

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 18, 2024 (3:30 – 4:45 p.m.)
Virtual Only - Zoom

Members Present: Whit Babcock, Mark Feldmann, John Galbraith, Dan Givens, Leanna House, Jen Irish, Lisa Karlisch, Ken Miller, Phil Miskovic, Liesel Ritchie, Robin Queen, Susan Short, Kenneth Stiles, David Tegarden, Frank Thompson, Dan Thorp, Joe Tront

Absent: Travis Burns, CJ Barreiro, Erin Carleton, Rachel Holloway, Amy Ingram, Jim Petrine, Eric Stanley, Chris Wise, Brad Wurthman

Guests: Sarah Armstrong, Danny White

Susan Short called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of December 14, 2023

Susan Short noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

3. SAASS Update – Sarah Armstrong Student Athlete Academic Support Services director, provided updates that focused on Fall 2023 student-athlete academic success, team accomplishments, and A. D. Honor Roll recipients. In addition, Sarah provided an overview of winter enrollments. (See slide deck for additional information.)

4. Faculty Athletics Representative Update – Jen Irish, university FAR, did not have any new updates. Joe Tront raised a question to Whit Babcock concerning Florida State’s law suit and conference implications. See Whit’s comments as a part of his report.

5. Guest Presentation: Student-Athlete Perspectives – Frank Thompson, Men’s Tennis, redshirt junior from Blacksburg, shared a number of perspectives related to his experiences as a student-athlete at Virginia Tech. He talked about serving on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), his academic interests (Management Consulting Analytics), and the Leadership Institute. (See slide deck for additional information.)

6. Athletic Director Update – Whit Babcock shared information and perspectives related to four topics. These included: Florida State challenging grant of rights (2019 agreement); House vs. NCAA class-action law suit (owed damages prior to the NIL ban and targeting media rights revenue for football and basketball from Power 5 schools); new NCAA leadership – Charlie Baker, NCAA President; and, congressional involvement with NIL. He

reminded the group that there is a lot of potential change in collegiate sports particularly in the landscape of a litigious environment. He remains concerned about how “big money” will impact Title IX. In responding to questions from committee members related to the FSU case, Whit commented that the case is football driven and reiterated the academic and research strength that Stanford, Cal, and SMU bring to the ACC. He also shared that the agreement with ESPN is based on a 14 team threshold.

- 7. Adjournment** – Susan reminded the group of UAC meetings scheduled for the spring semester. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Spring UAC Meeting Schedule (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Additional References:

[These nine successful CEOs were high school sports stars: Here are the lessons they’ve taken from the pitch to the boardroom \(yahoo.com\).](#)

Ernst & Young survey of women currently holding a C-suite position (96% played a sport). [If you want to be a CEO later, play sports now \(cnbc.com\).](#)

Roster: Three-quarters of US Olympians have college ties - <https://apnews.com/article/2020-tokyo-olympics-sports-health-coronavirus-pandemic-olympic-games-fee333ee5006a684d4bc94b6babf3802>

Attachments:

Student Athlete Academic Support Services, slide deck

Student-Athlete Perspectives, slide deck

*Respectfully submitted by:
Susan E. Short, UAC Chair
January 22, 2024*

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 18, 2024



Academic Updates

FALL 2023 ACADEMIC SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHEST TEAM GPAs

WOMEN'S: Soccer
Golf
Tennis

MEN'S: Golf
Tennis
Baseball

*19 of 20 TEAMS ACHIEVED 3.0+ SEMESTER GPA



*Men's & Women's Indoor/Outdoor Track counting as one team each

*FALL 2023
AVERAGE SEMESTER
GPA

3.25

*STUDENT-ATHLETE
AVERAGE CUMULATIVE
GPA

3.24

BY THE NUMBERS.....

FALL 2023

*451

Earned a 3.0+ GPA

242

Made Dean's List

*3.4+ GPA

CUMULATIVE

446

Maintained a 3.0+ GPA

18/20 Teams

Maintained a 3.0+ GPA

* PERFECT
4.0 GPA



25 student-athletes
maintained
a cumulative 4.0 GPA



*451
out of
613

STUDENT-ATHLETES
MADE A.D. HONOR
ROLL

ACADEMIC CONCERNS

- 19 student -athletes (3.1%) finished with a semester GPA below 2.00
- 6 student -athletes (0.9%) finished with an overall GPA below 2.00
- 1 student -athlete ineligible for Spring (Transfer / PTD)

FALL 2023 GRADUATES



STUDENT-ATHLETES

31 student-athletes across 10 teams earned a degree in fall 2023



MAJORS

23 different majors



DEGREE TYPES

26 Undergraduates
4 Second Undergraduates
2 Masters



WINTER
ENROLLMENT

18 STUDENT-ATHLETES
11 athletic teams

18 DIFFERENT COURSES
3 SA's enrolled in 6 hours

+2 FORMER SA'S
NCAA Degree Completion
Award Funding

SPRING 2024 MIDYEAR'S



ADMITS

18 - Freshman
3 - International SA's

TRANSFERS

11 - Undergraduate
2 - 2nd Degree

MAJORS

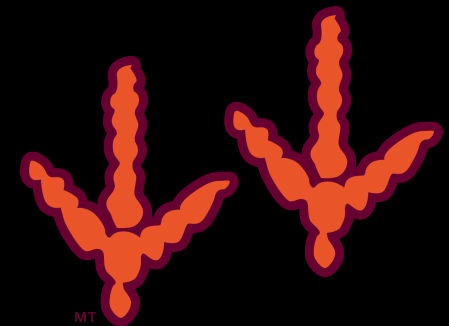
Within 6 colleges

LOOKING AHEAD - SPRING 2024

- Class Absence Communication
- AD Honor Roll Recognition
 - Sunday, February 11th
 - WBB vs Boston College
- SAASS Facility Updates

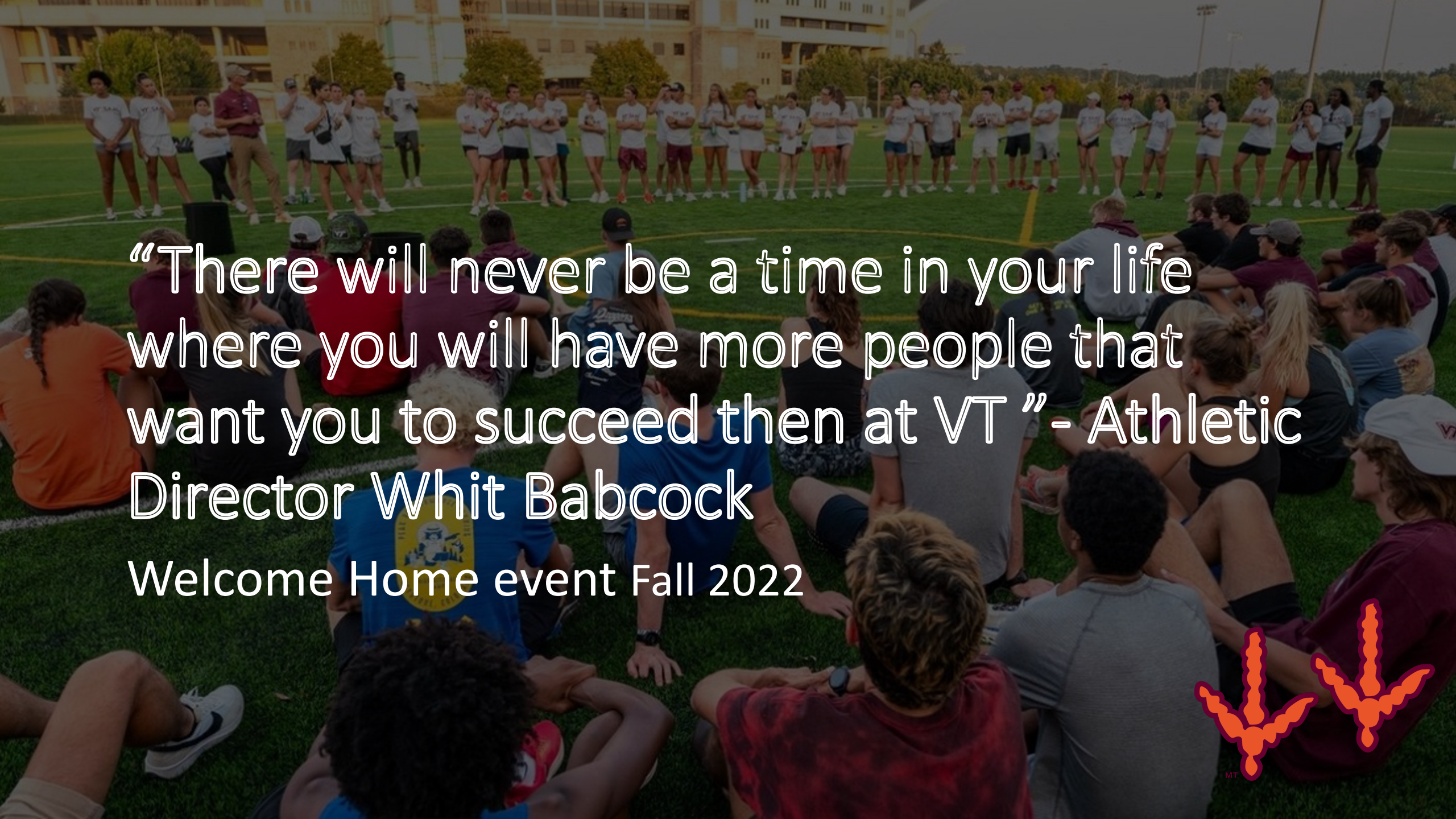
The Student Athlete Experience

UAC Meeting January 18th, 2024



About me



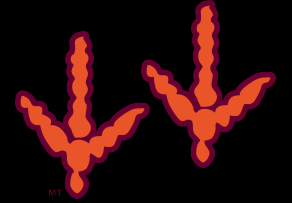


“There will never be a time in your life where you will have more people that want you to succeed than at VT” - Athletic Director Whit Babcock

Welcome Home event Fall 2022



My Team at Virginia Tech



Cameron Spera



Jim Thompson



Trey North



John Pretz



Natalie Wimmer



Casey Mendel



Emily Patton



Aaron Marchetti



Chip Webb



Sarah Nguyen



Dr. Mark Rogers



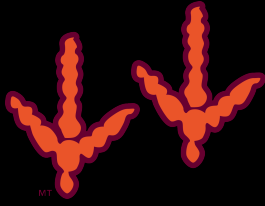
Paul Knackstedt



Danny White



Whit Babcock



Freshman Year- How my team helped me

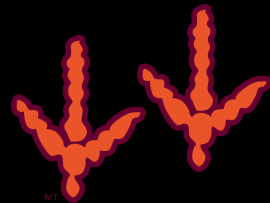
- I went from being a big fish in a small pond to a big fish in an ocean with Sharks
- I started working with Paul, a sports psychologist on my mental game and adjusting to college.
- I worked with Emily my athletics academic advisor to establish good study habits and decide my major.



Paul Knackstedt



Emily Patton



Sophomore Year – How my team helped me

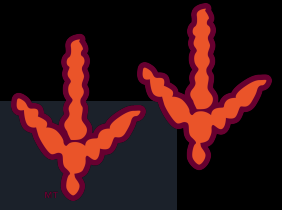
- Dr. Rogers and his team helped me navigate my hip surgeries, both physically and mentally. Basically weekly doctors appointments.
- Cam helped me find an outlet and platform in community service and VT SAAC. She encouraged me to come speak to the kids at Hokie for a day, Kipps readathon and many other events.



Dr. Mark Rogers



Cameron Spera



Junior Year – How my team helped me



Casey Mendel



Martin Sayer



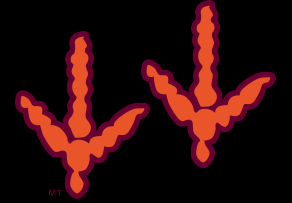
Jim Thompson

- I played in my first season, and my coaches played such a big role in me being successful not only on the court but in everything. I went 5-3 in ACC play and had a great year.
- As well as my Athletic Trainer who somehow got me through the season 9 months after my last hip surgery.

A group of people, likely students, are sitting in a large circle on a grassy field. In the background, another group of people is standing in a line, possibly participating in an activity or event. The scene is outdoors, with a large building visible in the distance.

I would add one thing to Whit's claim:
"Or more opportunities to flex your leadership muscle."



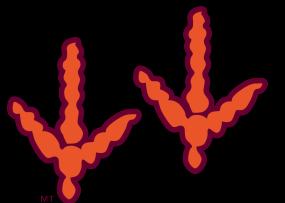


Next Level Leadership

- Three-year progressive leadership program for student-athletes
- Focus on character development, key leadership skills, and team success
- Led by VT Athletics Leadership Institute staff: Cam Spera, Danny White, Dr. Gary Bennett, and Devin Wilson
- Levels 1 to 3 covering self-leadership, team leadership, and leaving a legacy
- Unique features include cross-sport interaction and a diverse community
- Transformative leadership journey guided by experienced staff



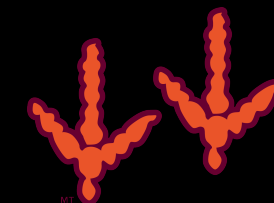
Thrive Tribe



VT CAMP & SA DEVELOPMENT




Wheelchair Tennis @VT



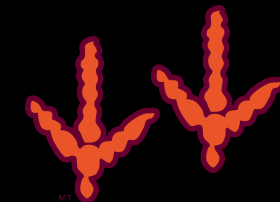


The Student Athlete Advisory Committee

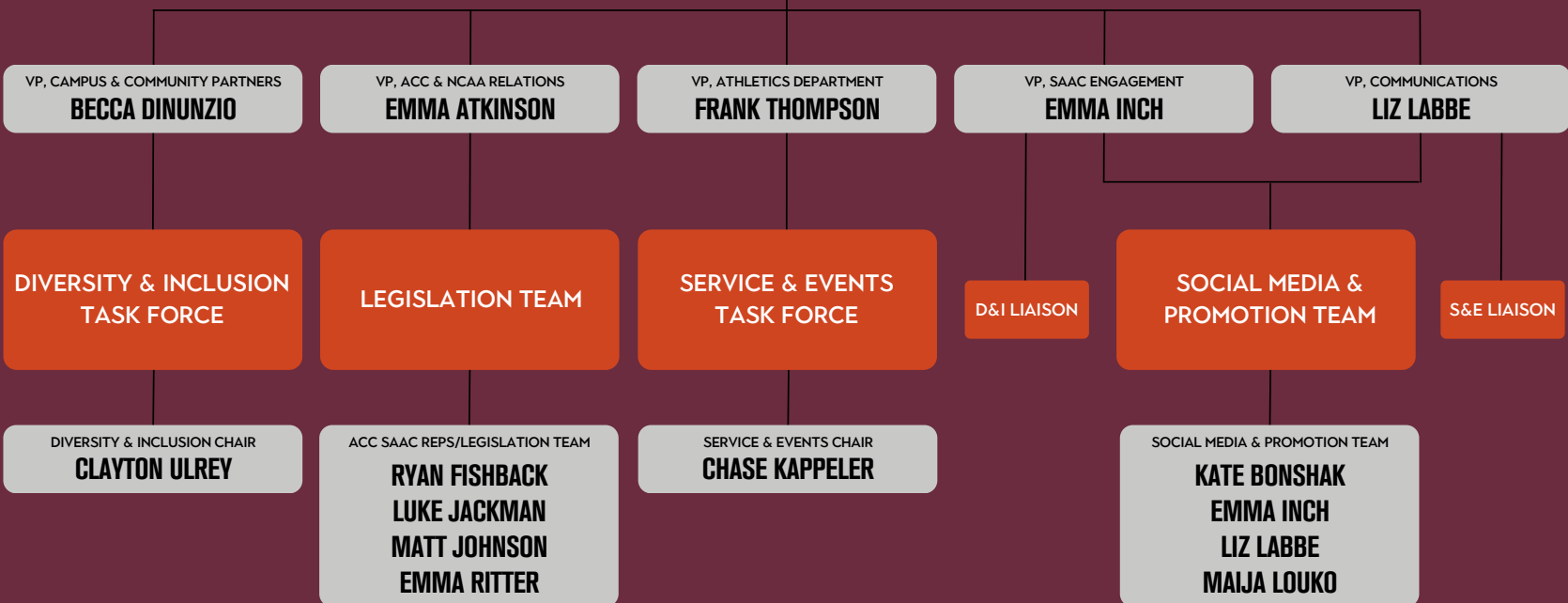
- 
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is a leadership group consisting of student-athletes representing all sports at Virginia Tech. The Virginia Tech SAAC provides insight on the student-athlete experience and offers input on the rules, regulations and policies that effect student-athletes' lives. SAAC members serve as a conduit of communication among student-athletes, coaches and athletic administrators in an effort to improve the student-athlete experience.

Key Areas of Focus

- Promote effective communication between the Virginia Tech Athletics Department administration and student-athletes.
- Serve as the student-athlete voice for NCAA and ACC legislation, as well as institution policies.
- Provide feedback and insight into athletics department matters.
- Build a sense of community and camaraderie amongst all student-athletes at Virginia Tech



PRESIDENT
KATIE ANDREINI



SAAC REPS

ATHLETIC TRAINING BRIANNA DAVID KATIE SCHIEFER	MEN'S SOCCER TIMI ADAMS ZACH GLESIUS CONNOR JORDAN-HYDE	HIGHTECH JENNIFER AROGO RACHEL FILLMAN	WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING EMMA ATKINSON EMMA INCH CHARLOTTE RIGG	MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING TANISH MATHEW COLLIN MYBURGH	MEN'S TENNIS RYAN FISHBACK MATT HARPER FRANK THOMPSON	WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK & FIELD JULIA FIXSEN CHASE KAPPELER SARA KILLINEN ELLIE PENCE KENNA STIMMEL	FOOTBALL GRIFFIN DUGGAN MATT JOHNSON COLE NELSON	SOFTBALL MAIJA LOUKO EMMA RITTER
BASEBALL CLAY GRADY LUKE JACKMAN	WOMEN'S SOCCER KATE BONSHAK ALLIE LEWIS SOPHIE MALTESE	MEN'S BASKETBALL M.J COLLINS JAYDON YOUNG	CHEER JADEN FISHER SADLER LUNDY ELI MAYNARD	MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK & FIELD KENNEDY HARRISON CHRISTIAN JACKSON TREVOR MASON ETHAN MILLS	WOMEN'S TENNIS KATIE ANDREINI ERIKA CHENG MICHAELA HEGARTY	WOMEN'S GOLF BECCA DINUNZIO GINNIE LEE	LACROSSE KEELIN BYRNE KACIE HANSON LIZ LABBE	VOLLEYBALL OLIVIA ANGELL LEANDRA MANGUAL
WRESTLING TOM CROOK CLAYTON ULREY		MEN'S GOLF CHARLIE HANSON KOBE VALOCIEK					WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CARYS BAKER OLIVIA SUMMIEL	

Key initiatives

- Adopt a family initiative that gives over 150 kids a Christmas gift, we raised \$6,000+ each of the last 3 years
- Organize ACC Unity Week Activities
- Spearhead the Welcome Home event for incoming freshman
- Create comradery between sports through Hokies4Hokies events
- Provide feedback and guidance to administration about the ACC expansion and its impact on Student Athletes
- Runs the gobblers award ceremony at the end of the year



What I have learned from SAAC

- Effectively conveying ideas, listening actively, and facilitating productive discussion
- Gained experience in representing the needs and concerns of peers.
- Participating in SAAC decision-making processes enhanced decision-making abilities.
- SAAC activities facilitated networking with fellow student-athletes, coaches, and administrators.
- SAAC's focus on community service highlighted the impact athletes can have beyond sports.

What is next for me

- I will graduate this May with a degree in Management Consulting.
- I have applied to the Online MBA program at VT and hope to both finish my eligibility and get a graduate degree concurrently.

