

MINUTES

**University Athletics Committee
November 13, 2025
3:30 pm
Virtual via Zoom**

Present: Jennifer Irish (presiding), Angela Page (for Simon Allen), Chris Wise, Jill Sible, Brad Wurthman, Julie Ross, Gina Seebohm, Kenneth Stiles, Alexis Henderson, Angela Anderson, Irene Leech, Dirk Buengel, Mark Feldman, Dan Thorp, Katherine Lemke, David Stanford, Phil Miskovic

Absent with Notice: Whit Babcock, Robin Queen

Absent: Joseph Tront, Lisa Karlisch, Jane West, Travis Burns, Eric Martin, Brent Kremer, Amy Ingram, Joseph Lee

Guests: Bridget Brugger McSorley, 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 October 23, 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

- Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs Report – Jill Sible: Dr. Sible stated that Virginia Tech is prioritizing two initiatives: Global Distinction and Virginia Tech Advantage. The work of the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs focuses primarily on the latter. Dr. Sible highlighted the importance of ensuring that every Virginia Tech student has access to the best of a Virginia Tech education, to include managing time to degree and maximizing access to experiential learning opportunities. In addition, her office has given attention to demonstrating the value of a college education, thinking about how artificial intelligence fits into the academic and instructional landscape. Dr. Sible next introduced her executive staff. Dr. Sible ended her report by highlighting that student-athletes do as well as, if not better than, the general student body in terms of successful first destinations post-graduation. With respect to the general student body, a much higher percentage of student-athletes go on to graduate school.
- Student Athlete Representatives Report – Katherine Lemke and David Stanford: The students introduced themselves and discussed their experience as a student-athlete at Virginia Tech. Ms. Lemke is an undergraduate transfer student-athlete (Women's Golf) in the College of Engineering. Ms. Lemke is completing her degree after exhausting athletic eligibility. Women's Golf is in-season in both the fall and the spring, where the team is away from campus for four to five days per tournament, with 6 to 11 hours of competition on each tournament day. Ms. Lemke's felt very supported academically and spoke highly of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). While the transfer process was fairly straightforward, Ms. Lemke

had to apply individually for every single class to get transferred; SAASS supported this process. Ms. Lemke highlighted that Virginia Tech Athletics provides lots of opportunities to have a well-rounded student experience within athletics, to include student-athlete professional and leadership development, athletics dining hall and nutrition, and mental health resources. While Ms. Lemke is still supported on a full athletics scholarship, as a student-athlete who has exhausted eligibility she has lost access to other athletics benefits, including the athletics dining hall. Mr. Stanford is an undergraduate student-athlete (Men's Golf) in the College of Business and is the son of a Virginia Tech alumnus. Mr. Stanford is also completing his degree following exhausting athletic eligibility. Mr. Stanford spoke highly of his experience transitioning from high school to college, crediting this positive experience to the excellent support offered by SAASS. Mr. Stanford noted that Men's Golf's in-season and competition schedule are similar to that of Women's Golf. The student-athletes discussed that managing missing 14 plus days of class per semester is challenging. They expressed appreciation that both instructors were helpful in arranging for make-up work and that coaches's adjusted departure schedules to accommodate class schedules. SAASS services were also highlighted, to include tutoring tutoring and study hall on-the-road. The student-athletes expressed appreciation for instructors who provide course materials electronically within Canvas, though note that when courses do not offer this the burden is on the student-athlete to find a classmate willing to share their class notes. The student-athletes discussed access to internships, with Ms. Lemke noting she interns in Student-Athlete Development but has not yet an internship in her discipline. The student-athletes noted than student-athletes take advantage of the Parker-Dewey website, who arranges short-term (e.g., 2-week) internship opportunities, many of which can be completed remotely. When asked how faculty can better support student-athletes, the student-athletes requested that work continue to create an understanding of the load student-athletes are managing. While the vast majority of faculty are very understanding, there are a few professors that have made it much more challenging to make up work.

4. Announcements

- Athletics Current Events – Bridget Brugger McSorley and Brad Wurthman. Mr. Wurthman provided an update on outcomes of the recent basketball ticket model changes. Mr. Wurthman noted that early data indicate the new ticketing model is having the intended effect – namely placing fans closer to the court. Ms. Brugger McSorley highlighted that both Men's and Women's Basketball will be offering faculty and staff appreciation tickets at several upcoming events.

5. Adjournment

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