that during an academic year each student can earn up to 4 points. They then turn those points into a ratio and multiply by 100 and what you see is the APR score.
- The NCAA had defined a good APR score as 925 or better.
- Two components
 1. Incentive factor for programs that were high achieving (above 925)
 2. Disincentive program for programs that were under achievers (under 925)
 - Being below 925 and having a student be a 0 for 2 (someone that was not eligible and was not retained) The NCAA says that you cannot reward that student's scholarship (Loss of a scholarship for the one year that follows the 0 for 2 and the below 925). This is called a contemporaneous penalty.
 - If your program is below 900, then you fall into a historical-penalty.

- Our Wrestling program has been granted waivers for both contemporaneous penalties and for our Occasion 1 historical penalty. (April 2006 our wrestling coach left and took 5 red shirted freshmen to Iowa; and we lost 3 additional wrestlers to retention tied to that coach's departure). We were granted a conditional waiver. So long as our single year APR score in wrestling is 925 or better we will not have to incur a penalty. We are at 934 for 07-08.

Academic Integrity Report (Richard Cothren)

Handout

As a subcommittee of the UAC, we were charged with evaluating Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). This charge, in part, arises from NCAA requirements

- During the current academic year the subcommittee has evaluated five of fourteen services provided by SAASS: (1) Study Hall, (2) Tutoring, (3) Technology and Computing Resources, (4) Mentoring, and (5) Academic Advising. The remaining services will be evaluated in subsequent years, and the process will continue so that in the future in any three-year period each service will have been evaluated at least once.
- The subcommittee's report is based upon interviews with SAASS staff and an evaluation of supporting documents and data as provided by the SAASS staff.
- Overall the facilities in Lane Stadium are quite impressive and the staff has a high level of professionalism and devotion in providing academic support.
- Recommendations: There should be formal processes within SAASS to evaluate the effectiveness of each program in order to allocate resources more efficiently.
- Motion was proposed, seconded and approved to accept this report. This is the first third of the report that will be submitted in 2 years.

•

Equity and Student-Athlete Webb Being (Title IX) (Megan Weyners-Kuhn)

Background (Natalie Hart)

- Beginning in February we had a Title IX consultant on campus for a week to meet with coaches, administrative staff, student-athletes and gather information about what is going on in our department in regards to Title IX.
- The purpose of the Title IX review is to provide an in-depth study of the 13 components of Title IX to evaluate compliance. Of this 13 we looked at 6 components that needed addressing.
- Component 1: Effective Accommodation of Student Interests and Abilities. This deals with roster size. The consultant has developed a transition plan with a recommended roster size for each sport during the 2009-10 year, considering the size of the 2009-09 rosters, the composition of the Virginia Tech student body, and the typical size of rosters for each sport at other U.S. universities. Although it is not possible to significantly reverse roster sizes for the 2009-10 year, head coaches and respective sports administrators should consider this plan while planning for subsequent years and achieve compliance during the 2010-11 year. Further, the Department of Athletics should continue to work proactively with Admissions to obtain estimates for the overall Virginia Tech student population for each upcoming academic year in order to increase the likelihood of compliance each year in this area.
- Component 3: Provision of Equipment and Supplies. Beginning in Fall 2009, coaches for each women's sports team should document that student-athletes have been offered the Virginia Tech provided sports bras and spandex, as well as each student-athlete's choice (i.e., whether to accept the Virginia Tech provided sports bra/spandex and use it or whether to decline its use and acquire and use their own).
- Component 4: Scheduling of Games and Practice Times. The Associate Director of Athletics for Administration, Jon Jaudon, who is the sports administrator for men's and women's swimming should look into this issue during the 2009-10 year, including whether there are equal number of swimming competitive events for the men's and the women's teams.
- Component 8: Provision of Locker Rooms, Practice and Competitive Facilities.

- Locker room facilities continue to be a concern. The new football facility will allow locker rooms and other areas currently used by football to meet the needs of other sports.
- The volleyball locker room has been expanded but, according to the coach and participants, still needs to be renovated or updated.
- The softball facility has been renovated and now has lights, dugouts, and expanded seating; spectator restrooms and concessions similar to those at baseball are still needed. Restroom facilities will be significantly closer to the softball field than the present facilities when restrooms in the Rector Field House are expanded, these facilities can be used by spectators in addition to the current ones. This subcommittee does not recommend any changes to the softball concessions because, although the facility is a non-permanent structure, it is similar in every other way to baseball concessions at English Field.
- Component 10: Provision of Housing and Dining Facilities and Services. Beginning in Fall 2009, the sports administrators for women's teams should assess female student-athlete interest in having a training table with meals, as is currently provided for the football team. If there is a demand for this service for female student-athletes, it should be provided by the Department of Athletics beginning in the 2009-10 year. If there is interest for this resource, sports administrators for women sports will need to work with their respective coaches to adjust budgets accordingly.
- Component 12: Recruitment of Student Athletes. It does not seem to be a reasonable action to provide a courtesy car to all assistant coaches for one women's sport, as it would create an inequity amongst the women's teams. Instead, the subcommittee recommends that the financial cost for the car allowance for all assistant coaches in one women's sport be determined and split evenly among all women's sports teams where assistant coaches do not currently have a courtesy car/allowance. This should be explored during the 1009-10 year and considered for possible implementation during the 1010-11 year.
- Other subcommittee recommendations: The executive summary of the Title IX report by the external consulting firm, as well as this subcommittee's report, should be disseminated to key stakeholders within Virginia Tech. Specifically, this report should be distributed to the Commission of Undergraduate Studies and Policies (CUSP), the Board of Visitors Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics, the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (CEOD), and all sports administrators and coaches in the Department of Athletics.
- Motion was proposed, seconded and approved to accept this report. Copies of this report will be officially sent to the Athletic Director and to the President of the University.

Announcements

- This is the last meeting for the year as a meeting was not scheduled for May. Some will be going off this committee and we appreciate your service. We will convene again in September 2009.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.