

**University Athletic Committee**  
**February 1, 2011**  
**3:30 PM**  
**Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum**

- Members Present:** Fred Benfield, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Larry Killough, Art Keown, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Jacqueline Nottingham, James Penven, Scot Pleasant, Glenn Reynolds, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Joseph Tront, Jim Weaver.
- Members Absent:** Richard Benson, Devin Cornwall, Kenny Jarels, Steve Prisley, Dwight Shelton,
- Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton.
- Guest Present:** **Kevin Dresser**, Head Wrestling Coach, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiative for Athletics, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator.
- Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

**BUSINESS**

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm.  
The agenda was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).  
Minutes for the December 1, 2010 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

**REPORTS**

**Coaches Perspective – Kevin Dresser Head Men’s Wrestling Coach**

Kevin Dresser enters his fifth season at the helm of the Virginia Tech wrestling program, a program that he has headed toward the upper echelon of the college game. He graduated from the University of Iowa, where he won a national title in 1986 at 142 pounds. Dresser was a two-time All-American (placing fourth in 1985 at 142 pounds), as well as a two-time Big Ten Champion.

- New facility is top notch and just one more piece to get our program to one of top programs in the country.
- Late week we were ranked sixth in the nation in dual meets and we beat top 15<sup>th</sup> ranked team and now we are ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation.
- Probable finish in the top 10. We will have met our goal.
- NCAA Individual championship in March in Philadelphia. We want to qualify as many of our 10 guys as we can. If we can get 2 or three guys to place in the top 8 we feel like we can be a top 15 team at the nationals. That is our goal this year.
- We have seven individuals right now that place in the top 20 in their individual weight classes.
- We are a young team, 2 seniors this year. For the past four years in a row we have had top 10 recruiting classes.
- Virginia Tech is a gold mine for our student-athletes. Because of what is offered here.

Q: Dual meet, what happens if split 5 to 5, is there overtime or point system?

For a regular decision your team gets 3 points. But if you beat me by 8 points or more in that match your team gets 4 points. If you beat me by 15 points or more your team gets 5 points. If you pin me your team gets 6 team points. Those are called bonus points. If it is 5 to 5 and no bonus points it is considered a draw.

Q: Do you exchange tapes?

In this age of the internet there are no secrets out there. We do Hokie Vision at our meets. We have video days where our guys will come in individually and set down with a coach and watch their guy for the next match

Q: How many student-athletes do you have?

26

Q: What is the magic in the weight classes set up? Why is it so different?

Over the years wrestling has evolved and they have moved the weight around a bit. In the lower weights there are 8 pound increments and then they go to 9 pounds. There is always some controversy about the weight classes. You get a bunch of guys together in a committee and they will change the weight about every 8 or 10 years.

Q: Tell us about when a student-athlete has to weight in.

We will wrestle UVA at 7:00 pm Saturday night and at 5:45 pm the student-athletes will go through skin check. Two trainers will examine all 20 athletes that will be wrestling for any skin issues. They will weigh in. If you are wrestling at 125 you have to weigh in at 125 or below. Our guys will come in at 5:00 pm and go through a warm up and most of our guys will come in at a pound to pound and a half over at 5:00. We put them through a 20 minute warm up and they will sweat that pound and a half off and then take a shower and then get the scale weight in. We hydrate them and a feed them afterward.

Q: Where do you have your home meets?

Cassell coliseum

Q: If a student-athlete weights over can you substitute a guy in or do you lose that weight.

We have a pretty good idea up to weigh in who is going to wrestle. But if someone gets sick or really hard time making weight you can have an extra guy waiting in the wings. We sometimes weigh in two guys for a weight.

Q: What is the scholarship situation?

We get the max 9.9.

Q: Do you give mainly partial scholarships?

Yes but we do give full but he has to be really really special.

Q: Can the student-athlete work?

The can do work study. It is really hard for a student-athlete to work except in the off season.

Q: What is an estimation of the number of wrestling programs? Are they expanding?

They have been dropping steadily. Not quite as much in the last 4 or 5 years. Cut in half since 1986.

Q: What is a skin check?

The student-athletes strip down to their under garments. They are checked for lesions, rashes or anything that is contagious.

Q: You talk about 10 players for a dual meet. What is the selection process to get down to 10 players?

We have a try out. We try and keep close to 3 student-athletes per weight class and then you have a try out to determine who your number one wrestler is for that weight class.

Q: What do you do if there is blood during the match?

The match is stopped immediately and the bleeding is stopped and cleaned up.

We have 8 to 10 stitches per week.

Q: Describe the size and make up of your coaching staff.

I have two full time assistant coaches Tony Robie and Nate Yetzer both entering fifth season with me. They are graduates of Edinboro University and a volunteer coach Lance Palmer who graduated from Ohio State University last year. We have a lot of reasons why we are good and Coach Robie and Coach Yetzer are two of them.

Q: Talk a little about as a coach in wrestling your a little more hands on with your student-athletes.

If you come in and watch you will see the coaches will be out there in the thick of it. It is important to hire young coaches in our sport that can go out there and show you when things get rough.

Coach Yetzer has the most stitches of anybody on our team in the past four years.

Q: What is the range for heavy weights?

197.1 to 285 . Our heavyweight weighs about 230. He wrestled the number one heavyweight in the nation Friday night who weighed in at 272 he did a great job.

Q: On the blood thing. The referee will call it immediately if he sees blood. Isn't that insensitive for the other guy to scratch you or something?

The referee does not call the match he stops the match and cleans up the blood and then resumes.

Q: Talk about the challenge that you inherited from the APR perspective and what you have done to overcome that and where you currently stand.

- We lost good wrestlers that were good students and we lost points for retention.
- The main thing was getting onboard with Student Athlete Academic Support Services.
- One duty I took on right away was to see that our student-athletes stay eligible and do as good a job as we can recruiting so that they do not leave. We do out homework to get pretty good students.
- We went from 700's APR to 1000. We have had a couple of semesters in the 1000 that is a perfect score.
- We inherited a 2.4 as a team and have moved them up to above 2.81. We moved 25 guys up, it was tough to do.

Q: When you are out there wrestling with your guys are you teaching a certain move or hold or just because the coaches are better and more experienced. What is the teaching technique?

Generally our coaches will be teaching all 26 the same holds and strategy. In the mornings we do a lot of individual workouts.

#### **Commit by Susan Short:**

Kevin really serves as a model in creating outreach opportunities for high school and middle school programs. I worked with him last year at Andrew Lewis Middle School when the ODU and Virginia Tech match was brought to Salem, VA at Andrew Lewis Middle School prior to the Virginia State High School Championships. He really has grown the excitement and enthusiasm. Southwest Virginia has a rich tradition in wrestling from Grundy to Christiansburg. Kevin is a great ambassador not only for Virginia Tech but for the sport of wrestling. You really have elevated this sport in this region and have created a lot of opportunities from the little guys in the summer programs and what you do during the Christmas Break and other times through the year, so congratulations.

Kevin: Thank you and I cannot top that.

#### **Fall Academic Update – Jermaine Holmes**

(Handout)

- A total of 526 student athletes on team rosters
- 39 percent of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA
- 41 percent of student athletes achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA
- 104 student athletes made the Dean's List Fall 2010
- 13 student athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA
- 4 student athletes maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA
- The average team cumulative GPA is a 2.95
- The average team semester GPA is a 2.92
- 8 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA
- 7 teams maintain a 3.0 or greater cumulative GP
- Top 5 teams in Fall GPA is Women's Tennis, Men's Tennis, Women's Swimming, Women's Soccer and a tie between Women's Cross Country and Volleyball.
- Top 5 team in Cumulative GPA is Women's Tennis, Men's Tennis, Women's Cross Country, Women's Track and Women's Swimming.

Q: Athletes in season seem to do better in terms of GPA is that not true?

I do not think that we can specifically say that they do or they don't. There was a study done about 10 or 12 years ago at Michigan State the outcome was that athletes do better in season than out of season. There is NCAA legislation out there not approved yet that Football student-athlete's would have to pass 9 credit hours in the fall and if they do not then they are ineligible for the first four games of the next season. Now it is 6 hours for everyone.

Q: If they do not make that in the fall they cannot make that up in the summer?

There is a provision in the new legislation and it has not been adopted yet, if they make up a certain amount of hours in the spring or fall they get that reduced to 2 games verses 4 games.

Q: What does it say about the spring?

The same rules will apply as in the past 6 hours and meet percentage of degree.

Q: Are any of the new football players able to take classes during summer?

All of them for football and Men and Women's Basketball and some sprinkles of other sports.

Q: This legislation, does that incorporate any of those hours?

No it would not. Those numbers can factor into their overall picture but will not have any impact on that number for the fall.

Q: Can you give us some idea what it means when the GPA is under 2.0?

We see everything from C- to failing courses.

Q: I see that you are making improvements in the number of students that are below a 2. To what do you contribute that?

I think it is a combination of several factors. The coaches are recruiting and bringing in student-athletes that can be successful academically. The support that we provide a student-athlete has been tremendous over the last several years. We have provided over 8,500 individual tutorials sessions the last few years. We have spent a lot of recourses in that area. I think that you will find the student that wants to maintain their 4.0 are working with tutors and students that want to go from a 3.0 to 3.5 are working with tutors and of course students that are struggling are also working with tutors. Over the last 5 years we have added 2 learning specialist that work hands on with students-athletes in their day to day work. That has been a tremendous help as well. The support that we are getting from Athletic Department and also from the coaches has been tremendous. APR is real time results and that rings a bell for the coaches, but they have always been supportive in what we are doing.

Q: Are you actually tracking the performance by class? Are you really seeing if you are making a difference with the freshman?

We have not.

I agree there is a lot of good news but I do have a suggestion. I welcome having the athletes in my classes. But it concerns me when so many on day one; they walk in and immediately fill in the back row side by side and flip up their computers. We need to get it in their heads Jermaine; they are sending the wrong signal to the professor, to the other students that they do not want to integrate with the rest of the student body. I see it as a problem on a regular basis.

I think you should definitely know we do. We do a lot to try and integrate the student-athlete with the general student body. I know the office of student life does a great job of programming with campus and trying to get student-athletes involved. That is a message that we often send to student-athletes. I would say that it is a small percentage of student-athletes but we do work hard to integrate them.

Q: With all that has happed at UNC with the tutoring. Have you changed your training or approach or are you doing anything different?

The one thing you should know about our tutorial support, generally each semester we will have between 80 and 100 tutors. Each one will go through orientation and training specific to NCAA rules, guidelines and regulations and our internal staff policies. They go through training each semester and we will provide two or three trainings through the semester where we require them to come in and go through additional training on whatever topic is relevant or we deem necessary for them. Then we also work with them through scholar. We put up video so they can watch and learn. We also do newsletters on a monthly basis that provides lots of information. We provide them with examples of what has happened at other schools so that they can really know. If something inappropriate occurs in our program we take immediate action. We have been doing this for years. The program works very well for us. I know in the past we have also partnered with the English Department for training. I think we are doing a good job in that area. Unfortunately, you know when you have

so many people you rely on them to adhere to the rules and regulations and for the most part we have been pretty good in that area. But we do spend a lot of time in education and training for the support staff members.

Q: For Sharon: Are those numbers for male versus female typical.

As for an enrollment it does not match up with title IV but I do not know when this snap shot was taken.

Q: Are they very far off Title IV?

Not terribly

Q: Does Title IV give you a plus or minus to target?

As far as meeting Title IV we are suppose to be within 1% or less. That is pretty hard to do. We are fairly close this year in just our estimates. One thing that we want to do is to help Coach Kevin Dresser out. One thing I would like to mention is that the decline in the wrestling programs due to Title IV. It is not really due to Title IV it is due to administrative decisions that are made in order to comply with Title IV. Title IV does not cut programs. It is an athletic administrative decision

Q: In the area of the race ethnicity are you incorporating where it says Hispanic/Latino on top the regular categories?

This is the information that is listed in the university data warehouse.

Q: Under the not reported category have you seen that number increase?

They just added that in the last year or two.

Q: When someone is listed with two, three or four ethnicities, does that mean that they have all that ethnicity in their background?

They can list every single race category if they choose and you do not have to prove it.

Q: Then why do you have a not reported category?

There are two questions now that the federal government asks folks. The first question is "Are you of Spanish or Latino origin? That is a yes or no. That is a separate piece from, "Black, White, Native American." That is how you be not reported but say yes to first question. Some people want to say yes I come from this heritage but do not make me pick.

### **Subcommittee Updates:**

#### **Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being- Scott Pleasant**

(Section 3.3 of Certification)

University report for operating principle 3.3. We were asked to focus on student-athlete exit interviews and verify that other items in the plan had been satisfactory completed. The committee has a plan and time line set up now for review and recording and have all the materials. Our intent is to report at the next meeting.

#### **Academic Integrity Subcommittee Meeting – Jacqueline Nottingham**

We are scheduled for the final meeting in April. We had a little trouble juggling calendars but we are actually meeting this week.

### **Questions for Athletic Director – Jim Weaver**

Q: I am glad to see Seth's statement in the newspaper recently because I was getting asked some questions of sincere concerns back in early January about ball games at 9:00 pm or even 8:00 pm. Is this something that is going to persist?

It will persist due to Television.

Q: So this has gotten away from the president's to a certain extent. They do not have much to say about it.

Very little. Television drives the train.

Q: So starting a game at 9:00 pm is so the west coast can see it.

I think it is Television deciding to have games when viewer ship is up. People at home watching 9:00 pm game is pretty strong. That does not make it good for the student-athletes traveling home.

Q: It seems to me that they ought to go after the pros for the 9:00 pm games because they are getting paid for being up that late.

I think if we were losing we would not be on, but we are successful team and they want good games.

Q: They are predetermined before the season starts?

Yes they are. We have four this year.

Jermaine wants this group to know that from the SAASS perspective when our team travels, we generally have our counselor that works with basketball travel with the team so that they can manage their assignments and make sure that they do what they need to do on the road academically. They are still tired but we have a plan for them and the counselor knows exactly what each one of them need to accomplish.

Jim Weaver: I could not agree with you more. Last year I purposely went to Duke for a 9:00 pm tip on a Sunday night. We bused back and got back about 1:45 am. Not only was the Sunday 9:00 pm tip tough, the team had to turn around Tuesday and leave for a game in Boston. Now that really makes the situation very dubious and a great concern to administrators. And to be very honest with you we are taking a look at all of the start times of all the teams in the ACC this year so we can have a discussion at either the April or May meetings. I am really interested to see if there is parity or not. One of the other things we try to do is to fly home our teams. We might bus down but fly home on a charter so they can get home much quicker. There is probably an hour and half to a two hour positive time adjustment when that is done.

Q: I take it must be the ACC conference that is behind the 900 pm games?

It is not necessarily the conference that is behind it. They agree with it because of the Television contract. And I need to tell you that there is big, big money involved. Make no mistake about that.

Q: So you have no control over 9:00 pm games.

None! We have no control unless we want to give up a lot of money. Back to the original question? If you play all your games at 7:00 pm you will only have 1 or 2 on Television. You might have one on ESPN and one on ESPN2. But you will not have any on any other networks. We have a lot of networks involved with the ACC package.

Q: Do you get any negative feedback from any of the student-athletes about playing the later games or is this a concern from them?

I have never heard that from any of our players. They are more focused on what they are doing on the day of a game. They have study hall, I have witnessed it. They have an early shoot around and then they come back to the hotel to watch some tape. They have a pre game meal four hours before. That is what they focus on.

Q: When they travel overnight does that count as two days that they are gone?

It depends on when they leave. They try and not leave till after class on that day before unless it is a commercial flight. Most times they try and leave by bus. They are expected to go to class when they get back at 1:00 in the morning.

Q: A related issue to me is the length of the bowl season we cannot do anything about. It is not fair to the players.

Why do you say that? Why do you say length? Because there are two or three after the Orange Bowl and before the National Championship?

Q: Why make a football team wait 3 weeks to play. I know it is a sneaky way to have more practice and all that.

Thank has nothing to do with it. Television drives it again. It is all ESPN. ESPN owns most of those minor bowl games.

Q: What if the NCAA said that January 1 is it for the sake of the universities.

I do not think that is going to happen. The NCAA is not in charge of post season football.

Q: They have not have a say in the matter.

They have some say but very little. The college commissioners association which has been the father of the BCA if you will is what is leading the charge. Now I am not suggesting that those people want those late bowl games either. But very few of them are missing classes. The championship game this year was the 10<sup>th</sup> of January without statistics in front of me I think it was the latest January game has ever been contested. Those other games were between January 1 and January 10. I think there were 3 of them.

Q: I am just asking a philosophical question does anybody in the very, very top of the power system care that the student-athlete has a life off the field and a family to go see at Christmas?

Yes they do. Those people who played the last 3 games had more of a life than those who played between Christmas and New Years. We left 2 days after Christmas this year.

Q: When do you suspect that you will have a football schedule for the fall?

Probably 2 to 3 weeks. The target is January 15 but again there is always an issue or two that has to be resolved. One of the elements that is part of our ACC television package which becomes an issue is that the conference has to play 5 Thursday night games. We have been a proponent of Thursday night football. If you

were to ask me the single most important factor of what has helped Virginia Tech get into the upper echelon of college football. I would tell you Thursday night football. It gave us an entree that we did not have. Every time you turn down an opportunity to be exposed on Television it is lost and gone forever. That does not mean that we want to play two home games. We played two Thursday night games back in 2003 or 2004 and I promised the university faculty senate we would only have one home game on a Thursday night in a given season. But we all agreed that we could play one away game as well. That gives us the best spacing for our season. We get 12 days to prepare for the first Thursday game, then a normal week for the second and then 9 days preparation for the next Saturday game. It really works well to play back to back Thursday nights.

Art Keown adjourned meeting to go to wrestling practice to see facility.