

MINUTES

University Athletics Committee
October 23, 2025
3:30 pm
Virtual via Zoom

Present: Jennifer Irish (presiding), Angela Page (for Simon Allen), Chris Wise, Julie Ross, Gina Seebohm, Alexis Henderson, Irene Leech, Travis Burns, Robin Queen, Dirk Buengel, Dan Thorp, Jane West, Amy Ingram, Katherine Lemke, Joseph Lee

Absent with Notice: Jill Sible, Whit Babcock, Brad Wurthman, Mark Feldman

Absent: Joseph Tront, Lisa Karlisch, Kenneth Stiles, Angela Anderson, Eric Martin, Brent Kremer, David Stanford, Phil Miscovic

Guests: Bridget Brugger McSorley, Les Myers, Kristen Skiera, Pete D'Amour, Sarah Armstrong

Irish called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

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

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of September 18, 2025.

Irish noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu

3. Reports

- Faculty Athletics Representative update – Jennifer Irish: Irish summarized discussions from the ACC Fall Meeting, held October 20-21, 2025. Highlights from the joint session with Athletic Directors, Senior Woman Administrators, and ACC staff included: (a) initial positive feedback on the new streamlined NCAA Division I governance structure; and (b) updates from ACC Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) leaders, who recently sent a letter to U.S. Congress in support of the SCORE Act. Highlights from the Faculty Athletics Representative breakout session included: (a) concerns about inadequate academic support for student-athletes with the rise in transfers, to include support for admissions, transfer credit evaluation, and access and NCAA Progress Toward Degree (PTD) in desired majors; and (b) pending NCAA rules changes related professional sports wagering.

4. Presentation

Kristen Skiera, Head Coach, Women's Lacross, and Pete D'Amour, Head Coach, Women's Softball presented Olympic Sports Head Coaches' perspective on a variety of topics related to balancing athletics and academics. Both Coaches praised SAASS counselor support and noted the exceptional academic performance of their teams, with Coach Skiera highlighting that the team holds study halls while on the road and Coach D'Amour highlighting the careful attention given to weighting fall course loads to accommodate lighter spring course loads while the team is in-season. Coach D'Amour also requires study hall for all freshman and at-risk students. Coach Skiera discussed challenges with balancing practice field availability with academic schedules,

particularly during the fall when lacrosse scheduling is a lower priority compared with in-season sports; lacrosse's assigned fall 2025 practice time is 11am-2pm presenting a unique class-scheduling challenge. Both coaches discussed travel demands during spring season along with challenges associated with transfer credit evaluation and access to majors for transfer students. Coach Skiera schedules non-Conference competitions strategically to reduce missed class time. Coach D'Amour discussed the demand of softball's 56-game spring schedule.

Les Myers, Director of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) provided a SAASS update, to include (a) recent academic achievements, (b) summer bridge program for incoming student-athletes, (c) academic challenges associated with the recently modified January 2-16 Men's Football transfer portal window. Mr. Myers also previewed upcoming SAASS events and activities, to include spring course registration.

5. Announcements

- Bridget Brugger McSorley briefed the committee on Athletics current events, including the recent formation of the University's Search Committee to identify the next Virginia Tech Football Head Coach.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm.