

## **2015 – 2016 Report from the University Athletics Committee**

### **Membership**

#### *Chair*

Margarita McGrath

Jacob Lutz

John Clary

Paul Winistorfer

Robert Denton

Brian Strahm

John Pinkerton

Robert Parker

Holly Scoggins

Terry Swecker

Robert Bodnar

Joseph Gabbard

Susan Sumner

Jennifer Hundley

Ryan Shifler

Donna Raines

Amanda Smith

Harvey Casey

#### *ex officio*

Dwight Shelton

Patty Perillo

Rachel Holloway

Whit Babcock

Bill Lansden

Joseph Tront

President Sands  
Office of the President  
0131 Burruss Hall 210800  
Drillfield Drive Blacksburg VA

RE: Annual Report of the University Athletics Committee

June 1, 2016

Dear President Sands,

I am writing on behalf of the 2015-6 University Athletic Committee. Our charge is "to review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics." I include as an attachment a summary of our agenda items over the last year.

In February 2015 the UAC revised our subcommittee structure and charges under the leadership of my colleague Art Keown. One of the aims of the reorganization was to allow the subcommittees to engage more deeply and broadly in their charges. In previous years the primary focus of each subcommittee was to report back to the general committee information from various University stakeholders. In order to foster the transformation of the subcommittees, as the 2015-16 Chair, I invited primary stakeholders to present to the general UAC. This removed some of the subcommittees' reporting duties, and, in the future, should allow each subcommittee the ability to engage their charge in more significant ways.

Each of these stakeholder reports is approximately ten to fifteen minutes in duration, and I believe it benefits the committee as a whole to engage directly with the administration and staff members that interact directly with our athletes. The Q & A session following each presentation also allows more faculty to provide a perspective to the presenter.

Given the ongoing challenges facing our student athletes in the changing paradigms of education and sport, I think that it makes sense that the UAC should continue to look ahead and strategize how we can continually improve our service on the behalf of all of our students and faculty.

You will also find attached this years' annual subcommittee reports. We have two subcommittees whose work is ongoing, the Exam Scheduling / Travel Policies Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report and the Equity and Diversity Subcommittee Report. I expect that they will report back to the general UAC in the fall.

You and I have not yet had the opportunity to meet. I hope that you will consider extending my service as Chair of the University Athletics Committee. Should that be the case, I would like to schedule a meeting with you and Joe Tront in mid to late August to discuss the coming year.

Sincerely,



Margarita McGrath  
Chair, University Athletics Committee  
Associate Professor, School of Architecture + Design  
PI: smART field Research Team

***Invent the Future***

**UAC Annual Meeting Agenda 2015-16**  
**Updated June 1, 2016**

**FALL**

- Tuesday, September 22 - SAASS Annual Report (Student Athlete Support Services); including tour of SAASS
- Wednesday, October 21 - Student-Athlete Mental Health Support  
Internal Audit Report and University Response  
Fall Update from the FAR
- Tuesday, November 10 - Recruiting Panel Presentation  
Office of Student-Athlete Development Annual Report  
Title IX Internal Report

**SPRING**

- Tuesday, January 26 - Student Athlete Advising: A Partnership  
NCAA Progress to Degree Requirements; Update from the NCAA Convention  
Academic Update (APR, Fall Grades)
- Tuesday, February 23 - Inclusive VT initiative; Student-Athlete Awards;  
Exam Scheduling / Travel Policies Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report -- Initial Study  
Facilities Update
- Wednesday, March 23 - Coach Report, Justin Fuente  
Report from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC);  
Student Assistance Fund; Initiatives for Leadership
- Wednesday, April 13 - Coach Introduction, Kenny Brooks  
New Honor System Policies and Procedures  
Facilities / Budget Update and Subcommittee Report  
Academic Integrity and Student-Athlete Development Subcommittee Report  
Compliance Subcommittee Report

## **Academic Integrity and Student-Athlete Development Subcommittee**

*Subcommittee Members:* Ryan Shiffler, Joe Gabbard, Donna Raines, Rachael Holloway (ex officio), Susan Sumner (Chair)

*Reference Members:* Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Matt Mayotte

### **Overview**

The subcommittee is charged with evaluating Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS), and selected non-academic aspects of the student-athletes' involvement with the University and the Athletics Department. In fulfilling this function, the subcommittee shall make appropriate recommendations to the UAC. The subcommittee will:

- Review the activities and functions of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS).
- Review policies for, and monitor activities of, support programs (other than academic) and advancement/placement services within the Athletics Department.
- Review policies for determining when non-academic factors (i.e. disciplinary, medical, legal) would restrict a student-athlete's involvement in intercollegiate athletics.
- Review the SAASS's resources and staffing to assure that they are adequate to meet their goals and are commensurate with other ACC schools.

In spring 2015, the committee report suggested that the charge to this committee be changed to:

1. Examining issues covered in the annual SASS & AADS reports. These could be questions raised in the UAC meeting, or issues of concern to the AI&SD committee. Depending upon when this reporting occurs (Fall or Spring), the AI&SD Subcommittee of that academic year or the following year would include in their charge the same set of aspects:
  - A. 2015-16 Academic Year  
study hall, tutoring, technology and computing resources, mentoring, and academic advising
  - B. 2016-17 Academic Year  
success skills, assessment for special academic needs, assistance for at-risk students, and student degree selection
  - C. 2017-18 Academic Year  
freshman/transfer orientation, academic progress monitoring and reporting, learning assessments, post-eligibility programs, and academic evaluation of prospective student athletes
2. Addressing/following up on the findings of the previous year's committee
3. Addressing new issues relevant to Academic Integrity and Student-Athlete Development per request of the UAC, the athletic director and/or the subcommittee

members

With the new charge in mind, the subcommittee focused on the 2014-15 subcommittee recommendations for 2015-16.

- Listen to reports presented by Matt Mayotte and Reyna Gilbert-Lowry to UAC to determine if any items surface that need subcommittee action.
  - No specific actions taken
- Major selections and schedule conflicts
  - The issue of “road blocks to majors” also relates to other students in the university. This is a topic of discussion that the subcommittee will continue to follow.
- Freshman/transfer orientation
  - The subcommittee has worked with Matt Mayotte and Reyna Gilbert-Lowry to enhance the student athlete summer orientation experience. The goal is to better integrate academic summer orientation with an opportunity for students to visit with their athletic advisor. These meetings are happening in some cases; however, there could be better communication to enhance the opportunities.
- Student advising
  - The subcommittee presented the panel, Student Athlete Advising: A Partnership, at the January 26, 2015 UAC meeting.

## **2015 – 2016 Report from the Compliance Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee.**

**Background:** The Compliance Subcommittee is tasked to “evaluate efforts by the Athletics Department to comply with NCAA, ACC, and University regulations.”

For the 2016 report, the subcommittee decided to interview Coach Justin Fuente as

- 1) He and a majority of his coaches were new to the University
- 2) Football is a high profile program

The Compliance Subcommittee met with Coach Fuente, Danielle Bartelstein, and Desiree Reed-Francois on March 23, 2016. Subcommittee members present were Jenifer Hundley, Holly Scoggins, Brian Strahm, Terry Swecker, and Joe Tront (ex officio). Coach Fuente had been presented with a series of questions prior to the meeting.

A summary outcome of the meeting is below

- 1) Coach Fuente reported that the compliance training efforts by the VT staff were thorough and exceeded efforts he experienced at previous institutions. He appreciated the efforts made by the VTAA Compliance group in assisting his staff.
- 2) Maintaining compliance is an ongoing activity. Coach Fuente utilizes monthly staff meetings to maintain compliance training of staff. The previous staff used quarterly meetings.
- 3) When asked about unique or different rules of the ACC or Commonwealth, Coach Fuente reported that most of the differences related to Academic eligibility and camps.
- 4) Coaches are limited by the NCAA on the amount of time that can be spent with players; compliance training of athletes is included in that time allotment. Coach Fuente keeps a log of all meetings with players to record what is covered. There is an increased opportunity for learning sessions in fall practice as compared to spring practice.
- 5) The NCAA rules associated with spring contact of recruits are the hardest to interpret and assure compliance.

In conclusion, the subcommittee felt that Coach Fuente had established a robust communication pipeline between his staff and the VTAA Compliance group.

Reference: Questions provided to Coach Fuente prior to the meeting:

1. Describe the training that you have received relative to compliance to NCAA, ACC, and University regulations
2. Contrast the VT training on compliance to training you received at other universities where you have worked.
3. Who do you contact if you have a compliance question and have you had questions? Were they answered in a timely manner?
4. Do you have suggestions on how VT can improved compliance training of coaches and staff
5. Do you have suggestions on how VT can improve compliance training of student athletes?
6. What are the NCAA rules that give football programs the most difficulty?
7. In some cases ACC rules are more restrictive than NCAA rules. Do you know what these cases are, or more importantly who you talk to, to understand these ACC nuances?

**Virginia Tech University Athletics Committee  
Budget and Facilities Subcommittee Report  
March 23, 2016**

**To: Margarita McGrath, UAC Chairman and UAC members**

**Budget and Facilities Subcommittee**

The subcommittee is charged with monitoring, but not managing, the activities of the Athletics Department pertaining to budget and facilities. In fulfilling this function, the subcommittee shall make appropriate recommendations to the UAC. The subcommittee will:

- Monitor the fiscal responsibility of the Athletics Department by reviewing the results of internal and external financial audits of the Athletics Department's operations.
- Monitor the allocation of resources impacting student-athletes with a focus on equitability and sustainability.

VT Athletics Department reference members: Lisa Rudd & Tom Gabbard

UAC Members:

John D Clary, Chairman

Robert Denton

Jacob A. Lutz, III

John Pinkerton

In accordance with the above charge, we have reviewed the following audit reports, budgets and facilities listings. (copies attached via email)

1. Commonwealth of Virginia, Auditor of Public Accounts Independent Auditor's Report January 14, 2016.
2. Virginia Tech Department of Internal Audit Report July, 2015.
3. EADA Equity in Athletics 2015 Report
4. University Bursar Review of VT Ticket Office Funds Handling & Deposits
5. VT Title IX Executive Summary July 28, 2015
6. VT Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures of Intercollegiate Athletics Year ended June 30, 2015.
7. VT Athletics Department Budget 2015-2016.
8. Hokiesports.com : Facilities
9. VT Athletics Facilities Priorities Progress Report(to be presented to BOV for approval in March 2016)



After reviewing the above listed audits and reports, the committee finds that the VT Athletics Department has been very cooperative with all auditing requirements and suggested changes and has operated the department in a sound manner.

We also find the VT Athletics Department has a fiscally responsible budget, and has facilities and plans for future upgrades to facilities to allow equitability and sustainability for all 22 athletic programs and the student athletes involved.

The committee recommends that the VT Athletics Department continue its fiscally sound work, cooperation with Internal and External Auditing, communication with central administration and that this committee continue to review audit reports, budgets and facilities.