

**University Athletic Committee**  
**September 28, 2006**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Center**

Members Present: Susan Anderson, Jessica Botzum, Candi Clemenz, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, David Lowe, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Plesant, Jesse Richardson, Ken Stanton, Sarah Thomas, Eileen Van Aken, Dixie Watts Reaves, and representatives Bill Campion for Zenobia Hikes, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, and Gary Jackson for Noreen Spencer Bailey

Members Absent: Thomas, Griffin, Cameron Martin, Steve McMullin, Larry Taylor, Jim Weaver.

Guest Present: Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life Athletics, Chris Helms, Coordinator, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Shauna Cobb, Director of Athletic Compliance.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The minutes of April 27, 2006 were tabled until next meeting. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

**Business**

**Committee Charge** (Rosemary Goss)

The UAC was formed July 1, 1988. Rosemary Goss read the President's charge to the committee.

**Future Meeting Schedule**

Future meeting dates for this year are November 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Future Agenda Items**

Please let Rosemary Goss know if you have any agenda items.

**Announcements** (Jon Jaudon)

Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life--Athletics was recognized for winning the NCAA Award, Division 1A CHAMPS Program of Excellence Award.

**Standing Committee Appointments**

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Gender Equity:

Suggestion that this committee work with the Title 9 review being conducted this year (spring 2007) by Lamar Dianels. Will examine the practices within Athletics

and make any suggestions as appropriate back to the UAC Committee. Committee members for 2006-07 are Sam Easterling, Jesse Richardson and Sharon McCloskey as ex officio. We invite anyone else who would like to work on this committee to notify Rosemary Goss

**Rules Compliance Oversight and Advisory:**

Suggestion that Rosemary Goss ask President Steger to let the NCAA certification report that Virginia Tech is going through in 2006-2007 stand for this committee report for 2006-2007. This committee will conduct an audit to evaluate the athletics compliance office against NCAA and ACC rules and regulations. This audit is in addition to the internal audit program conducted each year. The annual report of this subcommittee is forwarded to the President after approval by the UAC. Tim Parker is ex-officio member each year. Anyone willing to serve on this subcommittee should contact Rosemary Goss

**APR Improvement Plans (David Ford)**

Virginia Tech had three athletic teams which did not meet the 925 APR cut-off score: baseball, men's soccer, and men's tennis.

Plans had to be submitted for Baseball and Men's Soccer. Teams with small rosters were not required to submit an APR Improvement plan, Men's Tennis fell into this category. The academic progress score of 925 is based on academic eligibility and retention. Committee did not want to be punitive since both teams were close to the 925. The plans are to remain at Virginia Tech and are not to be submitted to the NCAA.

**NCAA Athletics Certification (Jon Jaudon)**

1993 NCAA passed amendment to adopt an athletic certification process. The intention was to review the integrity of intercollegiate athletic programs. 1997-1998 was Virginia Tech first review. 2006-2007 second review Minnis Ridenour is chairing the committee.

Three primary areas are to be reviewed.:

Academic Integrity Chaired by Dr. Ford

Rules Compliance Chaired by Joe Tront

Equity and Student Welfare Chaired by Zenobia Hikes

Website will be updated as we move forward.

Report to be complete by May 1, 2007.

**Team Schedules and Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon)**

Handout (attached)

Policy adopted as a result of first NCAA review.

Jon Jaudon went over the report to the committee and questions regarding missed class time for athletes were discussed.

**Policy on Student-Athlete Conduct No. 1035 (Rosemary Goss) Tabled**

**Graduation Rates 2005-2006 (Chris Helms)**

Handout (attached)

Chris Helms went over the report to the committee and questions regarding graduation rates were discussed.

**Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)**

Tabled as Mr. Weaver was out of town.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:35 PM.

**University Athletic Committee**  
**October 5, 2006**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Center**

**Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Jessica Botzum, Candi Clemenz, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, David Lowe, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Plesant, Jesse Richardson, Ken Stanton, Sarah Thomas, Eileen Van Aken, Dixie Watts Reaves. Representatives attending for members: Bill Campion for Zenobia Hikes, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Gary Jackson for Noreen Bailey Spencer.

**Members Absent:** Thomas, Griffin, Cameron Martin, Steve McMullin, Larry Taylor, Jim Weaver.

**Guest Present:** Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life Athletics, Chris Helms, Coordinator., Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Shauna Cobb, Director of Athletic Compliance.

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The minutes of April 27, 2006 were tabled until the next meeting. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

**Business**

**Committee Charge** (Rosemary Goss)

The UAC was formed July 1, 1988. Rosemary Goss read the President's charge to the committee. "This action establishes a University Committee on Athletics, charged to review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics."

**Future Meeting Schedule**

Future meeting dates for this year are November 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Future Agenda Items**

Please let Rosemary Goss, chairman, know if you have any agenda items for future meetings.

**Announcement** (Jon Jaudon)

Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life in Athletics, was recognized for winning the NCAA Award, Division 1A CHAMPS program of Excellence Award.

### **Standing Committees** (Rosemary Goss)

Two standing committees of the UAC include:

- **Gender Equity:** Suggestion that this committee work with the Title 9 review being conducted this year (Spring 2007) by Lamar Daniels. Will examine the practices within Athletics and make any suggestions as appropriate back to the UAC committee. Committee members for 2006-07 are Sam Easterling, Jesse Richardson, and Sharon McCloskey as ex officio. Anyone else who would like to work on this committee should notify Rosemary Goss.
- **Rules Compliance Oversight and Advisory:** It was suggested that Rosemary Goss ask President Steger to let the NCAA certification report that Virginia Tech is going through in 2006-2007 replace this committee report for 2006-2007.

### **APR Improvement Plans** (David Ford)

Virginia Tech had three athletic teams which did not meet the 925 APR cut-off score: baseball, men's soccer, and men's tennis.

Teams with small rosters were not required to submit an APR Improvement plan. Men's tennis fell into this category. Plans had to be submitted for baseball and men's soccer. The academic progress score of 925 is based on academic eligibility and retention. The committee did not want to be punitive, since both teams were close to the 925. The plans are to remain at Virginia Tech and are not to be submitted to the NCAA.

### **NCAA Athletics Certification** (Jon Jaudon)

In 1993 NCAA passed an amendment to adopt an athletic certification process. The intention was to review the integrity of intercollegiate athletic programs. Virginia Tech's first review occurred in 1997-1998. The second review will take place during 2006-2007. Minnis Ridenour is chairing the committee.

Three primary areas are to be reviewed:

1. Academic Integrity--Chaired by David Ford
2. Rules Compliance--Chaired by Joe Tront
3. Equity and Student Welfare--Chaired by Zenobia Hikes

A website will be available and updated as we move forward. The report will be completed by May 1, 2007 and a site visit will take place in Fall 2007.

### **Team Schedules and Missed Class Time** (Jon Jaudon)

The policy was adopted as a result of the first NCAA review. The intent of the policy is to limit missed days to 9 or less. Three sports have received an exemption for 2006-2007: golf, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track. However, not all team members will likely attend all events.

**Policy on Student-Athlete Conduct No. 1035** (Rosemary Goss) Tabled.

**Graduation Rates 2005-2006** (Chris Helms)

Chris Helms reported the 2005 NCAA graduation rate for student athletes for 2005 was equal to the all student graduation rate of 74%. Chris also shared information about graduation rates by sports.

**Questions for the Athletic Director** (Jim Weaver)

Mr. Weaver was out of town.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

**University Athletic Committee**  
**February 1, 2007**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center**

**Members Present:** Susan Anderson, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Larry Killough, David Lowe, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Pleasant, Noreen Bailey Spencer, Ken Stanton, Larry Taylor.

**Members Absent:** Jessica Botzum, Candi Clemenz, Sam Easterling, Thomas, Giffin, Mike Kelly, Cameron Martin, Steve McMullin, Dixie Watts Reaves, Jesse Richardson, Sarah Thomas, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.

**Representatives:** Alan Glick for Zenobia Hikes, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton.

**Guest Present:** Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life Athletics, Chris Helms, Coordinator, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Women's Administrator

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Administrative Assistant, Athletic Department

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The agenda was accepted as proposed. The minutes of November 2, 2006 were approved.

**Announcement**

- Rosemary Goss, Chair, informed the committee that the minutes of the University Athletic Committee were going up on the Provost website from 2004 thru present.
- The March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the University Athletic Committee will be held on February 28, 2007 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the West Side Expansion in the Student Athlete Academic Support Services area in room 309.
- We will have Questions & Answers with Jim Weaver at a future meeting.
- Title IV review will be February 8 from 9 to 10 with Lamar Daniels. Sharon McCloskey will review the report with the University Athletic Committee at a subsequent meeting in the spring.

**Business**

**Coach's Perspective: Volleyball** (Chris Riley)

Tabled till next meeting as Chris was called out of town.

**Fan Behavior** (David Lowe)

The Alumni Association was concerned over fan behavior at athletic events. David Lowe, representing the Alumni Association, met with Jim Weaver about the "Hokie Respect" campaign on ways to help promote the campaign. David Lowe, Larry Hinker, Tim East and Tom Tiller came together to discuss ways to help promote positive fan behavior at athletic events. The "Jerk Alert" cartoon was one of the outcomes from this group, as well as the pregame announcement by a former athlete. Several more ideas are being considered to encourage more positive behavior (attitude) on the part of the Virginia Tech fan base that involves the students, alumni,

marching Virginians, cheerleaders, student mentors, Student Government Association, and fans attending athletic events.

Ideas pertaining to new freshman orientation and ways to welcome the visiting teams were discussed. The aim is to change the culture of athletic event behavior to become a more positive experience. Megan Armbruster added that she was a member of the "Hokie Hi Welcome Committee" at new student orientation. Each freshman was asked to sign a pledge that they would participate in good sportsmanship (Hokie Respect) and each received a Hokie bird zipper pull from the Alumni Association.

#### **Policy on Student-Athlete Conduct No. 1035** (Rosemary Goss)

- The CAP (Comprehensive Action Plan) was a report from 1996 that made recommendations regarding sanctions of student athletes for inappropriate behavior, but was never formally incorporated into university policy. Last spring President Steger appointed a task force to review implementation of the CAP. After reviewing the report the president and his staff revised the existing policy 1035 (Student-Athlete Behavior) by adding from the CAP sanctions for inappropriate conduct. The UAC suggested some clerical changes and clarification on who would suspend a student-athlete for felony charges or conviction. The UAC also recommended revisions to the code of student conduct and student host recruiting sections. President Steger will present the revision to the Board of Visitors in March. Megan Armbruster asked that she receive a final document before the student-athlete handbook goes to print on April 2, 2007.

#### **NCAA Athletics Certification** (Rosemary Goss)

Update on the three committees:

- 3 weeks ago Rules Compliance report submitted to steering committee. It was reviewed and returned to subcommittee for revisions.
- 1 week ago Academic Integrity report submitted to steering committee and it is under review and will be returned to subcommittee by the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.
- Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Equality and Student Well Being will be submitted to steering committee and they will have two weeks to review.

Everything is on schedule for completion in May 2007.

### **Reports**

#### **Fall Academic Update** (Chris Helms)

Handout

- A total of 466 student athletes on team rosters
- 42 percent of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA
- 44 percent of student athletes achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA
- 26 percent of student athletes made the Dean's List
- 16 student athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA
- The average team cumulative GPA is 2.99
- The average university cumulative GPA was 2.97
- The average team semester GPA is a 2.99
- The average university semester GPA was 2.95
- 12 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA
- 11 teams maintained a 3.0 or greater cumulative GPA

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

**University Athletic Committee**  
**February 28, 2007 (March Meeting)**  
**Student Athletic Academic Support Services**  
**West Side Expansion Lane Stadium**

- Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Jessica Botzum, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Pleasant, Ken Stanton, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.
- Members Absent:** Thomas Giffin, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, David Lowe, Steve McMullin, Jessee Richardson, Sarah Thomas, Larry Taylor
- Representatives:** Mercy Azeke for Candi Clemenz, Yalanda Bryant for Norrine Bailey Spencer, Bill Champion for Zenobia Hikes, Greg Reaves for Dixie Reaves, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton.
- Guest Present:** Shauna Cobb, Director of Compliance, Chris Helms, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Administration.
- Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Administrative Assistant, Athletic Department

The agenda was accepted as presented.

**Tour of Athletic Academic Support Services (Chris Helms)**

- Chris Helms distributed a blueprint of Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). He acknowledged the freedom that was granted to SAASS to plan the space.
- This space supports many different learning environments – classrooms, private tutoring rooms, study halls, reference library, computer lab, learning technology lab, etc.
- There is 18,000 square feet of space.
- There is wireless network available throughout and live ports available as well.
- The space is also used in the evenings (e.g., reference library, conference rooms) and on weekends. SAASS has added learning specialists and programming to accommodate students with learning disabilities and challenges. They use these spaces for things like structured study hall – it’s not just a quiet place to study – specialists are working one on one with student athletes. Those spaces are used primarily at night for that program.
- SAASS moved into this facility in July 2006. Wall coverings will highlight and recognize student athletes and academic achievements. An outside firm will do the design work. It is hoped to be complete before the fall semester of 2007.
- Jim Weaver commented that those in Athletics believe that this academic component on the west side expansion is the most important part of this entire complex. It impacts all student athletes in all 21 sports, as well as the cheerleaders, High Techs, student trainers and student managers.
- Chris commented that this is relatively removed from other athletics department space and this reinforces the idea that this is a place to focus on academics.
- The Committee took an actual tour of the space.

**Coach’s Perspective: Volleyball (Chris Riley)**

- Comments from Chris Riley:
  - It is an honor to be coaching at Virginia Tech, “I feel that I can make an immediate impact.”

- Came from Towson University in Baltimore and was at St. John's University in New York before that. Was raised in Long Island, New York.
- Commented that Virginia Tech was unbelievable in how it treats its students and student athletes, and the resources available.
- One of the things Chris did when first hired was to call some of the players and recruits, to ask them to tell what had sold them on VT. At least 50-60% of them said they walked through Lane Stadium West Side Expansion and saw what resources they would have academically and their parents fell in love with the support and resources their daughters would be provided.
- Lane Stadium West Side Expansion it is a must show to all recruits as it sells Virginia Tech Athletics. Many volleyball players have the potential to play professionally (overseas).
- "Our goal, academics comes first. Of course, we want to win as many games as possible. But in the long run, the importance of what we all do here is to make the lives of our students better and give them more of a chance to be successful."
- Graduating seniors this year produced the first All-American in Volleyball at VT.
- Q: How many are on the roster?
  - We have 12 scholarship athletes and we carry 14-16 roughly.
- Q: Based on my observation at pep rally – I notice that a lot of the girls who came on the stage were on crutches. How is their health? (three on crutches).
  - That would have been in the pre-season. One of the good things is we are very cautious – they'll put a kid in a boot for a sprained ankle (which is 90% of the injuries we get). We are very healthy. Volleyball is a very anaerobic sport – our kids get sore more than they get injured. So far, only two days have been missed by our 11 kids practicing this spring.
- Q: Talk about the ACC and Volleyball.
  - This year, the ACC only got one team in the NCAA tournament. They went 20-1-1 overall – there is no tournament at the end. The thought was that the ACC was getting weaker in volleyball. But at the end of the year, our conference ranking was 7 or 8. The year before, our overall ranking was 10. So with the majority of the teams being fairly young, except for Duke we made a jump. A pretty young conference. It's very competitive. Last year, Duke was clearly better than everyone else.
- Q: Where do you go to recruit players?
  - I'll go anywhere to recruit – my goal is to get the most talented players. Turns out California, Midwest have the better players. If you can get a kid to this campus, you'll get a 90% success rate. I have not had a kid who has come to campus who has said "I don't think I'll be happy here." The challenge is to get them to come here. In recruiting for volleyball, you'll find 10<sup>th</sup> graders committing. All the kids are committed by juniors. For now, it is on the parents to get here to visit (NCAA rules for recruiting do not permit us to pay for the visit until they begin the senior year of H.S.) – it's kind of regionalizing recruiting, which makes it a challenge.
- Q: From an athletic standpoint, what is the value you hope to add?
  - In the next few years, once we become ACC champions and get into the NCAA tournament, our recruiting battles with UCLA, Colorado State, Penn State will be easier to win. Once we make that turn, we'll be at more of an advantage. I really feel that we can make this program into a top-10 program. Blacksburg and VT has more to offer than other schools – e.g., Cassell is a great place to play and provides a big home court advantage. Once we turn that corner, we're the "big fish." If the program is a top 25 team, you'll go to 2500-3000 attendance at games. Around here especially, this is the big draw – you just have to give them a reason to come. We're developing a better style, that is more fan-friendly and more exciting to watch.
- Q: In my recruiting in Undergraduate Admissions, I will have a student ask about volleyball. What is it you would like for us to tell a student in this situation (they haven't been recruited).
  - There is an on line questionnaire on our web site – they should fill this out – you never know where there is going to be a diamond in the rough. We get back to all of these.

- Q: Based on the data that has been shared with us, your team has the highest GPA – would like to acknowledge you for a job well done.
  - Thank you – our kids are so focused on what they do. They had a 3.5 GPA as a team.
- Q: Given that your students are doing so well, what type of utilization do your students have in SAASS – do they in fact use it?
  - Absolutely – we emphasize that they shouldn't rest on their laurels. Our kids did a great job – they are teaching the younger kids what it takes to be successful. They help each other and hold each other accountable. They use tutors and study space, about 50/50.
- Q: Do these kids routinely have tapes coming out of high school?
  - Yes, 95% of them do or could have something they could show us.
- Rosemary Goss thanked Chris for being here to share his perspective and answer questions.

### **Approval of January Minutes (Rosemary Goss)**

- The minutes were approved as corrected.

### **NCAA Athletics Certification Update (Rosemary Goss)**

- The process is moving along.
- Today we returned to The Equity and Student Well-Being committee comments for revision, Rules Compliance report had been reviewed and revised by the sub committee and is back to the steering committee. Feedback March 14 at the next meeting. We will also return the Academic Integrity report to the steering committee.
- Jim Weaver commented that the effort has been organized in an outstanding way. The Athletic Department is appreciative of all the time and effort that has gone into it.
- We'll have our site visit in the Fall.
- The report goes to the NCAA on May 1 and will be made public to the rest of the university community on the Web.

### **Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)**

- Q: What are the biggest challenges you see for Athletics in the next year or two?
  - We are very facility driven. Raising money to build the new basketball practice facility and new indoor field house will be the salient issues for us the next two years. This is a very exciting time to be at VT. .
- Q: I think the Athletic Department does a great service to the university through the academic side, through the visibility. When I came here from Philadelphia, people didn't know where VT was. Now they know. It helps us from an academic point of view – getting students, getting faculty, etc. There is one thing that would really help us, and this is a sensitive issue. In order to get credit in giving money to get tickets, have to donate money to Athletics. At other universities, they get partial credit. Would you be receptive to this?
  - When you look at Tennessee and OSU (105k) and in basketball with 25k, you have a totally different dynamic – we have 66,233 in Lane and about 10k in Cassell. As a result of those numbers, I honestly don't see it happening because we need all the money our donors give us – we get no state funds. That discrepancy in the size is the primary reason that I don't think that it is viable here. We're already sold out – and we'd be turning away donors who've given to Athletics to make room for someone giving to Academics.
- Q: Is there any thought to a new basketball arena?
  - I believe there is a place for what will become a new basketball facility/convocation center in the long-term plan. I don't see that happening for 10-15 years, if then. We have as good a home court venue in Cassell as in the conference. The reason we need to go to a new practice facility – is when Cassell was built in the mid-1960s, with two practice gyms that have basketball practice courts that are 2.5 feet from a cinderblock wall. Basketball teams

have become so much more athletic. We can take those facilities and make one a permanent wrestling facility, and one volleyball practice facility as well as cheerleaders and the Hi-Tech's. Then we'll build a new practice facility for both men and women's basketball with lounges, locker rooms and offices. We do not have the "wow" factor in recruiting in basketball now. This facility will give us safer practice areas and the "wow". In addition, we'll add a 10k square foot weight room to the south of that facility for Olympic sports. This will be a 16-18 million dollar project. It goes before the Board of Visitors in March for approval of design.

Q: I work with UG students and recruiting, and one of the messages I've received often, is when I'm talking to underrepresented students and encouraging them to apply to VT, one of the comments I get is that there are no black students at VT other than basketball or football. It seems that their perception is that if black students are there, it's only because of athletics rather than their cognitive abilities. What is the Athletic Committee doing with respect to image and are we considering the issues out there of becoming a more diverse university.

- I think you've raised an issue that is not addressed by us. We have enough issues trying to recruit our own student athletes. That's a larger university issue about a diverse student population. That's not one that the Athletics Department is at the front door of solving. We'll be a good team player and help do what the university is doing.
- Follow-up comment: I'm listening about the women on the volleyball team and how well they're doing academically – I think it would be nice for us to have the information about how well the student athletes are doing. It would be nice for us to have that in our recruiting efforts.
- Q: Speaking of fans and image, how do you think the "Hokie Respect" campaign is going?
  - We're a leader in the country in this area. We did some good things last year. I believe the working relationship that has been an outgrowth on campus of different components (Student Government, Alumni Association, Hokie Club) has been good. Jim has had some positive responses (and some negative) about the "jerk alert." But when that guy threw the turkey leg from the top of the north end zone, people were pointing and saying "jerk alert." It shows that something is working. We'll revisit it every year. Jim is on the ACC Sportsmanship Committee.
- Q: What happened with getting people into the Maryland game?
  - We determined that we'd have to let the students sit anywhere in the arena. If the ticket holder comes, they'd have to move somewhere else.
  - For the Clemson game this weekend, after viewing the vacancies at the Miami game, the athletic department established a second lottery. We have plans to get everybody in who signed up. I think we can fill the place. We feel like we've gone about it in an appropriate fashion and have altered things to accommodate weather and spring break appropriately.
- Q: I've heard a lot of fans that get upset about hearing "Enter Sandman" too much at games (diluting its purpose)?
  - I've not heard anything like this. I think it will remain what it is in football, and I think it helps to crank up the crowd in basketball. I don't think it's been overdone in basketball.
  - Jon Jaudon: It's typically played at the start of the basketball game and at the last timeout. I think our marketing people have done a good job making the call for when it's needed.

**Announcements** (Rosemary Goss)

**Future meeting dates: April 5 and May 3.**

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

## University Athletic Committee

April 5, 2007

Bowman Room

**Members Present:** Jessica Botzum, Candi Clemenz, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, David Lowe, Norrine Bailey Spencer, Larry Taylor, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.

**Members Absent:** Susan Anderson, Thomas Giffin, Zenobia Hikes, Steve McMullin, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Pleasant, Jesse Richardson, Ken Stanton, Sarah Thomas.

**Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Alex White for Dixie Reaves.

**Guest Present:** Megan Armbruster, Director of Athletics Student Life, Chris Helms, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA.

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Administrative Assistant, Athletic Department.

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:40. The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes for the March meeting (dated February 28, 2007) were approved with corrections.

### BUSINESS

#### Academic Progress Rate (Chris Helms)

(Handout)

- The goal of the academic performance program was to shift to a more academic culture.
- There are several components to the performance plan:
  - Graduation success rate (NCAA) is a metric for calculating graduation rates.
  - Also part of the performance plan was measures that strengthened eligibility of athletes.
  - Incentives and disincentives is also part of the performance plan.
- The information in the handout package reviewed by the Committee was put together by Jon Jaudon.
- The APR is a metric that is designed to give a more real-time rate compared to other metrics. The NCAA instituted this to provide more real-time data. It includes athletically-aided athletes. This makes up the cohort by team. Information is reported by team. Other metrics such as federal graduation rate uses sport categories – here you can see each team as represented.
- Each student athlete in the cohort has the ability to earn 2 points each academic semester – one for eligibility and one for retention. During an academic year, an athlete can earn up to 4 points maximum for their team.
- By design, the APR will be a four-year rolling compilation of rates. This program started in 2003, so we are currently in the fourth year. What is provided today in the package is three years worth of data. With the 2006-2007 year, that will be the fourth year, and from there forward, it will be a rolling rate.
- General comment by Jim Weaver: across the country, it has taken some time for this new system of measurement to get the attention of coaches. It was also unclear how the NCAA was going to use it and move forward with it. But this has changed in terms of awareness, attention, and consequences to this measurement system.
- 925 is the threshold – this equates to a 50% federal graduation rate. For a team to incur contemporaneous penalties, you have to be both below a 925 and have a(n) individual(s) be 0 for 2.
- None of our sports after three years will be subject to contemporaneous penalties.
- At the beginning of Fall semester, we had two sports that were required to have an APR improvement plan (baseball and men's soccer).

- Now that these more recent data are available, these two programs are moving the right direction.
- The NCAA rules for continuing eligibility are: every semester an athlete has to pass a minimum of 6 hours during each semester and a minimum of 18 during each year. And as a freshmen, it is 24 hours for the first year including summer. After sophomore year, have to have completed 40% of your degree, etc. The idea is that you'll always be within a five year window of completing your degree.
- This system forces coaches to do recruiting even more systematically – there is a higher risk of loss of scholarship if you just award scholarships just for the sake of filling up a roster or having practice players (where the risk would be that these players are not retained).
- Historical penalties will begin to be incurred for the “worst offenders” – there will not only be loss of scholarships (for 1 calendar year), but also loss of practice time (from 20 hours down to 10 hours for example).

### **NCAA Athletics Certification (Rosemary Goss)**

- The NCAA Athletics Certification process continues – the final report goes to NCAA May 1 and goes up on the web April 13.
- Our site visit will occur November 12-14. The chair of the site committee is the former president of the University of Tennessee (Dr. Joe Johnson).
- Final assessment will be February 2008.

### **Policy 1035(Rosemary Goss)**

- Policy 1035 that was discussed in the UAC a few months ago was approved by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. This policy will be included in the Student Handbook in the Fall and replaces information previously contained in the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP).

### **Questions for Athletic Director**

- Q: For years we heard the APR was coming and now we're dealing with it. Is there anything out there in the NCAA that people are talking about that you all are thinking about?
  - There are 2-3 presidential committees appointed related to fiscal responsibility. There is concern that athletic programs are spending too much in a “race” against other institutions. We were behind for a long time – other institutions have spent a lot more than we have.
  - We're involved with Christiansburg in a new swimming facility. It's our responsibility as administrators to invest in facilities so our athletes can have what they need to practice and compete. The athletic department will also build a practice basketball facility. We got questions about why we were not planning just to build a new coliseum. We don't need a new coliseum – what we really need is a practice facility. We also need facilities for wrestling and volleyball teams. On the ground floor of the new facility we're going to build a 10k square foot weight room, which will be designated for our Olympic sports.
  - Another issue is always academic enhancement – we're always to improve upon that.
- Q: Is there anything in the NCAA report that is sensitive that we need to be aware of when the site visit occurs?
  - Jim Weaver: I think we'll have plenty of time to digest the full report and answer that question in the Fall in preparation for the site visit. I don't think we have a major problem. I don't see anything that is going to stop us from getting certified. I think our approach could be a model.
  - Sharon McCloskey: I agree with that – for example, with regard to gender equity, I've worked on that part. We had a lot more in gender equity plan than we actually needed – we know a lot more about certification in this area now. Our meeting schedule, etc. – everything in this is so organized.
  - Jim Weaver: If I had to pick an area where we have the most to do is the area of diversity. We've tried to do our best but we haven't done some of the documentation that some people thought we should. That is an area where we're probably the most vulnerable – but not to the extent of not getting certified.

- Rosemary Goss: we've also been having each committee identify internal things we want to work on, and some of those will come back to this committee. There will be some things that the sub-committees will need to ask for this committee's help.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Jessica Botzum has been named one of the Skelton Award recipients – awards student athletes who have achieved excellence in athletics and academics. She was also named to the 2007 Homecoming Court, along with Brian Collier.
- Student Athlete Academic Summit will focus on the NCAA Certification Process, May 17.
- Women's lacrosse coach, Katrina Silva, will speak at next meeting.
- Next committee meeting date: May 3.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

## University Athletic Committee

May 3, 2007

Bowman Room

**Members Present:** Susan Anderson, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, David Lowe, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Pleasant, Dixie Watts Reeves, Norrine Bailey Spencer, Ken Stanton, Sarah Thomas, Jim Weaver.

**Members Absent:** Jessica Botzum, Candi Clemenz, Sam Easterling, Thomas Giffin, Zenobia Hikes, Steve McMullin, Jesse Richardson, Larry Taylor, Eileen Van Aken, Sarah Thomas.

**Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton,.

**Guest Present:** Megan Armbruster, Director of Athletics Student Life, Chris Helms, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA, Kratrina Silva, Head Coach Women's Lacrosse.

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Administrative Assistant, Athletic Department.

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35.

Rosemary commented on the tragic event of April 16th and commended Jim Weaver and the Athletic Department for canceling the Spring Game and then continuing forward with Baseball, Softball and Lacrosse. Rosemary also commented on the All Sports Banquet that honors student athletes each year in the areas of: community service, academics, strength and conditioning, and athletic achievement

Rosemary thanked Noreen Bailey Spencer on the articles that she forwarded to UAC members today about academic progress around the country.

The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes for the April meeting were approved.

### BUSINESS

#### **Coach's Perspective: Lacrosse (Katrina Silva)**

Sharon McCloskey introduced coach Silva. Katrina was an assistant coach in Virginia Tech's Lacrosse program before going to Roanoke College and then to Colgate for seven years. She just completed her first season as Head Coach at Virginia Tech. Katrina stated that she fell in love with Virginia Tech 10 years ago when she was an assistant coach and is happy to be back. She stated that we are going to change the face of Lacrosse here at Virginia Tech. She made the following comments. We had a tough spring going 5 and 12. The things that we learned about ourselves this year can not be measured in wins and losses. Our Lacrosse women are young, bright and vibrant and handle adversity better than can be imagined. It is a joy to work with them. Our team has a 3.3 GPA and will be even higher this semester. The reason they are here is to learn and become ambassadors for Virginia Tech around the world. They learn that they can work hard and succeed. We do community services as a team. This year we were partners with a Local Elementary School. I really encourage them to do community services through the Office of Student Life. To be involved in their classes and community, to be ambassadors of the lacrosse team, Virginia Tech and be good citizens is what we strive for.

Lacrosse in the ACC is very difficult. We play at the highest level. Number two through five in the country in lacrosse are ACC schools. We need to find our first ACC win to get some confidence. We played Maryland

the number 2 team after the tragedy here at Virginia Tech and they presented the Hokie Sprit Fund with a check for \$4,000.00 and gave our girls T-Shirts before the game that said Turtles support Hokies and the word Strength on the back.

### **Gender Equity Report (Sharon McCloskey)**

This year we went through a total review of all 13 areas.

- Passed with flying colors--less than 1% difference in participation rates between women and men.
- Financial Aid--there was a 1.9% difference. More to women than to men. More out of state being awarded to women than men. Non discriminatory reason as more men on football are in-state and women's teams have more out-of-state members.
- Equipment and supplies were rated good to excellent by most head coaches.
- Scheduling games and practice times were considered equivalent.
- Tutoring and assignments were considered equivalent.
- Coach positions were equal.
- Minor details will be taken care of this summer in the renovation of locker rooms and repairs. They recommended that the softball field get lights and we are already working on that.
- We had one area with an uncertified trainer. That trainer has taken the test but had not received a grade. Last time we were told we need one more full time certified trainer to handle soccer in the fall and softball in the spring. We have that in place now.
- Per diem is OK
- Publicity was rated as excellent, and noted that he had not seen another school better than Virginia Tech in marketing and promotions.
- Availability of coaches in recruiting is equivalent.
- Recruitment funding: two coaches thought it might be a problem but they were new coaches so he did not consider it an issue.
- One issue he did bring up was courtesy cars and Jim has already addressed that and it will be taken care of July 1. Coaches will either receive courtesy car or stipend.
- Office space is due to be increased as the old office space that Chris Helms's area occupied in Cassell is due to be renovated this summer and made available to assistance coaches.
- Most of our men's teams want additional slots on their teams, and we have had to put a cap on men's sports because JV football counts twice. We will be carrying more in Women's Soccer, Softball and Women's Track Teams.
- David Lowe from the UAC committee participated in the exit interview.

### **Hokie Club Update (Lu Merrit)**

#### **(Handout)**

- Annual giving is ahead of last year, 9 M goes to pay the scholarship bill and operate our office.
- Capital Projects
- Basketball Practice Facility already received \$954,175
- Lane Stadium \$1,723,461
  - Club Seats & Suites \$1,894,180
  - We waived this fee last year because of construction delays.
- Future Designation \$656,196
  - Most will go to facilities, some to endowment.
- River Course Renovations, we were asked to raise 4M for a club house and we have done that, this is some of the payments for that
- Merryman Center about paid off.
- Basketball practice facility has pledges totaling 6M. We were asked to raise 11.6M. We have 1.4M in future designation account that will go to facilities and endowment.

- We have half million already pledged for the new field house and we do not even have drawing or information.
- Membership is down slightly in our \$100 new donor area since there is not a lot to offer \$100 donors.
- Higher giving levels all growing
- In the Atlantic Coast Conference we share our fund raising results. University of Virginia led the way with the John Paul Jones Center with 130 M. Virginia Tech was fourth and would have been second had we had the receipts for the club seats & suites.
- Virginia Tech was number one in the ACC in the Annual Fund and ranked third in total cash received for capital projects.
- We ranked sixth in Endowment gifts, 32M, we use earnings to pay a portion of the scholarship bill.
- We compete very well in the ACC in fund raising. Jim has asked his coaches to strive to be in the top third and that is what we try to do as well. We have the second smallest staff in the conference. Only two schools do not have capital projects underway in the ACC.

### **NCAA Athletics Certification (Rosemary Goss)**

- The NCAA Athletics Certification process continues – the final report was to be sent to NCAA May 1 but we received an extension after the April 16 tragedy. It will be submitted in two weeks.
- Our site visit will occur November 12-14.

### **Questions for Athletic Director**

Athletic director, Jim Weaver, shared some of the support from our athletic friends after the April 16 tragedy.

- Miami gave a check for \$10,000 at the opening baseball series after April 16th. They also gave us \$1,400 more from their parents association.
- Maryland parents gave at Lacrosse and Maryland gave a banner and wore our colors
- East Carolina has stated that they will present us with a check at the opening football game for \$100,000.
- Frank Beamer and Del Curry won the Chick fil-A coach alumni golf tournament and donated the winnings of \$100,000. CBS was filming, it will be shown Christmas Day.

*Why so few track meets here?* We host indoors because we have the facilities. Our outdoor people would rather perform in warmer climates. We do not have the seating capacity.

*Do we have any Olympic hopeful for next year?* We have three or four. We do not do a lot to support them in the off season because we can not. We do have some that want to be here for summer school and train. They train in clubs in their respective home areas.

### **Announcements**

Most of you have received the e-mail that the May 17 student athlete summit has been cancelled.

Rosemary thanked members that served on the committee this year.

If you have agenda items for the fall, please send Rosemary an e-mail.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.