

MINUTES

**University Athletics Committee
March 26, 2026
3:30 pm
Virtual**

Present: Jennifer Irish (presiding), Angela Page (for Simon Allen), Jane West, Gina Seebohm, Alexis Henderson, Angela Anderson, Irene Leech, Eric Martin, Amy Ingram, Phil Miskovic

Absent with Notice: Chris Wise, Jill Sible, Whit Babcock, Brad Wurthman, David Knight, Robin Queen, Dan Thorp

Absent: Joseph Tront, Lisa Karlisch, Kenneth Stiles, Travis Burns, Dirk Buengel, Mark Feldman, Brent Kremer, Katherine Lemke, David Stanford, Joseph Lee

Guests: Clint Wattenberg, Les Myers, Sarah Armstrong, Bridget Brugger McSorley

Irish called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. A quorum was not 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 February 19, 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 – Irish: Irish provided an update on Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) discussions at the ACC Winter Meeting in February 2026. ACC FARs discussed challenges related to January football transfer window and academic calendars, emerging academic and wellbeing concerns, and academic challenges for transferring student athletes. Irish also reported on FAR activities within the university, to include an upcoming meeting between the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and Provost Ross.

4. Presentations

Clint Wattenberg, Associate Athletics Director - Sports Nutrition, presented on the Integrated Health and Performance Team (IHPT). Wattenberg provided an overview of the IHPT, established in 2003 and continuously evolving to meet the needs of student-athletes and the Athletics Department. IHPT functions as a central connector across health, wellbeing, performance, sport science, nutrition, and mental health, using an iterative process to respond to emerging issues. Wattenberg highlighted the following IHPT initiatives and committees: (1) Cross-Country Travel Toolkit – Guidance for managing travel fatigue, time-zone changes, and long-distance competition demands. (2) Eating Disorder Leadership Committee – The most developed IHPT committee; meets monthly and coordinates individualized care through regular care-team meetings. Recent advancements include expanded resources, enhanced screening, and a communication decision tree, along with wellness expectation agreements. (3) Research Committee – Reviews 7 to 8 research requests annually to ensure feasibility and IRB compliance. Recent research includes

studies on mental health, biomechanical analysis, and brain health, to include creatine's role in concussion recovery. (4) Sports Science Committee – Supports evidence-based coaching by evaluating new data-tracking technologies and facilitating communication between performance data staff and coaches. (5) Performance Team Integration – Dietitians, athletic trainers, and strength & conditioning staff meet three or more times per year (depending on sport) to coordinate team-specific support. (6) ACC Health Care Advisory Group – Ongoing collaboration with peer institutions across the ACC. (7) Mental Health Initiatives – Continued integration of mental-health resources within the broader student support ecosystem.

Les Myers, Director of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS), Academic and transfer update. Myers presented an update on student-athletes' fall academic performance, transfer activity, and upcoming SAASS initiatives. Student-athletes achieved a 3.33 cumulative GPA, setting a department record, with 19 of 20 teams posting ≥ 3.0 term GPAs and all teams above 3.0 cumulative GPA. Performance across Colleges remained strong, with student-athletes matching or exceeding the GPAs of the broader VT student body. Transfer updates showed 69 new transfers in Summer/Fall 2025 (13 graduate) and 36 in Spring 2026 (3 graduate), while 43 student-athletes transferred out after Fall 2025. Transfer numbers continue to rise under updated NCAA rules, and this year's numbers were also impacted by the football coach transition. A persistent challenge is major selection, as many transfer credits articulate only as electives, limiting access to certain majors because the student cannot meet NCAA academic eligibility requirements in those majors. SAASS is progressing through its spring academic cycle: instructor progress-report requests were issued (~50% response rate); academic watch lists and grade reports are underway; and registration support for summer and fall courses is ongoing. SAASS staff hiring is now complete with a new NCAA-eligibility transfer position and two additional hires. April events include a Provost's breakfast for top-performing teams (Men's Golf, Women's Golf, and Women's Cross-Country), a second round of progress-report requests, a third academic watch list, and the Senior Sashing graduation ceremony on reading day.

5. Announcements

- Bridget Brugger McSorley briefed the committee on Athletics current events, including upcoming financial literacy education for Virginia Tech student-athletes, opportunities for season ticketholders to upgrade seating for next year, and recent team achievements. Virginia Tech Wrestling won both the ACC regular season and the ACC championship and was one of just 6 teams nationally to qualify all 10 of their wrestlers for the NCAA championships. Women's Basketball qualified for the NCAA Women's Basketball tournament, and they competed in the first round. Swim and Dive is currently competing at the NCAA championships.

6. Adjournment

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