

University Athletics Committee Minutes

November 19, 2020

Via Zoom, 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Susan Short, Chair.

Members Present: Danny White (for Whit Babcock), Katie Boes, Allison Bowersock, Bob Denton, Kim Smith (for Rachel Holloway), Art Keown, Joseph Kozak, Mike Madigan, Ken Miller, Sally Morton, Michael Nappier, Jay Poole, Bridget Ryan-Berman, Chris Wise (for Frank Shushok), Susan Short, Becki Smith, Kenneth Stiles, Ester Talamazzi

Absent: Whit Babcock, Tom Burbey (until spring 2021), Tom Crow, Patrick Finley, Rachel Holloway, Joe Marcy, Becki Smith, Frank Shushok, Joseph Tront, Eric Wiseman, Brad Wurthman

Guests: Sarah Armstrong, Reyna Gilbert-Lowry

Recorder: Anna Taylor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

1. **Welcome** – Susan Short

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda and was passed unanimously.

3. **Electronic Approval of October 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of October 22 were approved electronically and sent to University Council for web posting.

4. **Athletic Director Update** - Danny White, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Student-Athlete Services (slides and video presentation in Google drive)

Danny provided update

- NCAA extended additional year for eligibility for fall and for winter sports
- Recruiting dead period until April 15 unless the NCAA extends it again. No potential athlete can be on campus and be hosted. They can visit campus with his/her family.
- Learned some new best practices that won't go away.
- With budgets tight, having the dead period has saved money since coaches are not traveling.
- GSR was 91% which puts Virginia Tech tied with three public school ACC peers.
- 15 college football games cancelled this weekend. Virginia Tech did not play a game until week three.

- Football does not normally have exam conflicts, but due to games being delayed and rescheduled, there will be conflicts with exams per the ACC's scheduling.
- Fall sports are coming to an end. Wrestling will start January 2.
- Spring could post some challenges because some winter sports will be finishing and fall sports will finish in the spring, as well as the spring sports will start.
- Showed video of John Laser and Jerry Gaines interview.

Answers to questions in the meeting:

- The GSR number - In the Fed Rate, a point is lost when someone transfers out. Students have six years to graduate. Virginia Tech had six with perfect scores, five or six with 90% or above.
- Managing the 250 attending fans - The student athletes, coaches, and staff working with the students are not included in that number. The band is included in that number, so they most likely will not be in the stands. The parents of student athletes are the first to receive tickets/seats.
- Some of the positives that will be carried forward include getting back to the reasons a coach gets involved – to interact with students.
- *What are we doing to understand how many student athletes will be impacted by exams and completion?*

Sarah – Dec 12-16, first step is to communicate with faculty that this will be an issue and then determine how best for faculty to work with students. Raising awareness is the first step.

Susan to faculty, *how have you worked with students in the past?*

Kim – communication is key and we need to prepare faculty early in the process.

Sally – if there is a change for an individual student, we do our best to work with them.

Art – thinks things are going well.

Early communication and flexibility on both sides are essential.

5. **Student-Athlete Development** - Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Senior Associate, Athletics Director of Student-Athlete Development and Senior Woman Administrator
Reyna gave an overview of programs and opportunities for student athletes. The presentation materials are in the committee Google drive. These are some of the highlights:

- Staff of four dedicated to personal, leadership, and career development for all Hokie student-athletes
- All programs/events moved to virtual due to COVID-19
- Increased focus on diversity, inclusion, and social justice as a result of recent social and racial injustices
- Hokies Stronger Together podcast- collaboration with CAMP, Nutrition, SAASS, FCA created to serve as another resource for student-athletes during COVID-19. Increased focus on mental health.
- Continued collaboration with Hokie Wellness and other campus partners
- Community outreach – athletes volunteer 3000-4000 hours a year
- Life Skills – time management, dressing professionally, interviewing skills
- PBJ - personal branding and job success
- Leadership institute – leadership culture
- Summer internship program

Answers to questions in the meeting:

- Reyna’s office does not collect information on salaries or employment after graduation. The goal for students is to have a definite plan.
- Students are assessed for strengths and weaknesses to help identify transferrable skills from student athlete to the workforce.

6. NCAA Update - Joe Tront, Faculty Representative to NCAA (provided a written update):

- Transfer Portal: NCAA seems to be working out OK unless you are one of the coaches who loses a player who turns into a star.
- Player NIL: to be discussed by Dec. and voted by about Dec. 7. At NCAA level. Several issues and details that need to be worked out—how to split up not the smallest; who is the holder of the funds; can the promise of up-front money be used to gain an advantage in recruiting; **Ask UAC what they think should be raised to NCAA discussion.**
- Issues with this season being “the asterisk” season in all the record books.

7. Committee Member Comments

Bob Denton – what is a student athlete? A little disappointed, bit of a critic now. Some of NCAA rules...

Art – Football and basketball are two of the most visible sports. This is a changing world. There will be challenges in the future especially if you get used to not going anywhere. It will be hard to get people back in the stands.

Bridget – trying to understand the ACCN. Where is this on the path of success? ACC network. Danny will follow-up with Whit.

Susan – in the conversation last month, Coach Young asked about the transcript evaluation process. Susan reached out to Rick Sparks and he is happy to join us for an upcoming meeting.

8. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

MEETING DATES FOR 2020

(All meetings will be from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. and will be conducted via Zoom):

Thursday, December 17, 2020