

**University Athletic Committee**  
**September 20, 2007**  
**Bowman Room**

- Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Hap Bonham, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Kelsey Hoffman, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, Adam Kress, Mary Ann Lewis, Margarita McGrath, Steve McMullin, Scott Pleasant, Ken Stanton, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.
- Members Absent:** Bryan Collier, Sam Easterling, David Lowe, Lu Merritt.
- Representatives:** Alex White for Leon Geyer, Alan Glick for Zenobia Hikes, Greg Jenkins for John Maher, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton.
- Guest Present:** Chris Helms, Director for SAASS, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA.
- Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

**I. Call to Order**

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35. Rosemary reviewed and distributed the charge to the committee, which was written in 1988. She also explained the typical role of this committee. Jim Weaver reminded the committee our student athletic academic support services reports to the Provost's office and not to the Athletic Director.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as presented.

**III. Approval of Minutes—May 2007**

Minutes for the May 2007 meeting were approved.

**BUSINESS**

**IV. Welcome, introductions and committee charge (Rosemary Goss) Handout**

**V. Future meeting schedule for fall semester (Rosemary Goss)**

- October 11 (**Note change of date**)
- November 28

**VI. NCAA Athletics Certification Self-Study (Jon Jaudon) Handout**

- Will have a site visit on November 12-14 from NCAA certification team; this team would like to meet with the Athletics Committee from 2:30-3:00 on Tuesday November 13
- Rosemary to clarify with Natalie whether they would like to meet with all members including ex-officio members.
- NCAA certification is a ten-year review – we last did this in 1998. Have been working on this process since May 2006. Hope to conclude in next 6-8 months with final certification.
- This review encompasses three areas of intercollegiate athletics: rules compliance, academic integrity, equity and student well-being.

- Have three sub-committees preparing review in each of these areas; have submitted a self-study report to NCAA. They have reviewed this self-study and have shared initial findings with us. We recently met with Minnis Ridenour, who is chairing this entire effort, and the sub committee chairs. We are working on preparing responses to initial findings. Submitting these responses to NCAA on October 26.
- The outcome will be: certify completely, certify with conditions, or not certify. We should find out the outcome in February 2008.
- There are at least 100 people involved in this effort. There has been an editor and four graduate students working on the self-study. The self-study document has to be in a specific format.
- Jim Weaver commented about the thousands of person-hours (and cost) to become certified; there are questions as to whether it is cost effective.
- Q: what happens if we do not get certified? Jim Weaver: they give you a timetable to respond to the findings. Resubmit in order to get certified. I will be extremely disappointed if we do not get certified. The effort has been very thorough and outstanding.
- Q: Do we know what the onsite team will expect? Might be worthwhile to extract a section of the report for the UAC to review before the onsite meeting.
- Q: How often do universities go through this process? Every 10 years.

#### VII. Student Athlete Academic Support Services Review (David Ford) Handout

- David Ford is the chair of the Academic Integrity Sub-Committee.
- We learned that we need to have in place a formal process for a three-year program review for Student Athlete Academic Support Services (directed by Chris Helms). We had done a study on SAASS in 2003, which was a review of the SAASS program and a benchmarking study. We have used that study to improve the SAASS program over the last three years. In order to be in compliance, we wrote an improvement plan that stated we would formalize this process in 2007-8 and begin a three-year cycle. That seemed appropriate to the Steering Committee.
- When NCAA came back with their initial findings, they stated that they would like to have this study done by December 14, 2007.
- David is sharing a change to that initial improvement plan to put us in compliance, so that when the site team comes, we will have conducted this review.
- Refer to handout distributed by David Ford:
  - There are six documents listed here (under Process section) relating to review of the SAASS program.
  - The sub-committee and the overall Steering Committee has recommended that we bring to the UAC a suggestion to convene a new sub-committee to review these documents (separate from the Academic Integrity sub-committee).
  - If we did not do this, we would not be in full compliance when the onsite team comes. We would otherwise have this review hanging out there in order to be certified. Since we have this documentation (listed on the handout), we thought we should move forward with this. This way, we will be in compliance when the onsite team comes in November.
  - There is a timetable in the handout as well
- Mary Ann Lewis, Larry Killough, Rosemary Goss, Hap Bonham, and David Ford (who will chair) will be on this sub-committee.
- The UAC agreed that the approach suggested by David Ford should be adopted.
- This sub-committee will bring a report to the UAC at the October 11, 2007 meeting.

#### VIII. Team Schedules and Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon) Handout

- Refer to handout distributed by Jon Jaudon on missed classes expected for students based on the fall and spring competitive schedule.

- The policy does not want any single student to miss more than 9 classes. We are in compliance with the policy with the exception of Golf in the spring. The numbers listed are the maximum theoretically possible for an athlete to miss, although extremely unlikely for more than 1-2 athletes (due to the group of athletes taken to tournaments, athletes qualifying, etc.).
- Q: How concerned are we about the 1-2 golfers who would miss more than 9 days? Jim Weaver: if you look at the GPA of these students, you'll see it's a not an issue. It's the nature of this sport that many tournaments are typically during the week (vs. on weekends). The country clubs hosting these tournaments are not willing to give up weekend revenue.
- Q: Is it a practice of all coaches to make sure the athletes notify their professors on the days missed for all sports? We tell students it's their responsibility. How they carry that out varies based on each student's willingness to carry out that responsibility. We tell them to let SAASS know if there is a problem; if the student has failed to notify their professors, then we side with the faculty every time.
- The UAC **accepts the report** provided by Jon Jaudon on team schedule and missed class (this motion was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved).

#### IX. Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Chris Helms) Handout

- At the beginning of each academic semester Chris Helms reports to the UAC on student academic performance.
- As we all know the spring 2007 was unlike any other semester. 70% of athletes achieved 3.0 or better in spring – this is unprecedented. Fall 2006 was also very strong.
- This is the first occasion where the average team semester GPA and cumulative GPA was above 3.0.
- 18 of our 21 teams achieved a 3.0 or better in spring.
- Top GPA's: tennis (men) and tennis (women)
- We had two Academic All-American athletes last year – one from track and one from softball.
- We had six student athletes with a cumulative GPA less than 2.0.
- The handout also includes historical data on spring semesters the last 8 years.

#### X. Graduation Rates 2006-2007 (Chris Helms) Handout

- At beginning of each year, also present data on graduation rates.
- APR (Academic Progress Rate) – gives a current picture of how student athletes are doing.
- The way the NCAA reports this is by sports categories (baseball, etc.) (refer to handout).
- In the columns, you see the year in which the data are reported and the year in which that cohort of students began at VT (e.g., “2003 and 1996-1997”).
- The general student population has a graduation rate of 79% - this is reported by Institutional Research.
- If a student transfers to another university and graduates from there, they do not count in our graduation rate.
- On men's basketball, it was 0% for a few years. Those students transferred to other institutions.
- Later this year when Chris reports data on GSR (graduation success rate) it takes into account other factors that Fed Grad Rates do not. It factors in students that transfer in as well as out.
- Whenever a student leaves, we do work with them to try to get them to come back and finish up their degree, regardless of whether it is within the six year window.
- David Ford commented that the results for graduation rates indicate the success of SAASS program, but also the coach's emphasis in recruiting and retaining student-athletes (not just athletes).
- Q: Do these categories reflect those defined by NCAA? Yes.

## XI. Questions for the Athletic Director

Jim Weaver

- Comment: There has been some good publicity about the first game and how the people from ECU were treated. Jim Weaver: We have had a lot of letters from ECU fans about their experiences. We started four years ago our Hokies Respect campaign. I think it has made a difference. I received two emails today from Ohio University fans and how positive their experience was, and how they were treated.
- Jim Weaver shared that VT has confirmed March 18 as the date for the New York Yankees to come here and play our baseball team. This should be a very exciting opportunity for our program. There will be a release out on this next week. It will be played at our baseball stadium. We had options to play in Richmond and in Salem but the game is for the community and for the students. Our field was rebuilt two years ago with a new drainage system and it's appropriate enough. We will use wood bats that day, as will the Yankees. There are some places in NY that have outlawed the use of aluminum bats altogether – there is a trend going in this direction.
  - Q: How will ticketing work? We don't know yet, we've been focusing on getting this on the calendar. A lot of donors away from Blacksburg would like to come. There was a suggestion to televise it; another suggestion was to allow one group in for batting practice and a different group for the game. The capacity of the field is 1350, although we'll put some temporary seats in. We had some plans to add seating for both the baseball and softball fields.
- Comment from Ken Stanton: Would like to congratulate you on the first game – have had a lot of positive feedback from students. Would like to raise the issue of the “stick-it-in” cheer. We have results of an informal survey (see handout distributed). Don't know how this decision could be made without a broader poll of people. Both the graduate and undergraduate student body are spending a lot of time on this.
  - JW point 1: This came up 2-3 years ago; we tried to eliminate the body gestures that accompanied the cheer (this is more of the problem). I told the cheerleaders and the band that if that came back, that we would eliminate the cheer. It was not a quick decision. Point 2: There was an incident last year at the Boston College game during a timeout that led to a great deal of negative publicity – did not want this type of publicity to occur for this issue as well. Point 3: 17,000 of the 65,000 game attendees are students, the rest are alumni which provided negative feedback.
- Q: What about the problem of alcohol during the game? That seems to be a much bigger problem than this cheer. Q: We have been working on this for a long time. We do throw out some fans for this, but we cannot search everyone everywhere for alcohol.
- Q: On the Let's Go Hokies cheer – it has not gone anywhere (it was not decided to eliminate this cheer). The band director had suggestions to use “We are Virginia Tech” to honor the shooting victims and tried it out. The Let's Go Hokies cheer will be present at the next game.

## Announcements

### XII. Request for Future Agenda Items (Rosemary Goss)

- Rosemary has as a future agenda item to hear more information about facilities.
- Rosemary asked UAC members to provide input on future agenda items, including coaches. It might also be interesting to have Drew Weaver come in to share some of his experiences and recent successes.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

**University Athletic Committee**  
**October 11, 2007**  
**Bowman Room**

- Members Present:** Hap Bonham, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, Adam Kress, Mary Ann Lewis, David Lowe, John Maher, Margarita McGrath, Steve McMullin, Scott Pleasant, Dwight Shelton, Ken Stanton, Eileen Van Aken, Lu Merritt, Jim Weaver.
- Members Absent:** Susan Anderson, Bryan Collier, Kelsey Hoffman.
- Representatives:** Alex White for Leon Geyer, Richard Ferraro for Zenobia Hikes
- Guest Present:** Tom Gabbard, Associate Athletic Director, Internal Affairs, Chris Helms, Director for SAASS, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, David Kniola, GA – Office of Provost, Patricia Lovett, Assistant Director Student Life Athletics, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA.
- Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes for the September 20, 2007 meeting.

**BUSINESS**

**NCAA Athletics Certification Self-Study (Rosemary Goss)**

- In the last meeting of this committee, Rosemary informed the UAC that the Peer Review Committee would be on campus in November 2007 and wants to meet with this committee for 30 minutes. Since we have many new members, Rosemary has contacted Natalie Hart, who is working on NCAA Certification and asked if she had any idea what the committee wanted to meet with the UAC Committee about. She said that they probably want to know if UAC has been kept informed of what was going on with the self study process.
- There is a steering committee meeting next Thursday. There are some summary reports that the steering committee will be taking a look at next week. Rosemary will ask Natalie to share with the UAC, so that you will have a little more feel of what is going on before meeting with the NCAA.

**Student Athlete Academic Support Services Review (David Ford)**

Handout distributed by email prior to the meeting and at the meeting.

- Last meeting the UAC formed a subcommittee consisting of the following members:
  1. David Ford, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
  2. Rosemary Goss, Professor, Apparel, Housing & Resource Management
  3. Larry Killough, Professor, Accounting and Information Systems
  4. Mary Ann Lewis, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
  5. Thirwall "Hap" Bonham, Professor, Management.
- David Ford presented the SAASS 3-Year review plan and summary of the subcommittee report that concluded that SAASS was a strong and viable organization executing services and

programs for student-athletes with utmost integrity. Five recommendations were submitted. (refer to handout).

1. Assessment practices of SAASS should be formalized with The VT Office of Academic Assessment to determine appropriate data points and create a comprehensive assessment plan.
  2. The UAC is complementary of the intended effect of the Transitions course.
  3. The SAASS should consider adding a non-credit program for student-athletes in their junior/senior years of study (issues pertinent to life after college)
  4. Communication between SAASS staff and student-athletes is critical
  5. Engage SAASS staff in the larger university community.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve this report and to distribute it to the NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification
  - Discussion:
    - Comment on recommendation #3 might be useful for all students in the university, not just student athletes.
    - Many Colleges have something analogous to this – would there be value in coalescing this into something that is university-wide? This might be interesting to explore. The sub-committee wanted to focus on not forgetting about the students when they leave VT; we also consider their experience during their freshmen year.
  - **Approved** and forwarded to the Steering Committee for review next Thursday.

A process for this review was discussed. From the last 10-year NCAA Review (in 1998) the UAC was charged with conducting a gender equity review and a rules compliance review. Rosemary requested that she would like to have a little more of the procedure established so that the chair has all this written down as to when these reports are due and what is going to be done.

NCAA looks at three areas: academic integrity, governance and rules compliance, and equity and student-athlete well-being. The UAC would set up three sub-committees to review these areas each year.

1. Academic Integrity would continue to do the Student Athlete Academic Support Services Review.
2. Under the Governance and Rules Compliance we would use our current Governance and Rules Compliance Review. This is an annual report from January through December. This report is approved at the UAC meeting in December and then sent to the president of the university. It covers the previous academic year.
3. The Gender Equity Review would be conducted under Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being.

As the committees are put together, make sure to look at the terms of the people serving on the University Athletics Committee so there is continuity and not all sub-committee members moving off UAC at the same time

We do need to appoint a committee to do Governance and Rules Compliance for this year; Tim Parker is ex officio member. This year we are supposed to look at Financial Aid and Recruiting as a focus area since eligibility is being reviewed by internal audit,

For those of you who are new this year on the UAC, Tim Parker, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, is our ex officio in this area. He works with NCAA compliance on behalf of the Virginia Tech Athletic Department. Historically we have attached a chart of every violation that happened during the academic year under review to the compliance report. Tim works with this

committee as an Ex officio and Larry Killough as the facility representative to the NCAA. Steve McMullen; Mike Dane; Alex White will serve on the committee; Rosemary will assist the committee.

## **Facilities Update (Tom Gabbard)**

(Handout distributed)

### **Projects completed since last year's report:**

1. Softball field lighting completed May 2007
  - 100 candle power on infield and 70 on outfield
  - well within the NCAA limits
  - Musco lighting system
    - Scot Thomas, Head Softball Coach had a night practice and called to say the lighting was very good but pointed out Moseley Practice field lights are in the center fielders eyes and would have to be off during a softball game.
2. Additional lighting on Moseley practice field facility
  - The temporary light poles used for the construction of the west side were saved and reused to light Mosley.
  - These are Hubble Lights.
  - Opens up the practice fields for night time practice time for both men and women's soccer and lacrosse. With this many teams and players we run into scheduling conflicts and this should help.
3. Lane Stadium Hall of Fame/Memorabilia Hall
  - Bottom Floor center of West Side Lane Stadium.
  - First week in November it will be open to the public.
  - There are a few more artifacts and banners that need to go in there. We'd like to leave coaches a little more time as their season goes on to finish up their areas and then we will put in the final pieces of glass to secure the rest of the cabinets
  - All sports are represented – first time we've been able to have all sports consolidated in one area. One area is dedicated to the recognition of different Colleges on campus.
  - Academic All Americans
  - Hall of Fame
  - Hokie Bird
  - Also a tribute to the fans.
  - Designed by DJS Design out of Charlotte and the exhibit company that put it all together is 1220 from Nashville TN.
4. Basketball Media Room/Post game interview area
  - We had been using one of our meeting rooms for post-game interviews.
    - We now have a press work area and press conference area for post-game. It's the old heat lab location.
  - This will be for basketball or for administrative press conferences.
5. Renovation of two Lane Stadium bathrooms
  - This will be an ongoing project until all 40 restrooms are restored. Some of the 40 are as old as Lane Stadium.
  - Plan is to do them all.
  - Two were done this summer sections 2 & 4 because North end zone does not have restrooms and section 2 & 4 are the oldest restrooms closest to them.
  - New fixtures, flooring, lights, toilets and painting.
  - Completed phase three of Cassell ambulatory renovation.
  - North side and South side of Cassell now conforms with rest of upgrades we've done in the last few years.

- Created a new gift store, new first aid station, some more concession areas. We carved out two family ADA restrooms. This will help for basketball and also for graduation.

**Following projects are planned or are ongoing at this time:**

1. Soccer/Lacrosse Game Operations Building and hanging banners.
  - We have hung banners on the back of the stadium.
  - Top of stadium, we have a game operations booth coming to us that will sit on top of the high part of the bleachers. It's four times bigger than the one we have now.
  - Two radio booths, a video booth, and usual game operations booth.
  - ACC does a lot of video streaming now. Our Olympic sports are now reachable by video streaming. We've been able to use this for camera locations.
2. Office renovation of previous academic advising area on third floor of Cassell.
  - Previous academic area is being renovated now. It's about 6,000 square feet.
  - When we moved Student Athletic Academic Support Services to West Stadium, we tripled square footage to 19,000 square feet.
  - Creating space for office suites for Olympic sports (Lacrosse, Men & Women's Soccer, Volleyball). Each coach and assistant coach will have their own office and will no longer have to share offices.
  - Press dining will continue in Monogram Room but will double as a team meeting room.
  - Student Life has already been moved to a suite of offices in one of former academic areas.
3. Infrastructure work in Cassell and Jamerson both electrical and plumbing.
  - The building is a 40-year old building and electrical and plumbing needs to be replaced.
  - We have done a plumbing, HVAC, and electrical study.
  - This will be long-term expensive project; first step of project we're focusing on electrical and plumbing. Basketball has already been done in July, we'll shut down the building for four days and completely re-do electrical room and upgrade for future use.
  - Phase 1 of the plumbing is ready to begin. Working on galvanized pipes.
  - In addition to doing the renovation of academic offices, we're putting sufficient duct work in, so that when we're ready to upgrade A/C system, all the new duct work will be sized for the turnover so we can hook it up to the new ducts.
  - This will be 2-3 year project, costing several million dollars. We won't see the results but will feel them.
4. New addition to softball field bleachers.
  - We have an opportunity to host NCAA regional and super regional events and need more seating and amenities.
  - We're going to increase the capacity – the bleacher system has been ordered and will arrive in December. We'll try to get it up before first softball game. Increase capacity to over 1,000 people and have two additional press boxes.
  - We will be aggressive in hosing tournaments if we are eligible.
  - One of the issues was the height of the dugouts – we were able to lower them just a little without having to demolish them.
  - We built restrooms on the softball side on the soccer facility. New walkway, landscaping, steps etc. Softball will have access to these, and will be ADA-compliant. We won't need to use portable toilets for softball games.
5. New addition to baseball left field/third base side terrace.
  - Fans seem to enjoy sitting on the hill near third base on a blanket. We'll create a series of terraces 7 feet wide on that third base side--something similar to outdoor theatres. This allows us to increase capacity by at least 1000. It also blends with horticulture garden, and also keeps fans who like this way of watching the games happy.



6. New hitting facility
  - This will be an indoor facility, closer to the Rector Field House, outside the left field out field line.
    1. This facility will take the pressure of the Rector Field House. When we put indoor track into the field house, we have a tendency during the week to roll up the floor and put batting cages inside the track. This facility will allow us to have permanent indoor hitting facility, with pitching mounds as well. We can also have workouts during the winter.
  - There will also be band storage so that we can avoid using tractor trailers for storing instruments. We will build band storage space and take the tractor trailers out of there.
7. New basketball practice facility.
  - This is scheduled to break ground in March 2008, 15 month project.
  - Complete late summer 2009.
  - Location is the parking lot beside Cassell and the tennis facility.
  - It will be about 49,000 square feet, and have two practice courts.
  - All women's and men's basketball administrative offices
  - 2 new locker rooms, team lounges, team classrooms, equipment room, 3,500 square foot strength facility for basketball programs and new training facility for basketball programs.
  - This allows us to be more competitive from a facility standpoint in ACC
  - The building will be Hokie stone. The architect has been great in how they've oriented the building. It will blend in great with the Washington Street front.
    1. Athletics encroached on recreational sports by taking the tennis facilities on Washington Street. So Athletics will build six more courts for recreational sports, and we'll put them by our six outdoor varsity courts. It gives athletics and recreational sports a win - win. The current recreational sports outdoor courts are not in shape for competitive sports. By building 6 NCAA regulation courts the recreational sports club team can host some team events.
  - We will take the old space in Merryman Center that women's basketball occupied and expand our video capability with a studio and space to consolidate equipment.
  - The men's basketball offices currently near football offices. We will be able to expand our football facility and have some larger offices by knocking out walls (needed for recruiting when meeting with recruits and families).
  - Also, when basketball moves to their new facility, the back courts can become a permanent facility for volleyball practice facility and one for wrestling facility.

### **Future Capital Project**

- New field house has been authorized by the board of visitors.
- It will allow the indoor track to be permanently in the Rector Field house saving the Athletics Department warehouse rental cost of \$40,000 a year and wear on the track by not having to take apart and put back together.

### **Questions:** What is involvement in the swimming facility being built in Christiansburg?

- Aquatic center will be located just behind the Kroger in Christiansburg on 460.
- The infrastructure has been completed by the Town of Christiansburg. Footers are being laid now. The pool construction folks are there with Lionberger construction who is overseeing the entire project.
- It's a 16.5 million dollar project with Virginia Tech Athletics contributions totaling \$5 million.
- The contract calls for Virginia Tech Athletics to have morning and afternoon practice times as well as 10 weekends a year at our choosing to host ACC meets as well as ACC regional diving meets.
- There will be turning lanes coming from both directions and all traffic patterns they're creating will allow for bus transportation to get in and turn around.

- We will have our own separate Virginia Tech locker rooms for our Men and Women teams located within the facilities.
- We will be allowed to decorate and make suggestions that will make it a Virginia Tech facility by look and design as well as Christiansburg High School as they will be using that facility as well.
- We hope to be in it in January 2009—but that is a very fluid target date.
- Our \$5 million is based on 20 years of commitment and 25 years of use in the contract. The last 5 years has no financial commitment and we will renegotiate at that time. It's a real win-win for both parties.
- This has generated increased interest in our swimming and diving programs that we have never had before.
- This facility will have 50 meters of pool as well as a diving tower that goes to 10 meters and will put Virginia Tech as one of two facilities within the ACC footprint that meet ACC diving standards and can do all that the ACC demands to host ACC meets as well as regional diving meets.
- We have hosted on Virginia Tech campus this fall the number one male and the number one and two female diving recruits in the country and Head Coach Skinner is at a home with the number one breast stroker in the country. We would not be able to do this without this facility. Both men's and women's programs will increase in stature.
- Mr. Weaver stated that Head Coach Ned Skinner has done more with less than any coach he has seen in his 41 years in athletics. He has done a remarkable job for this university.
- Last year for the first time ever we fully funded our men's swimming and diving programs.
- Virginia Tech had two young ladies represent us at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships and both were 2 time All Americans, Sara Smith and Jessica Botzum.
- We were 22 in the country with these two young ladies and are expecting to be higher as we recruit more top notch athletes.

Comment from Jim Weaver:

- We are diligently trying to have a very strong broad-based program. We're not just about football. Football is the engine that drives the train, but we are trying to help every one of the 21 teams so they can be successful in the ACC.
- When you have success in this conference then you become a national program because the ACC is a national conference.
- If you finish in the top of this conference then you have the ability to be a top 10 or 20 caliber team in anything that we do.
- The biggest factor that has allowed us to be more broader-based is our entry into the ACC because we get consistent revenue sharing on an annual basis that we never had previously.
- The largest revenue we ever received from the Big East was 5.1 million and that was largely due to expenses for the Bowl Game that year.
- We are in the 9.5 million dollar mark on an annual basis in revenue distribution with ACC.
- We have been able to reinvest out money into facilities for Olympic Sports, to get our scholarships levels up, to help our coach's salaries, operational budgets, recruiting budgets, etc.
- Our coaches have been able to take advantage of the resources that we have been able to give them.
- We also received the Nike contract that started July 1, 2007 for eight years worth 9.7 million dollars.
- We did not take any of their budget money for equipment from them as well as travel money upon moving into the ACC.

- The Coaches have that money to reinvest in their programs as they see fit. We're very pleased with the way things have unfolded since we've entered the ACC.

Q: Have travel expenses been reduced?

R: Absolutely. We were spending almost all of our money getting the teams to the sites. We use to have to travel by airplane and now we are able to use buses, but still have to fly to Miami, Boston College, and Florida State.

Comment: We do a gender equity study every two years – and the last time we did this, the softball field lighting was one of the issues noted. So these facility upgrades come from the studies we do.

Comment: Rosemary noted that Jon Jaudon brought copies of the Student Athlete planner for the committee members. There is a lot of policy information in this as well, including Policy 1035 (used to be called "Comprehensive Action Plan"). The Principles of Community were added to the back of the planner.

Comment: Rosemary shared an article that was written by an Ohio University fan, that has been circulating. Rosemary read some excerpts from the article.

Comment: David Lowe stated that the Athletics Department under Jim Weaver has done a wonderful job in this area and he is continuing to work with them. The Alumni Association has received multiple letters stating what Rosemary read in the article published in the newspaper. On behalf of the Alumni Association, David Lowe commended Jim Weaver, Tim East as chair and the leadership of the Athletic Department for taking this and creating a better image for college athletics around the country.

Comment: whatever they are doing in the volleyball program, is working well. Attendance has been high and performance has been strong. Coach Riley is in his second year and doing a wonderful job for us.

## **Announcements**

### **Miscellaneous (Rosemary Goss)**

- The UAC is meeting with the visiting evaluation team from NCAA is Tuesday, November 13, 2:30-3:00 at The Inn at Virginia Tech.
- When the email is sent out, please reply to Rosemary if you cannot make it and briefly indicate why.
- Next meeting is Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

### **Request for Future Agenda Items (Rosemary Goss)**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

**University Athletics Committee**  
**November 28, 2007**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Center**

**Members Present:** Hap Bonham, Richard Cothren, Rosemary Goss, Kelsey Hoffman, Adam Kress, Mary Ann Lewis, David Lowe, John Maher, Scott Pleasant, Ken Stanton, Eileen Van Aken, Lu Merritt, Jim Weaver.

**Members Absent:** Susan Anderson, Bryan Collier, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Steve McMullin, David Ford.

**Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Alex White for Leon Geyer, Chris Wise for Zenobia Hikes

**Guest Present:** Patricia Lovett, Assistant Director Student Life Athletics, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA; Drew Weaver, Student-Athlete

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes for the October 11, 2007 meeting.

**Business**

**Student Athlete's Perspective:** Drew Weaver

- Rosemary Goss introduced Drew Weaver, member of the Virginia Tech Golf Team and the winner of the British Amateur and asked Drew to talk about what life is like as a student athlete, his experience in England, and something about his upcoming experience at the Master's.
  - Drew stated that he had a great summer and that he was very fortunate to be able to play in and win the British Amateur.
  - Drew stated he was very proud to represent Virginia Tech. The reporters talked to him about golf, but turned to the tragedy that happened at Virginia Tech on April 16. Drew wanted to make sure that the media got the right information about how positive the University was and how well they had handled things.
- Q. What has been one of your biggest challenges being a student athlete?
- A. Time management. Your senior year in high school you do not realize how demanding college will be on you time. Coaches want time, academics take time and there is not much spare time. You need to learn how to balance things. Thankfully I was able to quickly figure out when to do certain things.

Rosemary Goss stated that there was an issue that came up in the self study that we need to have a mechanism in place that would encourage or almost force our student-athletes to be more involved in campus activities, student organizations and volunteer work. Jim Weaver expressed the concern that many of our student athletes have some real time constraints with what they are expected to do for their sport. Trying to keep up with their academics, particularly in the semester when their sport is traveling, is a real challenge. Drew said he could not agree more and that the office of student life offers the student-athlete volunteer work to give back to the community, but it is on a volunteer basis.

Q. What kind of comments would you like to give the faculty about student athletes in the classroom?

A. From a student perspective the only time it is really tough is when you talk to your teacher when you miss class and they are not overly forgiving. We really appreciate when teachers give us the opportunity to come in during office hours and go over the notes that were given. I have had a few teachers that if you miss an exam for team travel they will not let you make it up but add the percentage to the final exam. That is difficult, no one wants a final that will be ½ the grade when it is normally 20 or 25% of the grade. But overall my teachers are very helpful and understanding.

#### **NCAA Certification Self-Study Update (Rosemary Goss,)**

Rosemary thanked members of the committee who were able to meet with the evaluation team led by Dr. Joe Johnson, former University of Tennessee President.

- Overall, it appeared to be very positive during the site visit. Jim Weaver stated that this was also his view of the visit. It appeared they were most interested in verification of processes. Stated that he came away feeling cautiously optimistic.
- Sharon McCloskey reported that the exit interview seemed to be much more positive this cycle than the previous cycle. Nothing seemed to be a major situation that would cause us to not be certified.
- The NCAA committee meets in February, but they do not give us their response until April.

#### **Compliance Subcommittee Update (Alex White)**

- The subcommittee has met three times and has met with a number of individuals. We're on task to prepare and distribute the report in January prior to our next meeting.

#### **Letter to University of Virginia Athletics (Rosemary Goss)**

- Rosemary drafted a letter to send to the Department of Athletics at the University of Virginia commending them for a positive Virginia Tech fan experience during the recent Virginia Tech-UVA football game.
- There was a recommendation to send this to the Cavalier Daily, in addition to the Athletics Department.

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

- Opening comments: We're very proud of the way our football team has played in the stretch run. Frank and his staff have done an outstanding job of getting ready after a tough loss against Boston College and then keeping focus after the wins in November. We are one of two institutions in the country to have won 10 games in the regular season each of the last four years (not counting bowl games or league championship games). The only other team is USC. That's as high a compliment as you can pay a program to have that kind of consistency.
- What would you think if college football went into playoffs?
  - I'm anti-playoff. The BCS keeps in place all of the bowl games, creates the rewards for the people who have earned them. The primary objective of the BCS is to match the top two teams – everyone knows the criteria going into the season. Everyone has an equal chance. If we were in a playoff system, we would not get our fan base. You would play in a number of different locations. I do think ultimately that you might take top 10 teams in the BCS – seed them, then have them play. This would give us one more game. It would be somewhat of a playoff but would retain emphasis on the regular season.
  - A true playoff (of the top 16 teams) would not be logistically possible. The economics of it would not work out.
- How long is the ACC tied to Jacksonville for the football championship?
  - This is the last year of the arrangement.
  - There are three proposals in now, including Charlotte and Tampa. Charlotte would be the best in Jim Weaver's view – many of the ACC fans could go and return in one day to attend the game.
- What about the soccer tournament?
  - Tonight we host Cal Berkeley in soccer. If we win, it's dependent upon what Brown University does. We will play the winner of Brown vs. ODU. If ODU wins, it will be here. If Brown wins, it will be in Providence on Sunday.

### **Announcements**

Spring meetings will likely be held on Thursdays.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

**University Athletics Committee**  
**February 7, 2008**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Center**

- Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, David Ford, Leon Geyer, Rosemary Goss, Adam Kress, David Lowe, John Maher, Margarita McGrath, Scott Pleasant, Ken Stanton, Lu Merritt.
- Members Absent:** Hap Bonham, Bryan Collier, Sam Easterling, Kelsey Hoffman, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, Mary Ann Lewis, Steve McMullin, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.
- Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Chris Wise for Zenobia Hikes .
- Guest Present:** Jon Jaudon, Associate AD, Administration, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Chris Helms, Director of SAASS, Tim Parker, Assistant AD, Compliance.
- Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. Approved. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes for the November 27, 2007 meeting. Approved.

**Business**

- Rosemary welcomed Leon Geyer to the meeting because his teaching schedule prevented him from attending during fall semester.
- Rosemary also shared an article from *the Chronicle of Higher Education* about the increasing numbers of international students playing intercollegiate sports and another one from USA Today about graduation rates for football teams that were in bowl games. Virginia Tech was mentioned favorably.
- As chair, Rosemary attends the Hokie Club Board of Directors meetings twice a year. Very positive comments were made about the athletic academic program.
- Rosemary also introduced Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, and welcomed her to the meeting. Her position was created out of the NCAA review. She will monitor the progress of NCAA plans for improvement for the third cycle review. Natalie will be on all three sub committees that were established by the NCAA review for the University Athletic Committee. Natalie circulated the plans for improvement that she is charged to follow up to see that they are incorporated. Leon Geyer volunteered to help with

the initial set up of the Diversity Review Committee when Natalie requested a volunteer from the UAC committee..

### **Financial Aid Subcommittee Report (Steve McMullin)**

Hand Out Attached

- Steve was unable to be with us today due to the flu. Rosemary served on the committee and she commented that she had no idea the complexity of financial aid issues.
- The subcommittee met with and interviewed; Shauna Cobb, Compliance Director, some coaches and associated AD's for various sports, and people from the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.
- Football, Men's and Women's Basketball, Women's Tennis and Volleyball all have fully funded scholarships for student athletes.
- All the other sports are given a determined number of scholarships, and it is up to the coach how they are distributed.
- If a student-athlete gets an outside scholarship, the conditions of that particular scholarship determines if it counts against the sport or not.
- The coaches and compliance department must depend on the student-athlete to tell them of any outside scholarships that they receive.
- At some universities coaches put together packages depending on what the student will qualify for in federal and/or state aid. Some university's coaches only go after the very poor or very rich. Some states have programs where a B average student can go to a state university on state scholarship so all the athletic scholarship money can be used to bring in out-of-state student-athletes. This puts some of our programs at a disadvantage in recruiting.
- Jon Jaudon stated that we are working to fund each athletic scholarship offered at Virginia Tech to the out-of-state value. That would give our coaches the greatest flexibility in recruiting.
- Lu Merritt stated that the Athletic Fund is currently funding a percentage of the scholarships offered through 35 million in endowments and ideally he would like to have 135 million in the endowment to fund all athletic scholarships.
- NCAA only tracks the number of scholarships, not the amount of money spent for a scholarship.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report of the Compliance Committee's Financial Aid Report and send it to the President. Motion carried.

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

Handout

- 41 percent of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA.
- 40 percent of student athletes achieved a 3.0 or greater fall semester GPA.
- The average team cumulative GPA is 3.04. The best fall number we have seen.
- The average team semester GPA is a 2.95. This is the second best on record.
- Men's Tennis has the highest GPA for 2007 among men's teams.
- Women's Track has the highest GPA for 2007 among women's teams.
- 10 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA.



- 13 teams maintained a 3.0 or greater cumulative GPA.

Chris brought before the committee his need to find a permanent home for the transitions course for new student athletes that has been taught for 10 years. It is a 1 credit pass/fail class taught by one of Chris's staff. Without an academic sponsor, it will go away this fall.

Michael Dame congratulated Chris on his report and the work his office is doing with the student athletes as the majority when finished playing their sport are prepared to go and do something with the rest of their lives.

### **Announcements**

**Future meeting dates:**

March 13, April 10 (meeting will be Third Floor West Side), and May 6.

**Future Agenda Items:**

Would like to invite a member of the football coaching staff speak about recruitment.

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

**University Athletics Committee**  
**February 2008**

Members: Steve McMullin (chair), Rosemary Goss, Larry Killough, Alex White, Michael Dame

**Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the Rules Compliance Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee is to ensure that all individuals and organizations associated with university athletics are aware of and adhere to NCAA, ACC and university rules and regulations that govern them. The Rules Compliance Subcommittee has been commissioned to evaluate rules compliance in five key areas: rules education, monitoring recruiting activities, financial aid administration, eligibility certification, and the reporting of rules violations.

The charge of this subcommittee is to work in concert with the staff of Internal Audit and Management Services (IA&MS) to review the focus areas of the operations of the Department of Athletics and perform an independent review of areas not covered by those reviewed in the current year by IA&MS. This report focuses entirely on administration of financial aid to student-athletes.

Members of the subcommittee interviewed the following Athletics personnel:

- Tim Parker, Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance
- Shauna Cobb, Compliance Director
- Randy Butt, Sport Supervisor for Men's and Women's Tennis
- Peter Hughes, Head Baseball Coach
- Katrina Silva, Head Lacrosse Coach
- Tom Gabbard, Sport Supervisor for Men's Basketball, Men's and Women's Track, Men's and Women's Cross Country
- Lisa Rudd and Gary Steck, Athletics Business Office
- Dave Cianelli, Director of Track & Field
- Kelly Cagle, Head Women's Soccer Coach

Members of the subcommittee also met with representatives from Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid:

:

- Marilynn King, Senior Associate Director
- Dawn Brown, Financial Aid Counseling Coordinator for Athletics and Professional Students
- Stephanie Breeding, Senior Assistant Director for Client Services

## **Findings**

**Athletics Compliance and Business Offices**—Virginia Tech’s system of administering financial aid for student-athletes outside of the Department of Athletics appears to be working well. Athletics personnel who had worked at other institutions mentioned how much better they thought the Virginia Tech system was compared to other institutions. All coaches and sport supervisors complimented the Compliance Office for their diligence and responsiveness to requests for information. However, they also noted that the Compliance Office has been understaffed (the office recently expanded from two to four) and that fully staffing the office is critically important. The Athletics Business Office supports Compliance in tracking budgets and equivalency. Combined with tracking by coaches, a solid system of checks and balances is in place to ensure compliance with financial aid requirements. Representatives of both the Compliance and Business Offices noted that refunds to student athletes generated by the Banner System have caused compliance problems due to over payment of financial aid. Compliance personnel would like to be able to review proposed refunds to student athletes, but they have been told that is not possible.

**Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid**—Representatives of both the Athletics Business Office and the Compliance Offices, as well as coaches, mentioned that timeliness of information requests from Financial Aid is an issue. One person handles all student athlete applications, in addition to applications of many other students. Coaches may be put at a competitive disadvantage in recruiting because they are not able to provide accurate and timely financial aid information to recruits. Representatives of the Athletics Business Office noted that both they and the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid must make last minute adjustments to financial aid and budgets when the University makes changes in meal plans. Representatives of the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid expressed concern that there was not more interaction of units that deal with student athletes such as the Registrar’s Office, Bursar’s office, and Compliance.

**Coaches and Sport Supervisors**—All coaches and sport supervisors were well versed in the rules governing countable financial aid and equivalency. The primary issue that coaches had to deal with regarding financial aid was availability of information in a timely manner. Several coaches noted that they had to tell student-athletes (and their families) they would have to give up some financial aid that the coach was unaware of when scholarship allocations were determined. In some cases, coaches did not receive final financial aid information until well into the Fall Semester. At least one coach also noted that unlike other institutions, Virginia Tech is unable to put together packages of athletic and noncountable aid because coaches do not receive information until August. The final issue of timeliness (noted earlier) deals with coaches’ inability to provide accurate information about financial aid to recruits when they need it. Sport supervisors noted that they get all the information they need from the Compliance Office and that efforts of coaches to track their own financial aid distributions make their jobs easier.

## **Recommendations**

1. When vacancies occur within the Compliance Office, the Athletics Department should actively work to fill those vacancies as soon as possible. The Office of Compliance provides critical support for coaches and sport supervisors and full staffing is necessary to provide timely responses on questions of compliance.
2. Representatives of Athletics Compliance, Office of the Registrar, the Athletics Business Office, Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid, and the Bursar's Office should meet (perhaps each semester) to discuss issues related to financial aid for student-athletes. One initial topic for consideration is how to avoid future disbursements of refunds to student athletes which are not warranted. In the absence of careful monitoring, such refunds could cause the University to be out of compliance with NCAA rules.
3. Representatives of the Athletics Compliance Office and the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid, should meet to determine if and how more timely information regarding financial aid for student-athletes could be provided to the student-athletes, their families and coaches engaged in recruiting those student athletes. The two offices also should discuss potential avenues for the University to offer "packages" of athletic and noncountable aid to student-athletes.
4. Although the Rules Compliance Subcommittee realizes this is a resource issue, dedicating one person's time in the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid, even if for specific months such as July, August and September, to financial aid for student-athletes could improve response time.
5. Explore what other institutions are doing regarding making the NCAA Compliance Assistant Program, internet (web-based) version (commonly referred to as CAi) and Banner more interactive and implement the findings if solutions are available.

**University Athletics Committee**  
**March 13, 2008**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Center**

**Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Hap Bonham, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, Rosemary Goss, Larry Killough, Adam Kress, Mary Ann Lewis, John Maher, Margarita McGrath, Scott Pleasant, Dwight Shelton, Ken Stanton, Eileen Van Aken,.

**Members Absent:** Bryan Collier, David Ford, Leon Geyer, Kelsey Hoffman, Mike Kelly, David Lowe, Steve McMullin, Lu Merritt Jim Weaver.

**Representatives:** Chris Wise for Zenobia Hikes, Michael Ermann for Margarita McGrath.

**Guest Present:** Jim Cavanaugh, Assistant Coach Football, Shauna Cobb, Director of Compliance, Jon Jaudon, Associate AD, Administration, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Chris Helms, Director of SAASS, Patricia Lovett, Assitant Director Athletics Student Life Office.

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. Approved. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes for the February 7, 2008 meeting. Approved based on correction regarding the transitions course.

**Coach's Perspective: Recruiting (Coach Cavanaugh)**

- Recruiting is our lifeline; about 12-13 years ago, we started making progress here. We have been able to play with in-state players.
- Each Assistant Football coach has an in-state area. We identify a kid football-wise, and academically. We also identify "can we get him?"
- The recruiting process puts a tremendous amount of pressure on these kids and families. The competition for these kids is intense. High school coaches are tremendously influential.
- The NCAA allows five official visits. Once we can get a kid to visit, we have a high success rate (the facilities, the campus, etc.). We have one of the best support systems there are for athletics. Chris Helms and his staff do a great job. But the kids and their parents have to see this.

- During their official visit, Chris meets with them, Coach Beamer, myself all give a talk. Then they go out and visit the campus. The most important thing however about our buildings are the people in them.
- We're investing \$125k in these kids, scholarships etc.... Now we don't know them as well as we use to because there are rules about when you can and can't recruit. You don't have the same time on the road to study these kids and meet the families because of the earlier commitments.

### **Sharing of Faculty Athletic Representative Description (Natalie Hart)**

- Handout
- Part of what came out of the certification process was a job description for the FAR; wanted to distribute to the committee (refer to handout).
- FAR is Faculty Athletic Representative to NCAA – Larry Killough is this currently. This is part of the review we've been undergoing.
- Jon Jaudon: The ACC is a very FAR-power-driven conference. We've been in other conferences and by far, the ACC has given authority to the FAR like no other conference I've been part of. They are the official voting member of VT with ACC legislation and decisions. In some conferences, it might be the President or Athletic Director. At some conferences, the FAR doesn't even attend. The ACC is the exact opposite of that. Larry serves a vital role in our involvement within the ACC. He is also a member of the NCAA post-graduate scholarship committee.

### **Discussion of Academic Progress Rates (Jon Jaudon and Chris Helms)**

- Handout
- NCAA Academic Progress Rate Report.
- This is part of a larger academic reform package that NCAA passed back in early 2000's. It is designed to be better than the graduation rates measures. It's a measure of how your team is progressing academically.
- Point system using two questions that are answered for each scholarship athlete at the end of every semester: Is the student eligible for the next term? Is the student enrolled for the next term? If yes, you earn two points out of possible two points.
- The minimum is 925 – if below that and if you have an "0 for 2" student, you are subject to contemporaneous penalty. The penalty is equal to the scholarship amount the 0/2 student was receiving.
- Multiyear rate – 2003-2007. Men's wrestling is below the 925 as a result of the 2005-06 year in which we lost our head coach to Iowa and he took five scholarship athletes with him. We lost all of those retention points. Subsequent to that, we had three other athletes leave. NCAA has given us relief. If an injury prevents a student from returning, we can get a medical waiver. The sports of football, men's basketball, baseball, and wrestling are the ones that have the most problems with maintaining a high APR.
- Last year was the first year that schools could lose scholarships due to penalties.

### **Discussion of First Year Course (Chris Helms)**

- The course discussed at the last meeting needs to find an academic “home” otherwise it will go away.
- Chris Helms: I appreciate the committee’s feedback. Various course descriptions were sent via email to the committee to offer examples of other university courses that mirror our transitions course. I’m open to any kind of suggestion for how to move forward.
- What about it being a UNIV course? It seemed that David Ford said that there wasn’t support for that. There are a number of UNIV approved courses. We took the proposal for this course as a UNIV prefix to and it wasn’t accepted. I think it was disallowed because of a rigor issue.
- It seems that there is potential for getting this through – but it needs some revision in the area of expectations of students.
- The current proposal doesn’t follow the course format for new courses – in that format is the justification section – justify why this course needs to be offered, who takes it, why it’s at the level that it’s at. That’s where you would talk about it’s need for the student athlete who do not have a first year experience in their department.
- Rosemary and Eileen offered to work with Chris to help revise the course proposal and submit again to the University Curriculum Committee.

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

- Jim Weaver was not in attendance because he was attending the ACC basketball conference tournament.

### **Future meeting dates**

April 10 (meeting will be Third Floor West Side, Stadium) and May 6.

### **Future agenda items**

Next month we will invite some of our Olympic sports athletes and have an update on the Hokie Respect campaign.

### **Announcements**

- Kent and Adam have been working with Jim Weaver on a “Hokie Cheer Campaign” The top ten winners will be selected and submitted to the Athletics department to see if they want to implement them for next year. We’re getting sponsors for prizes. We have a website [hokiecheer.com](http://hokiecheer.com). We have a face book site. All the businesses in town are being really supportive. We’re doing this under the Hokie Respect frame – any cheers that don’t fit this won’t be considered.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

**University Athletics Committee**  
**April 10, 2008**  
**West Side Expansion, Lane Stadium, Room 309**

**Members Present:** Hap Bonham, Bryan Collier, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, Rick Ferraro, David Ford, Leon Geyer, Rosemary Goss, David Lowe, John Maher, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, , Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.

**Members Absent:** Susan Anderson, Zenobia Hikes, Kelsey Hoffman, Larry Killough, Mike Kelly, Adam Kress, Mary Ann Lewis, Steve McMullin, Scott Pleasant, Dwight Shelton, Ken Stanton.

**Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton

**Guest Present:** Jen Albrecht, Student Athlete Volleyball, Jessica Botzum, Student Athlete Swimming, Jon Jaudon, Associate AD, Administration, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Chris Helms, Director of SAASS, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate AD/SWA, Tim Miller, Student Athlete, Wrestling

**Recorder** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. Motion approved. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2008 meeting. Motion carried.

**Student Athletes' Perspectives: Olympic sports**

A panel of Olympic sports athletes shared their perspective on being a student-athlete at Virginia Tech: Jen Albrecht, Volleyball; Tim Miller, Wrestling; Bryan Collier, Soccer; and Jessica Botzum, Swimming. Jon Jaudon introduced the student-athletes.

- Jen is a double major, double minor, excellent student. Will go to medical school in the fall, received an ACC post-graduate scholarship. Four-year starter.
- Tim is a sophomore; probably our very hardest worker in the wrestling room. Tim brings a work ethic second to none to our wrestling team. He is a member on the SAAC and a leader on the wrestling team.
- Bryan is a 4<sup>th</sup> year junior; as a freshman, got hurt and red shirted. He's completed his third year of eligibility and has some unique career aspirations. He started 45 of the 47 games here. But since we don't have the program he's interested in (dual M.S. program in sports administration and MBA), he will attend UCF and play soccer for them next year. No one has been more involved in our department than Bryan. He has interned in every program.
- Jessica is the most decorated female swimmer in the history of VT. Two-time ACC swimmer of the year. She's going home before going to graduate school.



- Question: What would be any changes you would like to see?
  - Outdoor concert place, it's not that important but it's all I can think of.
  - I think some of the facilities could be improved. We did just move our locker room for volleyball. The track team has our old locker room. They have one tiny room with four showers. Things like that. I see the way football and basketball are treated obviously it's a huge contrast.
  - On that note, during the time I've been here, there have been so many upgrades. Eventually Olympic sports will get to the point where it's just as good as everyone else. We're getting new things all the time.
  - For some people, the diversity aspect. Campus climate is a whole university wide issue, not just athletics. Our athletic department is more diverse than our campus. Our campus is getting more diverse but having more people that are like you, would help.
  - When we're on away trips, it would be nice to be able to see classes on line that we miss when we're sitting in a hotel room.
- Question: Jen, with your double major and double minor, have we made proper accommodations?
  - We'd have practice in the spring, and I had a class. They did a good job working with me. There aren't too many athletes in the biochemistry department, so they weren't used to it. The faculty have been really accommodating for the most part.
- Observation and question: What if you were a 2.0 student in some part – what are your problems – how would you tell us you need help?
  - We do have the SAASS which is here that monitors us. We know whether or not we're doing well. They can't just magically come up with a program to do better in school. We have to come here and get help. They can't come to our house and force us to come in and study. It's a matter of feeling that the door is open and not being afraid to talk to your teachers, advisors, etc.
  - Our women's swim team has a good GPA overall, but when I sit back and watch our men's team who may or may not have the best GPA, I almost get angry at them. If you're a student athlete here, you almost have to try to fail. When I watch the student athletes that are failing, it's pure laziness from what I've experienced. It's really hard to fail here with all that they're providing us.
  - You have to either not care or not know about the services. As soon as you start going down the hill, they contact you. So you can't not know. You can always get help if you want it.
  - I feel like a lot of people just don't go to class, and that's where you find the 2.0. You can always do something to improve yourself. Obviously there are cases when it's just hard to get a C.
- Rosemary thanked the group for being here today.

### **Hokies Respect Campaign Update (Tim East, David Lowe)**

- The program was launched in summer 2003 as part of athletic sportsmanship program. Jim Weaver attended an NCAA sportsmanship program. He felt it was necessary for our athletic department to be proactive, not necessarily because we had a problem.
- To kick-off the program, Jim and Jon were able to get speakers at Cassell at the beginning of the school year. All athletes were invited including student athletes from other local colleges. It was a terrific event. The marketing department in athletics created a marketing and education plan (mailed flyer with season tickets, included a letter

from Jim Weaver, created a video spot of student athletes and Coach Beamer, placed signs in the stadium and on other items such as posters and cups, logo on our game tickets and a portion of our web is devoted to this campaign).

- The alumni association and alumni relations expressed their interest in supporting this program. We meet and came up with new ideas for the program. Dr. Steger wrote an article in Tech magazine about this. We've also incorporated a live reading of sportsmanship statement before games. We have animated video boards.
- We've heard a number of different stories and people writing letters to editors of newspapers about how warmly they were received by VT. Bobby Bowden said after the Florida State game how amazed he was at how well he and his team were treated.
- David Lowe: The alumni association members were surprised at the breadth of people that didn't understand the problems. 90% of us go to the game and don't see the things that are wrong. We've tried to help educate people about what it's all about. Jim and the athletic department are leading it but we all own it. It's improving. Don't know that you ever get there.
- Jim Weaver: You never get there. I get emails that you all don't want to know about. You never reach the end of the road, it's a continuous journey.
- We'll also be working on a program for the summer orientation like the one at Texas A&M. We've talked to them about how they incorporate it into their culture.
- We've hosted pre-game receptions at the alumni center for the alumni association of the opposing team. Have also offered to set up sites for alumni groups from visiting school and try to talk a little bit about the Hokie Respect campaign.
- Tim: Met with student leadership group and they said they wished the university would take a stronger stand about alcohol abuse at athletic events.
  - Jim: We've employed more security through the police officer designation and we're trying to ask them to be more aggressive in the stadium when they encounter people who are overcome with alcohol to get rid of them.

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

- Do these sportsmanship issues reach the conference level?
  - Yes, I happen to be on the ACC sportsmanship committee. We put together a major packet of information 2-3 years ago.
- Have we heard anything from our NCAA review?
  - Natalie: They originally told us that we'd hear mid-March or early April, but we have not heard. Our liaison at NCAA said that we should hear in 1-2 weeks.
- Question: I watch and keep track of the Big Ten and the ACC. One thing that bothers me is that at basketball games, students aren't there and when they are, they're way up high. I think that should be thought about.
  - We've seated our arena so that the students could stand and not impact those who are paying for tickets. We give students 2750 tickets which is ¼ of the tickets. When they don't come, sometimes they're trying to sell their tickets. Every ticket is gone for every game.
  - Jon: I was at each NIT game and students could sit anywhere they wanted, but they sat in the same general place. It's become their home.
- Question: Why do we pay \$1.25 if I print my ticket at home? It doesn't make economic sense.
  - It's the price we pay to the vendor for the software.

- Question: About playing the opening game with East Carolina in Charlotte?
  - We have 6 home games this year and our budget is based on 7. We get to share the revenue playing at a neutral site as Charlotte. A lot of schools are doing this because it helps when you have a non-conference game to create more revenue to share.
  - Discussion about communicating the information about why play games in a neutral site.
  -

**Announcements**

- Future meeting dates: Tuesday May 6

Meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m

**University Athletics Committee**  
**May 8, 2008**  
**Bowman Room**

- Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Rick Ferraro, Rosemary Goss, Mary Ann Lewis, David Lowe, Margarita McGrath, Steve McMullin, Lu Merritt, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.
- Members Absent:** Hap Bonham, Bryan Collier, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Leon Geyer, Zenobia Hikes, Kelsey Hoffman, Larry Killough, Mike Kelly, Adam Kress, John Maher, Scott Pleasant, Dwight Shelton, Ken Stanton.
- Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton
- Guest Present:** Chris Helms, Director of SAASS, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Jon Jaudon, Associate AD, Administration, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate AD/SWA,
- Recorder** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm. The minutes from the April meeting need to be revised and will be sent at the first fall meeting. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. Approved.

**NCAA Athletics Certification Update (Natalie Hart)**

- A press release went out this morning that we are fully certified and received the best outcome possible. Our next visit will be in 2017.

**UAC Action Items from NCAA Review (Natalie Hart)**

- Several recommendations:
  - Have UAC look at our mission statement and see if it's still relevant for the Athletics Department. We would like the UAC to have a part in providing input to revising the mission statement.
  - Perhaps UAC should report to the Commission on Student Affairs and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (we currently report in to this commission) – President Steger felt it was up to the committee.
- A motion was made to enact sharing UAC minutes with the Commission on Student Affairs and report through Jim Weaver's quarterly meetings with the Board of Visitors Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.
- Natalie will put together a committee in the fall to look at the Athletics Department mission statement.

## Year in Review (Jim Weaver)

- The Hokie Club has 6-8 large tours each spring. The circuit started a little earlier than in the past, well before the spring ACC championships were contested. In trying to organize my remarks for these tours, I went back to my remarks from similar presentation last year. Last year, I talked about memories from 2007 (after the April 16 tragedy) and then I talked about ACC championships.
- Significant memories:
  - When a few days after the tragedy, got the call from NY Yankees that they wanted to do something for us, and invited President Steger and me to a game and presented Virginia Tech with a \$1 million dollar check.
  - When Drew Weaver, of our golf team, won the British Amateur and qualified for the British Open, as well as the Master's.
  - Opening football game against ECU – it was the first time that the Hokie Nation came together en masse since the tragedy. ECU gave us \$100,000 for the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. We also received a \$300,000 check that day from the ACC.
  - Men's soccer team did not win the ACC championship, but went to the second round of the ACC Soccer Tournament. They went on to the NCAA College Cup (the final four) but lost to Wake Forest in the semi-finals and placed third in the country.
  - Jessica Botzum finished her Tech career with five ACC titles and NCAA All-American awards while leading the women's swimming team. The team finished 22<sup>nd</sup> nationally last year and this past year 23<sup>rd</sup>, finished fourth in the ACC both years. (I've challenged all of our teams to finish in the top echelon within ACC, defined as top third).
  - In Charlotte, when VT took on UNC, ranked #1 and led in all but one minute and lost in the last seconds. The men's basketball team has earned three first round "bye's" in the ACC tournament.
  - March 18: NY Yankees came here to play a game. It was a very special time. They were as gracious and generous with their time as you can imagine.
  - Two weeks after that just before the Master's, Johnson Wagner, a 2002 graduate, won his first tournament, the Houston Open and also qualified for the Master's.
  - Women's softball team defeating the USA Olympic team – that was in late March and it's on TV tonight on ESPN2.
  - In 2007, spring semester and fall semester, we won five ACC team championships. We tied with Florida State and UNC who also won five team championships in calendar year 2007. All three of us won four last spring and one in the fall. Our fall was the football championship (second in four years).
  - This is since April 16 – I think that speaks volumes about our coaching leadership and bringing the right people in.
  - Last fall, we announced our highest graduation rate ever – 76%. That placed us third behind Duke and Wake Forest within the ACC. Women's

cross-country and track were 100%, women's basketball was 100%, football was 80%. We're proud of the way we're competing and what we're accomplishing in the classroom and on the field of play.

- Our fundraising arm last year raised \$26 million and also finished in the upper echelon within the ACC.
- We've won 8 total ACC championships since we joined the ACC, and may win another one, with the softball championship being contested this weekend at Maryland.
- Four of our student athletes won post-graduate scholarships.
- There is not a lot happening legislatively within the ACC. We have a final ACC meeting soon, and we will have to share that information next fall.
- Angela Tinchler became one of just a few student athletes who struck out 2000 batters in their collegiate career. The only other two are currently on the USA Olympic Team.

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

- The news on ESPN today – they're releasing the APR – they're talking about hundreds of schools that failed to make it.
  - We have one sport we're having an issue with—men's wrestling. We've applied for an appeal. Jon would you explain this more?
  - Jon: if your four year rate in a particular sport is less than 925, (ours is in wrestling) and you have one or more athletes earning an 0/2 semester point total in the current year reported you are subject to a contemporaneous penalty. Therefore, we were subject to a penalty. We appealed based upon the facts surrounding our four year rate being heavily influenced by the five+ students leaving our program after the departure of Tom Brands to Iowa. The NCAA said that they would not penalize us if we showed a 925 rate for this year. We've monitored this year's progress very closely. We won't know the result until our students return in the fall 2008. We anticipate meeting this standard and not being subject to penalty as a result.
- Rosemary: I went to the athletic banquet a few weeks ago and it was wonderful to see the student athletes receiving recognition for athletic and academic achievement. Too bad the reporters aren't here during an event like this (vs. when there are problems).
  - There are about 100 awards given out in less than two hours. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year we've done this. Our videography department does a better job each year at putting together a video of all sports.
- David Lowe: I arranged for Chris Helms to come to the Alumni Board to speak about the student services for our athletes. It opened the eyes of the Alumni Board about what we do (as it did mine in being part of this committee). This will be my last year on the committee.
  - Susan Anderson will also be coming off the committee. Rosemary thanked both for their service.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.