

# University Athletics Committee

## September 12, 2017

*Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center*

Members Present: Whit Babcock, Kevin Gehr, Rachel Holloway, Robena Hughes, Jennifer Hundley, Bill Lansden, Irene Leech, Kristine Loscalzo, Matt Mayotte, Robert Owen, Jay Poole, Holly Scoggins, Dwight Shelton, Susan Sumner, Terry Swecker, Joe Tront, Steve Trost, Chris Wise (for Patty Perillo)

Members Absent: Gordon Bryan, Joseph Gabbard, Thomas Mills, Robert Parker, John Pinkerton, Paul Winistorfer

Guests Present: John Szefc, Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Brad Wurthman, Omar Banks, Derek Gwinn, Angie Littlejohn, Mary Anne Steinberg, Will Hozey, Danny White

Recorder: Megan Griesemer, Assistant Director Compliance

*Holly Scoggins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.*

### **1. Introduction of Coach John Szefc**

- What drew him to Virginia Tech
  - Great atmosphere
  - Great academics
  - Coming into the ACC
  - Relationships and support of the administration
- Philosophies
  - Developing life skills, implement strategies for success
  - Strong Academic Emphasis
  - Organization Binder

### **Questions/Comments:**

- Will you have a lot of players leave early?
  - Keep most players on track to finish and still graduate, but for the best players it is a three-year sport, because of the draft rules.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

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

### **3. Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2017**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 19, 2017. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **4. Introductions**

## **Business**

## 5. Athletics Update and Q&A

*Whit Babcock*

- Excited about where we are as a department
  - Good people in place alongside strong new energy
  - Working to continue to be better and innovate to improve
- First six weeks of school: focus on safety and education for new students
- Grades and academic performance is very strong
- Michael Vick and the Hokie Pokey
- Student-athlete experience – athletes and teams provide great equalizer
  - We hope to emphasize bringing people together

### **Questions/Comments:**

- Question about showing other games scores?
  - Yes are still being shown
- Updates on facilities? Baseball?
  - Coach Szefc took Maryland to NCAA tournament for first time in 42 years
  - Stadium will make a great entrance to campus
  - Rector Field House: \$18 Million
  - Bowman Room Renovation
    - Expansion on all sides and the roof
    - Multi-functional space
- Plan to have minor league baseball come here? Concerts?
  - Need certain permissions to explore Minor League opportunities
  - Investigating some other opportunities including concerts
- People had trouble accessing the game on TV
  - Challenges because of the storm
- Hall of Fame could have a public figure who can represent on campus for communication purposes.

## 6. Academic Update: Spring 2017

*Matt Mayotte, Director of SAASS*

- Handout of Annual Review from 2016-2017
- Support student-athletes in balancing their academic and athletic demands.
- Tutoring (Will Hozey)
  - Recruit, educate, and evaluate tutors
  - Grades First system for tutor requests
  - New Reading Day Initiative (walk in tutor opportunities)
- Learning Assistant Program (Mary Anne Steinberg)
  - New students are evaluated to see if they need additional services or support
  - Programming available on Canvas
- Fall 2016 – Spring 2017 Recap
- Summer Academy

### **Questions/Comments:**

- All tutors are paid. We like to be able to offer employment for students as well.
- Numbers look great, but what are we in danger of?
  - We have improved as an academic support staff
  - Continue to develop student-athlete accountability
  - Small percentage of athletes in “at-risk” group, SAASS provides additional resources for this group to ensure future success
- We bring in higher percentage of diversity than on campus and first-generation college attendees
- Do we have a summary of the service contributions of student-athletes?
  - Reyna Gilbert-Lowry runs office of Student-Development which oversees community outreach
  - Can provide more data
- Students should also have strong relationships with their academic advisor on campus

### **7. Role of Athletics Committee in University Governance**

*Holly Scoggins and Joe Tront*

- Dr. Tront’s Role as the FAR
  - Fairly diverse role as an advocate for students
  - Connecting with the ACC and NCAA
    - A lot of discussion about academics with rules, etc
    - Finding opportunities to assist the student side of the student-athlete
- Reyna Gilbert-Lowry as SWA
  - Responsibilities including focusing on gender equity and Title IX
  - Will be travelling to represent Virginia Tech
- Subcommittees
  - Each investigates various areas and presents back to committee at the end of the semester
  - Presented to the President
- Background about this committee
  - University Governance ([governance.vt.edu](http://governance.vt.edu)), structure implemented in 2002
  - We report to CUSP (student policies, changes, etc) who reports to University Council

Meeting Adjourned at 4:59 pm.