

University Athletics Committee

September 27, 2016

Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Holly Scoggins (Chair), Whit Babcock, Mike Casasanta, Harvey Creasey, Joseph Gabbard, Holly Harper, *Representative for Rachel Holloway*, Jennifer Hundley, Bill Lansden, Irene Leech, Jacob Lutz (via phone), Thomas Mills, Jay Poole, Dwight Shelton, Joe Tront, Kelly Williford, Chris Wise

Members Absent: Leon Geyer, Rachel Holloway, Rob Parker, Patty Perillo, John Pinkerton, Donna Raines, Terry Swecker, Brian Strahm, Steve Trost, Paul Winistorfer

Guests Present: Chris Helms, Senior Associate AD Administration and Sports Programs
Sharon Kurek, Director University Internal Audit
Matt Mayotte, Director Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS)
Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD Compliance and Governance
Desiree Reed-Francois, Deputy Athletics Director
Lisa Rudd, Senior Associate AD Finance and Administration
Danny White, Associate AD Student-Athlete Development

Recorder: Alison Whittaker, Assistant Director Compliance and Admissions

Holly Scoggins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, and was passed by voice vote.

2. Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2016

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 13, 2016. The motion passed by voice vote.

Business

3. Discussion/Questions with Athletics Director, Whit Babcock

- “Commander’s Intent” -- Measurable objectives for each of the department’s Top 10 goals.
- Virginia Tech Athletics Top 10 -- vision for 2016-2017
 1. Winning with Integrity
 2. Continued Momentum.
 3. First-Class Student-Athlete Experience.
 4. NCAA Governance and Compliance.
 5. Refine Budget Process.
 6. Revenue (currently 10th out of 15 ACC schools).
 - Georgia Tech, Pittsburgh, Syracuse, Wake Forest and Boston College are below us.
 7. Creating Memorable Experiences
 8. Recruiting (we are all recruiters).
 9. Telling Our Story
 10. Our People, Our Culture
- Unique Value Proposition (UVP)
 - What makes us special, what differentiates us?
 - Community.
 - “Sense of place” (Drillfield, Torgersen Bridge, Pylons, Blacksburg, Hokie Stone, etc.).

- Natural environment; geographic location.
- Tradition of giving back (Ut Prosim).
- Resilience, grit and perseverance.
- The Corps of Cadets.
- School spirit (Enter Sandman, Turkey Legs, Lane Tunnel, etc.).
- Game day experience.
- Nickname.
- School colors.
- How we treat each other and communicate.
- Facilities.
- Coach Beamer: reflects our values.
- Campus food.
- Tier 1 Institution, Land Grant University, Power 5 Conference.
- Most comprehensive university in the State.
- Tradition.

Questions/Comments:

Graduate Students do not have the opportunity to purchase student season tickets? Graduate Students are 20% of the population. Here during Winter break. Can they be offered the ticket options like other students- the lottery?

I don't have the answer to that but that's a great suggestion to help us fill Cassell and Lane during breaks. Desiree Reed- Francois will work on that. [Desiree Reed-Francois] Any student who has paid a student fee would have been sent an email about tickets. Can look into part-time Graduate students being offered.

Is there a plan in place for the University's expected growth? Does that affect the parameters in which Athletics operates?

I don't know that we have done a tremendous job on that. We support it and are excited for more students. Dorms and dining do have an impact, and we are planning on addressing those areas.

What has surprised you since you arrived at Virginia Tech?

It's all pleasant. The budget is sound, allowed us to make some changes. I appreciate that our Board of Visitors does what they should do and loves Virginia Tech. [Desiree Reed- Francois] Sense of community is so strong, and the willingness to help one another out.

How do you feel about the impact on student-athletes when coaches are let go in the middle of a season?

I don't like it. You should let the season play out and let them continue. Unless there is an issue with ethics or something like. We would never do that unless there was some bad error in judgement. The pressure the TV money puts on schools is tough, however.

Thank you for allowing the community the opportunity to use the facilities and have that opportunity for our local youth.

4. Internal Audit -- Review of Spring 2016 NCAA Compliance Audit

Sharon Kurek, Director University Internal Audit

- Overview of the Audit Report.

Questions/Comments:

[Tim Parker] Our eligibility certification process was the primary area reviewed in this audit. To have no findings in this area – as complex as the regulations are – is an amazing achievement. I would like to recognize the collaborative, effective working relationship between the Registrar's office, Athletics and SAASS. The cooperation among these groups is phenomenal, and the absence of any findings reflects on how well the three areas work together.

Are audits completed annually and always delivered in the summer?

Audits of athletics compliance occur on a three-years-on, one-year-off cycle. A questionnaire is always sent out ahead of time asking which times of year are best or worst. Typically the spring is best so we will come in March or April and we will wrap up during the summer months. Then the report is presented to the Board of Visitors.

5. Spring 2016 Student-Athlete Academic Report

Matt Mayotte, Director Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS)

- Review of past Spring semesters.
- GPA trending up, GPA for Spring 2016 was 3.14. Team cumulative GPA also trending up (3.09).
- 15 teams with a term GPA of 3.0 or better -- 75% of our student-athletes.
- 15 teams with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- 7% of student-athletes are below a 2.0 GPA (41 student-athletes). New targets set and programs in place to improve.
- 531 student-athletes on rosters for Spring 2016. 59% of them earned a 3.0 or better during Spring 2016.
- 171 Student-Athletes made the Dean's List.
- Review of SAAS counselors and their respective responsibilities.
- Learning Assistance Program (LAP) -- Provides intensive assistance in reading and study skills.
- Two Learning Specialists have 75 meetings each week with student-athletes.
- All in-coming freshmen are assessed for at-risk classification. There are three levels of support.

Questions/Comments:

Percentage-wise, how many of the student-athletes are at each level?

I do not have that exact information. There were no incoming Level 3 (most at risk) this Fall semester.

If as student comes in as a Level 2, how do they graduate out of the program?

They are provided support to be successful and as they become more self-regulated they can be moved out of the program. Or they can be moved into a mentor program.

What can we do to help you?

I feel like we are in a good place right now. Athletics leadership has done a great job and supported us. We are all in this together and that is true.

6. Subcommittees for the 2016-2017 year.

- Subcommittees will form and meet throughout the year to review the four topical areas.
- Sign-up sheet was circulated to committee members.

7. Other Items:

- Minutes and associated documents will be placed on a google site that is being created for UAC.
- Future meeting date changes -- Request to change Nov. 16 meeting date to Nov 30.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:47pm