

University Athletics Committee

April 8, 2021, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Present: Ally Bowersock, Tom Burbey, Bob Denton, Patrick Finley, Trish Hammer (for Ron Fricker), Heather Gumbert, Rachel Holloway, Art Keown, Joseph Kozak, Joe Marcy, Ken Miller, Michael Nappier, Jay Poole, Bridget Ryan-Berman, Susan Short, Chris Wise (for Frank Shushok), Becki Smith, Zach Speizer, Kenneth Stiles, Ester Talamazzi, Anna Taylor

Absent: Whit Babcock, Katie Boes, Tom Crow, Mike Madigan, Danny White

Guests: Mike Swanhart (for Sarah Armstrong), Gary Bennett, Natalie Forbes, Samantha Stewart

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 March 11, 2021.

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. Athletic Director Update – a video was provided:

The Mary Griffin story on <https://hokiesports.com>

4. CAMP Staff and Mental Health Services - Gary Bennett, Associate Athletic Director, Sport Psychologist

- There are three members on staff: one full time, two part time.
- Number of visits continue to go up every year.
- A lot of the issues this year are not that different from other years. Stress and anxiety might be a little higher from COVID, but there was more anxiety even before COVID, more panic attacks, more symptoms of panic disorder this year than we've probably ever had. VT Athletics has come light years ahead with mental health issues.
- Looking for ways to connect with student athletes outside of offices: Hokies Helping Hokies Heal. THRIVE, A different way to connect with the student athletes.
- The CALM app is being used to provide resources outside of typical counseling.
- Very proud of our staff. The shift from meeting with student athletes in offices to Zoom was handled fairly seamlessly.
- Services are provided over the summer for students who are on-campus. There are some licensure issues with students out of state, but they will look into this since they could meet via Zoom.
- Social media has opened a can of worms that may never be shut off. More athletes with suicidal thoughts than ever. We tell them to call us.
- The new Nutrition Center will be great for student athletes to get together.

5. Football Player Engagement – Samantha (Samm) Stewart, Assistant AD of Player Engagement
PowerPoint provided

- Build relationships with football players, early, during, and after – recruiting to alumni.
- Player engagement – Whole Hokie.

- Community service - Areas of focus – teamwide community service, making cards for seniors at Richfield Center in Salem.
- Career explore – professional career (HOKIE E.D.G.E) Real Estate, Sales – Pro to the League.
- Mentoring – Athlete to Athlete, Professor to Athlete, Alumni Football Players
- The Huddle – e-newsletter, played video, push to get current contact data, then went to the Zoom events, include past players who are on staff. We look for opportunities to be extra.
- Rachel – trying to get internships, we are pushing for athletes to get the internship experience.
- Heather shared an undergraduate program in Liberal Arts.
- Coming from a smaller school, they were a little quicker to shift. Maybe not as quick, but it is shifting, everyone is in. The department is people-centered.

6. ACC Postgrad Scholarships – Natalie Forbes, Senior Director, Student Athlete Personal Development
PowerPoint provided

- Oversees lots of moving pieces, the scholarship is the Weaver-James-Corrigan scholarship.
- Nomination/selection process, then goes on to the ACC – the FARs make the final decision, then the students are invited to a luncheon.
- Recipients have five years to use this scholarship.
- This year four students were selected as nominees and all four were recognized (three scholarships and one honorary).
- A list from the last few years at Virginia Tech, variety of sports, variety of majors, some took off to play professionally, or to work.
- The Virginia Tech application has made the GPA requirement higher than required to be sure that Virginia Tech nominees have a better chance of the ACC award.
- On any given year a university could receive three scholarships, but it is rare.
- The dollars sit in the ACC, not at Virginia Tech
- Rachel – very proud of the Hokies that they are well placed in the ACC.

7. Announcements

- Rachel Holloway shared that the Student Athlete Academic Support Services office will be hosting a Senior Sashing Send-Off/Drive-By Parade for student-athletes on Thursday, May 6th at 2:45 p.m. Watch for an invitation from Sarah Armstrong in the very near future.
- Confirmed: Next meeting will be held virtually (Zoom) on Thursday, May 13, 2021 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- On next month's agenda is a visit from one of our coaches and a debriefing from Whit regarding the university's relationship with Nike.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m.



SAMANTHA STEWART

Assistant AD
Player Engagement

HST

WHY AM I HERE?

- BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

- Early
- During
- After

HST

WHAT IS PLAYER ENGAGEMENT?

W

Working together to create a

H

Holistic approach to Student-Athlete engagement that focuses on

O

Opportunities, whether professional, personal, career, academics & or in

L

Leadership, that enhances the overall student-athlete experience. While remembering the importance of

HOKIE
E

Engaging the community & centering the improvement of the whole self.

"You are not the work you do; you are the person you are" -Toni Morrison

HST

3 AREAS OF FOCUS

- COMMUNITY SERVICE
- CAREER EXPLORATION
- MENTORING

HST

AREAS OF FOCUS

- COMMUNITY SERVICE
 - One mandatory community service project per semester
 - In Fall during Bye-Week
 - This semester 4/15/21 “HOKIES GET CARDED”
- CAREER EXPLORATION: Going Pro
 - Professional Career (HOKIE **E.D.G.E.**)
 - Real Estate
 - Sales
 - Pro to the League
- MENTORING
 - Athlete 2 Athlete
 - Professor to Athlete
 - **Alumni Football Players**

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BUILD A BRIDGE



HST

ALUMNI PLAYER ENGAGEMENT

Alumni Engagement Timeline

- February 10-28th Football Alumni Contacts via former players
- March 5th Creation of E-Newsletter “The HUDDLE”; Short Welcome Back Video for Alum
- March 17th Zoom Event #1: **“This is Home...Welcome Back”** Bud and Former Players on Staff @ 12pm
- March 31st Zoom Event #2: **“The X’s & O’s”** Defense (former players) and Offense Coaches @ 6pm
- April 9th Zoom Event #3: **“Friday Talk w/Fu”** Justin: Direction of Program @4pm

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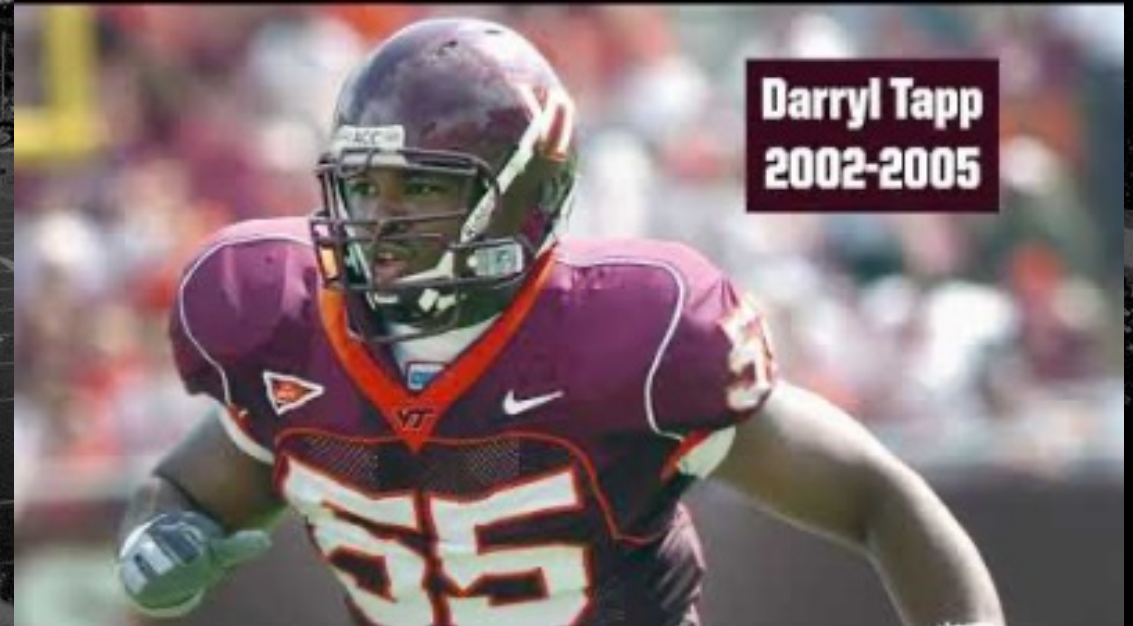
OUTREACH & MARKETING

"THIS IS HOME...**WELCOME BACK!**"



From: Samantha Stewart --
Office of Player Engagement @
VT

Hello from Head Coach Justin Fuente and Samm Stewart from the Office of Player Engagement! We're excited to connect with you and ask that you take a moment to provide us with your current contact and personal information so we can stay in touch. Please use this link: <https://>



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E- NEWSLETTER



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ZOOM EVENTS

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HOW DO WE KEEP ENERGY GOING?



Look for
opportunities to be
extra



HST

WEAVER-JAMES-CORRIGAN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

presented by 

Background

- \$6,000 scholarship awarded to selected student-athletes who intend to pursue a graduate degree
- 4 nominations per institution
 - 3 scholarship nominations
 - 1 honorary nomination (Not pursuing graduate degree)

Criteria

- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (internally- 3.2)
- Academic recognition (ACC Honor Roll, Dean's List, etc.)
- Local, conference, regional and/or national athletic recognition (All-ACC Honors, All-American, etc.)
- In final season of eligibility or forgoing any remaining eligibility *Covid year exceptions
- Demonstrated commitment to leadership & service


WEAVER-JAMES-CORRIGAN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

presented by 

Nomination/ Selection Process

- Internal application- initial selection made by Student-Athlete Development Staff- FAR approval
- Nominee completes personal data form, list of accolades, and personal statement
- Letters of recommendation from Head Coach, Director of Athletics, and Dean/ Professor from applicant's academic program
- Selections are made by Faculty Athletics Representatives (FARs) from all member institutions
- Typically awards are distributed at an ACC Scholarship Luncheon in Greensboro, NC
- Award recipients have 5 years to utilize the scholarship

WEAVER-JAMES-CORRIGAN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

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2020-2021 Virginia Tech Recipients



Nika Kozar

Women's Tennis

Major(s): Criminology/
Sociology

Pursuing a master's in
Experimental Psychology at
Nova Southeastern, Fall 2021



Darby Trull

Softball

Major(s): Consumer Studies
Pursuing a master's in
Leadership Studies at
Virginia Tech, Fall 2021



Regan Westwood

Women's Diving

Major(s): Smart & Sustainable
Cities/ Environmental Policy &
Planning

Currently pursuing master's in
Urban & Regional Planning at
Virginia Tech, accelerated prog.



Wabissa Bede*Honorary

Men's Basketball

Currently pursuing master's
in Leadership Studies- to be
completed in Summer 2021

WEAVER-JAMES-CORRIGAN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

presented by 

Previous Virginia Tech Recipients

'19-'20: Sarah Edwards, Women's Track & Field, Major(s): Interior Design

Currently pursuing a master's in Architecture at Virginia Tech

'19-'20: Natalie Novotna, Women's Tennis, Major(s): Chemistry/ Biochemistry

Currently pursuing a master's in Forensic Science at Syracuse University

'19-'20: Jaylyn Thompson, Women's Soccer, Major(s): Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise

After playing professional soccer for one year, pursuing a master's in sports management at the Soccer Management Institute in Rome

'18-'19: Taylor Emery, Women's Basketball, Major(s): Creative Writing, 18-19

Currently playing professional basketball, accepted into Virginia Tech Veterinary School

'18-'19: Ian Ho, Men's Swimming, Major(s): Mechanical Engineering

Received a master's in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech

'18-'19: Jaila Tolbert, Volleyball, Major(s): International Business **Honorary Award Recipient

'17-'18: Vince Ciattei, Men's Track & Field, Major(s): Engineering Science and Mechanics

Received a master's in Biomedical Engineering from Virginia Tech

'17-'18: Alani Johnson, Women's Soccer, Major(s): Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise

Currently interviewing for admission to a Physician Assistant program