

University Athletics Committee Minutes

October 3, 2019 – 3:30 p.m.

230 Student Services Building

Members Present: Susan Sumner, Chair; Danny White (for Whit Babcock), Rachel Holloway, Bill Lansden, Debbie Greer (for Ken Miller), Trish Hammer (for Sally Morton), Joe Marcy, Art Keown, Bob Denton, Tom Burbey, Susan Short, Jake Lamparella, Sara Jordan

Absent with Notification: Whit Babcock, Gordon Bryan, Sally Morton, Jay Poole, Brian Strahm,

Absent without Notification: Patty Perillo, Robert Parker, Joseph Tront, Katie Boes, Michael Nappier

Guests Present: Sarah Armstrong, Caitlyn Nolan

Recorder: Anna Taylor, CALS Academic Programs Admin Assistant

Susan Sumner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

2. Review of Committee's Charge – Susan Sumner

This committee reports to CUSP. The charge is:

To review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics.

1. Provide advice to the Athletic Director on such matters as financial aid for student athletes, residential life for student athletes, program balance between revenue and non-revenue sports, recruiting, admissions, NCAA compliance, and general intercollegiate athletic budgetary and operational matters.
2. Provide advice to the Executive Vice President and Provost on matters related to academic progress of athletes, the admission policy for athletes, academic advising of athletes, and relations with academic departments and faculty in general.
3. Participate in the search process for the selection of the Athletic Director. The Committee will also participate in periodic evaluations of the Athletic Director in coordination with the University official to whom the Athletic Director reports.

3. Athletic Director Update – Danny White

Danny provided a folder with handouts. The handouts will be placed in the committee Google drive.

Resource corresponding to the acronym – CAPS

Quick snapshot of fall sports (4)

Virginia Tech Cross Country will host the ACC championship this year.

A bill passed in California - Student athlete could benefit off of their name and likeness starting 2023, it is a fundamental change – pay for play or image and likeness

Academic update from spring 2019

Learfield Director's Cup – Virginia Tech finished 49th overall out of 295. Each institution can score points for 19 total teams; 4 of which must be women's basketball, men's basketball, volleyball, and baseball. Virginia Tech has 22 teams while other universities have many more, example: Ohio State has 37 teams.

Senior Exit Survey – Sample results from broader survey ranking student-athletes “reasons for attending Virginia Tech” include: academic programs, friendly atmosphere, NCAA Division I, athletic program, reputation of Virginia Tech.

4. Overview of Athletics Department (organizational chart) – Danny White

Danny provided a copy of the Athletics Department organizational chart
Organization similar to other schools.

Total number of people – Full-time employees is over 200, plus many student employees.

5. Overview of Academic Affairs and Interactions with Athletics – Rachel Holloway (provided slides that will be placed in the committee's Google drive)

- SAASS – Student Athlete Academic Support Services
- Every student athlete has an academic counselor within SAAS, learning assistance support, tutoring, and study halls. Student Athletes also have an assigned academic advisor in their department or college. Student athletes are encouraged to work with their academic advisors as well as their SAASS Academic Counselor. SAASS reports to the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.
- Last year, there were more than 9,000 tutoring appointments, students work as tutors, honor violations dropped to 2.6%, previously honor violations were over 11%.
- Navigate – University advising tool is now available to SAASS advisors.
- Progress reports completed by instructors for all student athletes.
- Registrar – certifies eligibility, 3 full time people who work on the certification.
- The GPA report, we only had 5 teams with less than a cumulative GPA less than 3.0. The general student body is a little lower than athletes.
- Student athletes may change their major, but academic and SAASS advisors must ensure timing of the change complies with NCAA rules.
- Academic schedules are tight. Scheduling practice can be difficult.

Asked Jake and Caitlyn's experience –

Jake was a transfer, used tutoring resources, had a good place to study, advisor kept him on track. Could see athletic advisor easier than college academic advisor.

Caitlyn used all the programs offered by SAASS.

Would you do anything differently? Jake may have attended more departmental programs, never had an issue with getting help.

Both students said the coaches always told them that school comes first.

6. Historical Perspectives and Future Direction for the Committee – Susan Sumner

Investigate how other ACC schools operate their athletic committee. It is our goal to develop meeting agendas with set topics during the year, it is our committee that helps Dr. Sands know what is happening in regard to student athletes. Susan asked Dr. Sands what he wanted from this committee – what does graduation look like for athletes who transfer?

In the past we have had subcommittees. The NCAA needs have changed over 10 years. We used some of the time in meetings last year to let subcommittees discuss for their report. This year we will not operate with subcommittees. How can we engage with student athletes directly?

We might have a zoom conference with other ACC schools to see what they are doing, that could be part of one meeting.

7. Future Meetings

- November – Survey questions to similar committees of ACC schools – Bridget Brugger-McSorley (time management plan)
- December – SAASS – Sarah Armstrong
- **Meeting Topics Generated by Committee Members:**
 - California case –

- Like to see more about the Transfer portal – Joe, what’s our role in that? How do we help our students graduate?
- Meet with new coaches
- Take a look at facilities, the Bowman room, the performance space
- Short presentation about what we do with tutoring, how are we following best practices
- Look at student athletic fees, undergraduates put in over 8 million. corresponds with the athletic budget, about a 6.5% increase, when inflation is a little over 2%, student fees and the budget office
- Where do we stand with our peers in Virginia?
- What percent of our students go to sporting events?
- Do we have student Olympic athletes?
- Budget in general
- Real or perceived ideas between athletics and academics (campaigns toward faculty)