

University Athletic Committee
September 17, 2013
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Richard Benson, Tom Burbey, John Clary, Richard Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Katherine Lafon, Margarita McGrath, Bijan Peters, Glenn Reynolds, Stephen Schoenholtz, Susan Short, Joseph Tront, Bevlee Watford, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Michael Cole, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Susanna Rinehart, Mallory Taylor, Terry Swecker.

Representatives: Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton

Guest Present: **Katie Cross**, Associate Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holms**, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate A.D., Administration, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiatives for Athletics, **Patrick Mason**, Head Baseball Coach, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Women's Administrator, **Bridget Brugger McSorley**, Director of Compliance and Athletics Title IX, **Lisa Rudd**, Associate Athletic Director for Finance.

Recorder: Shelby Smith, Athletics

BUSINESS

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

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

Minutes for the April 2013 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Coach's Corner (Pat Mason, Head Baseball Coach)

Pat Mason is our new Head Coach for Baseball. Pat has promoted Mike Kunigonis to first assistant and hired Robert Woodard as pitching coach. Gabe Ortiz, former player, has returned as Volunteer Assistant. New position of Director of Baseball Operations is currently in the late stages of hiring process.

- The biggest question that has come up since I have taken over the Virginia Tech Baseball Program is how will things change? Pete was great leader – we were almost always on same page. I want to do more of the same with my own personality and influence on a vision to recruit great young student athletes and to help them advance into adulthood and win ball games along the way.
- Continue “19 Way” outreach program.
- Baseball staff goal to incorporate support staff from department into our program.
 - Try and get more staff to come to one team event between now and end of the 2013 year.

Academic Goals.

- We have set an academic goal of a 3.0 team GPA this semester.
 - Made adjustments with academic schedule and practice schedule to help facilitate this goal.
- Started practice last Friday.
 - 7 drafted in the major leagues, 2 graduated.
 - Challenge before us is, how quickly can we get back to the level of success that we achieved last year and sustain it on an annual bases?
 - We have only one pitcher returning from last year's weekend rotation, Brad Markey. Replacing those others that have departed will be a challenge that we are excited about.

Art Question: Glad to hear your academic goals. It seems that a lot of baseball players miss a lot of classes. Will you have study times while traveling?

We will follow Mike Swanhart's lead on that. Bridge not crossed yet. In years past, I have conducted study hall on the road in my previous job. We anticipate missing 10 classes. My leadership will be focused on academics. I do not have a plan now for study hall on the road but you will see some differences from years past.

Rick Question: Medical question how do you plan to preserve arms – pitch count?

We work in a safe zone. We will carry 15 to 18 pitchers and will handle each individually.

Glenn Question: Mostly juniors or sophomore drafted last year? Do you lose one or 2 years?

Juniors and lose one year.

Glenn Question: When we give a scholarship especially in Baseball and they get drafted we lose money. We need to get these professional teams to pay back scholarship when drafting from our team. Need to think of way to get something back.

Scott Boras made a proposal at our national convention last year, he is an agent for baseball, his clients go to college, and he is trying to get Major League to invest money into scholarships. Right now Major League Baseball controls us.

Joe Question: Has there ever been a movement to have student's who accept a scholarship sign contract to attend 4 years? If they do not fulfill their obligation they have to pay back their scholarship?

No never heard of that.

Joe Question: Comment on the recruits that you got in this year and looking to sign next year.

Thrilled with this recruiting class. We were missing depth in the infield last year. We have brought in 4 infielders and a couple of good right arms. 2014 class looks excellent. We are going to battle Major League Baseball in the draft. We are preparing a presentation to do all in our power to convince our committed students to attend college. One of the things we are doing as coaches is to educate ourselves on why players should and should not sign, what money you should not turn down, what is your earning potential, what is our degree worth..

We are seeing that we can now recruit more talented student athletes who can contribute much earlier than in the past.

Our 2015 class has 5 top level recruits committed.

Susan Question: If we gave you a magic wand with one wish that Virginia Tech could do to make you more competitive with the best every year, what would it be? What would make recruiting better for you?

Facilities relative to who we play and recruit against in the ACC. We are in the middle in our conference at best.

Jon Jaudon – team schedules and missed class time:

- Expectation for the upcoming academic year. UAC committee approved a scheduling policy in 1998 that included missed class time See handout for details on sports/ anticipated missed days.

Joe Question – 18 for Men's Tennis for year. If I looked at last year is that any different?

In the fall they do not play team competition just individual. The 9 is a little bit less if one athlete played in all tournaments in fall.

Question – If you have a professor that says that after 2 or 3 missed classes you will get 5% taken off for every missed class, does the athletic department get any lee way?

Jermaine – We try to schedule around that, but if that is not possible we encourage the student to take class at a later date when he or she will not miss the class.

Susan Question: Do Men and Women Golfer's share the same schedule?

No they will compete in different events. They will have similar missed classes. Women begin in Fall 2015.

Jermaine Holmes – SAASS

- Spring 2013 grade report passed out to committee. If you ever get questions regarding this information please direct them to Jermaine or one of the Associate AD's. See report for complete details. Overall we had a good spring 2013 semester.

Joe Question - Football had 10 athletes with 2.0 or below GPA – are those freshman or seniors? Jermaine – that is pretty normal and is a combination of seniors, freshmen, guys that have graduated and need to be full time to play. Could also include athletes who chose to pursue the NFL or who just don't perform well.

Joe Question – How do these GPA's compare with other VT Students?

VT Athletes are a bit higher than students at large.

Joe Question – I presume that you talk among your peers at other schools. How are we doing?

We are doing fairly well. We are in the middle of the pack in the ACC.

Susan Question – If you had a magic wand and you had one wish what would it be?

One more staff person.

Susan Question – We talked a lot last year about the summer academy program. Did we have more athletes to participate?

The same as last year. I believe we will have about the same number each year but what was better this year was the number of tracks offered for all students. Front loaded everything then started summer classes 3rd day of summer academy, programs in first 2 days before classes started.

Joe Question: If you had the magic wand and had the extra person what would be the return on the investment?

We want to provide the support for the student athlete so that they can be self-sufficient and understand what they need to do. If you are able to spend more time with a particular group of student athletes they will experience more academic success.

Jim Weaver – Director of Athletics

Art Question – Pleased to see decision on Indoor Practice Facility. Any negative response from announcement of Indoor facility. Great job in managing the announcement and positive responsive.

Not that I have heard about. I thought it was a terrific compromise. A lot of people do not know and do not understand. It is not just a building for football. As an example, from Christmas to Saint Patrick's Day the indoor track is up and in use. Therefore Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse do not have the opportunity to work out indoor if the weather is inclement. This will give those teams the opportunity to prepare more thoroughly for the spring season. Men's and Women's Soccer will have more opportunity to get indoors if the weather is bad in the fall. All of our locker rooms are adjacent to the entrance to the building. You do not want to have to worry about your student athlete trying to get out of an electrical storm. Not an issue with the building we will have in the location selected. It will help all these issues.

Art Question – Is there a time frame.

CNS has a major communication line that runs under the field. That has to be adjusted. We will try to get that moving as quickly as we can. We will try to do on a design build concept. The building is not complex. We will also hire a consultant who will draw up the specs that the design build team will bid upon. That will happen starting mid-October and will take 60 days. Anticipate occupancy August 2015.

John Clary – New scoreboard looks great.

Bijan Question– Scoreboard – can't see score if on bottom in student section on north or NE stands. Can they move score location from bottom to top – even in Cassell needs to be moved to top.

Will check on.

Tom Question - Discussion on paying athletes – where do you see this going?

It appears like most AD's and College Presidents do not favor paying athletes. Article in paper today seemed to support this theory. Simply stated, if that concept were implemented it would separate the haves and have not's even more. And there are more have not's than there are haves in intercollegiate athletics. There are other ways to get money into the hands of student-athletes legitimately. The Special Assistance Fund is one mechanism that can be used to legitimately get money into student athlete's hands. The NCAA puts more money in that fund each year.

Jermaine – SAASS is hosting the N4A Conference here at the Inn at Virginia Tech on October 6-8, 2013. Very excited to bring folks to our beautiful campus. We will have individuals from many institutions presenting. Our key note speaker will be Doctor Peter Dolittle from Virginia Tech.

Committees:

Please think about what subcommittee you want to serve on. I will send out an e-mail. We will be looking for 3 chairs for the committee's as well.

Joe dismissed the committee at 4:55 p.m.