

University Athletic Committee
September 24, 2009
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Hap Bonham, Richard Cothren, Mike Ellerbrock, Rosemary Goss, Kenny Jarels, Art Keown, Larry Killough, **Drew Marrsa**, Lu Merritt, Kari Morrison, Hunter Pittman, Steve Prisley, Glenn Reynolds, Susan Short, Joe Tront, Jim Weaver, **Paul Winistorfer**.

Members Absent: Richard Ferraro, Sean Ryan.

Representatives: Jason Grant for Leon Geyer, Mark Crisman for Scott Plesant, Abby Boggs for Eric Rucinski, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Christi Boone for Bev Watford

Guest Present: **Tom Gabbard**, Associate Athletics Director, Internal Affairs, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletics Director, Olympic Sports, **Colin Howlett**, Associate Director for SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletics Director, Administration, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

BUSINESS

Rosemary Goss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Rosemary welcomed new members and guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the committee. Rosemary then reviewed the charge to the committee, which was written in 1988. She also explained the role of the committee.

Rosemary offered congratulations to Virginia Tech Director of Athletics Jim Weaver for being named the winner of the 2009 John L. Toner Award, presented annually by the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF). Weaver will accept his award along with other major award winners at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner on December 8, 2009, at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes for the April 23, 2009 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Remarks recognizing the loss of Noreen Bailey-Spencer were made by Rosemary. Noreen served many years on this committee and in service to Virginia Tech and will be missed by all who knew her.

Future meeting schedule for fall semester (Rosemary Goss)

- October 15
- November 17

Please contact Rosemary for future agenda items, issues or speakers.

REPORTS

Team Schedules and Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon) See handout

Our Scheduling Policy and Procedures was approved by the UAC on September 16, 1998. Jon has been giving this report since the fall of 1999. Refer to handout distributed by Jon Jaudon on expected missed classes for student athletes based on the fall and spring competitive schedule.

- The policy does not want any single student to miss more than 9 classes. We are in compliance with the policy with the exception of Golf, Softball, Men's Tennis, and Track & Field. The numbers listed are the maximum absences possible for an athlete to miss.
- Specific waiver requests were approved by Dr Daniel Wubah

Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Colin Howlett) See Handout

Q: Football seemed to have the most students with GPA's less than 2.00 in the Spring 2009. Was this caused by early departure for pro football?

A: As a football counselor I can say that the spring of 2009 was a bit of a struggle and normally that is where we do a little bit better. Wish I could put a reason for that. Those are numbers that we obviously are not real happy with. In the past the spring semester is football's highest GPA term. Our coaching staff has taken measures in the past four or five years to prevent dips like we experienced.

Q: Interested in seeing the average number of hours passed per term for each sport.

A: That is something that we track as far as football and I think we can get that information to you.

Q: And could you put in there how many students-athlete enroll in summer courses to make up deficiencies or get ahead?

A: Most of the student athletes are going to summer school to try and get ahead now. We really have had great success with graduating football student athletes in three and one half years. Most of our student-athletes, especially in the two basketballs and football, attend summer school and many go to both terms each summer of their careers.

We only had two football student-athletes who needed summer school to maintain eligibility in 2009. Virginia Tech's football team is tied for second in the nation in number of graduates competing on the field this year, 2009. We have **10 student-athletes who have graduated already and that ties us with Notre Dame and Boston College**. Alabama has the most graduates playing on their football team and they have 11.

Q: What is the Fed Rate?

A: That will bring us to the next agenda item.

Graduation Rates 2009-2010(Colin Howlett) Handout

- The Federal Graduation Rate is a six year graduation rate. Federal undergraduate graduation rates are a function of undergraduate students who enroll fulltime as freshmen in the fall of a given academic year and who graduate within six years of initial enrollment.
- Federal student athlete graduation rates are a function of the student athletes who enroll as freshmen, receive athletics related financial aid, and who graduate within six years of initial enrollment.
- The VT general student population has a federal graduation rate of 78%. VT Athletics federal graduation rate is 72% and that is only the student-athletes who received financial aid upon entering Virginia Tech 6 years ago. If a student transfers to another university and graduates from there, they are a negative statistic for us.
- Four out of the last five years the Athletics Department has been above 70%
- Data on GSR (graduation success rate) takes into account other factors that Federal Grad Rates do not. It factors in students that transfer in as well as out and midyear enrollees. It too gives students a six year window to graduate but is reported as a four year cumulative average.
- Virginia Tech student-athlete GSR is 85%. It is a 4 year average.
- By NCAA rules we have to send this to our prospective student athletes before they visit.

- We have a goal as the athletics department to graduate our student-athletes at a rate commensurate with the general student body population.
- The 85% GSR rate puts Virginia Tech in the top 5 of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Committees Assignments for 2009-2010 (Rosemary Goss)

We will do committee assignments at the next meeting. These committees are by products of the last two NCAA certifications.

- Academic integrity
This year they will be looking at a variety of aspects of the life of a student-athlete.
Freshman/Transfers orientation
Academic progress
Special academic needs assistance
Learning assessments and degree selection
- Governance and Rules Compliance
This year we will be looking at
Recruiting
Rules Education
Rules Violations
- Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being
This year we will be looking at
Diversity

Questions for the Athletic Director Jim Weaver

Q: Commit about two things. Financial arrangements for the Alabama game. How did we do on that?
What about Nebraska Fans reactions to the game?

A: I have not heard anything final or formal from the Chick-fil-A Bowl people. We do not share this money with the ACC. We have had fabulous response from the Nebraska fans who journeyed to Blacksburg from different parts of the country as well as from the state of Nebraska. Our fans really took up the challenge of trying to show hospitality to the Nebraska fans much like was shown to our fans last year.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. so that everyone could tour the new Basketball Practice Facility with Associate Athletic Director Tom Gabbard.