

University Athletic Committee
April 1, 2010
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Hap Bonham, Richard Cothren, Richard Ferraro, Rosemary Goss, Art Keown, Drew Marrs, Scott Pleasant, Glenn Reynolds, Eric Rucinski, Susan Short, Joe Tront, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Kenny Jarels, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Kari Morrison, Hunter Pittman, Steve Prisley, Sean Ryan.

Representatives: Deborah Smith for **Mike Ellerbrock**, , Alex White for **Leon Geyer**, Samantha Baker for **Dwight Shelton**, Vicki Langford for **Bev Watford**, Thomas Olson for **Paul Winistorfer**.

Guest Present: **Beth Dunkenberger**, Head Women's Basketball Coach, **Natalie Hart**, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletics Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director for SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletics Director, Administration. **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator, **Tim Parker**, Senior Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics.

BUSINESS

Rosemary Goss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The agenda was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved). Minutes for the March 4, 2010 meeting were approved with corrections (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Coaches Perspective: Women's Basketball (Beth Dunkenberger)

Beth shared her love for Virginia Tech in her opening remarks.

She then spoke of the outstanding balance between academics and athletics that the department stresses. Her young ladies have bought into that balance and are performing well in the classroom and working hard on the court to improve. The key to success in any sport is talented student-athletes. Our talent pool will improve thanks to our brand new facility. She described the recruitment of a top recruit and the impact the facility had on the decision the young lady reached to attend Virginia Tech even before the facility was completed.

The very first student athlete that we brought in on an official visit after the facility was completed walked through the doors and looked at her dad and said, I need the key's, I need to go get my camera before I take another step. That is the type of influence the facility is having.

From a coaching standpoint, I like the fact that we have two full courts, strength and conditioning room, a place they can call home away from home in their locker room and they have 24 hour access. They can go the locker room for a quiet place to study. They can go out and shoot during a study break. My only rule is that after hours they have a teammate or a buddy there with them so that they are not by themselves. Kids keep different hours and rather than being out at a party or movie at 11:00 pm I like the fact that a lot of time they go in the facility and work on basketball. I think it has made a big difference for us and thank you for supporting the endeavor to build this facility. Our goal is to climb up ladders and cut down nets and we are trying to take steps to accomplish that goal. Our administration has been very supportive and very patient. We hope to take a step next year and make you all proud of Virginia Tech Athletics on the Women's Basketball side.

Q: I know for basketball players playing through the semester break can be hard. How do you as a coach try to help them deal with that?

A: I think basketball has the longest schedule of any sport. They come here on July 1 and they train with their strength coach for six weeks. They have a week off and they come back and start the first week of classes with strength and conditioning for up to eight hours a week. We begin practice in mid October. Games start the beginning of November and the good teams are just now finishing up. As soon as the season is over they have a week off and then start up with post season conditioning. So it really is a year round sport. They miss Thanksgiving break, they get a couple days for Christmas and they miss spring break. I think that SAASS does a good job with helping them learn time management. When it is time to practice it is time to practice. When it is time to study it is time to study. When it is time to go to class they go to class and those that choose to make a mistake understand that they would rather do that then get up and run with me at 6:00 am for a week. Normally they don't make that mistake more than once. It is all about learning time management skills. We try to help mentor that with our staff but again SAASS does a great job helping these student athletes figure out a system. We found out that most student athletes flourish under the SAASS system that we provide for them. They have the tutors. They have the study group. And they use the resources within to be the best they can be. Lindsey Biggs has well above a 3.0 (better than her H.S. GPA) and has been on the ACC honor roll and takes pride in being on that ACC academic honor roll. It is a source of pride to be able to go to the Athletics Director Honor Breakfast.

Report from Academic Integrity Committee

- Handouts: The report was read over in detail.
- Art Keown (Chair), T.W. Bonham, Jake Carter, Richard Cothren, Bev Watford.
- The Academic Integrity Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee has been charged with evaluating Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). This charge, in part, arises from NCAA Certification requirements. To quote from the University Athletics Committee SAASS report, Fall 2007
- *Operating Principle 2.2 of the NCAA Certification Self-Study Instrument requires the university to conduct a review of academic services for student-athletes. This review must occur at least once every three years by academic authorities outside athletics. We choose to accomplish this by evaluating one third of the required areas annually.*
- Report was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Report from Equity and Student Athlete Well Being Committee (Alex White)

- Handouts: The report was read over in detail.
- Alex White (Chair) Richard Ferraro, Kari Morrison, Steve Prisley, Glenn Reynolds, Natalie Hart, Sharon McCloskey.
- Charge of the subcommittee to review actions taken by the Department of Athletics to address the recommendations of the Committee on Equal Opportunity in Athletics (2009).
- To make recommendations to assist the Department in moving toward a more diverse environment that encompasses employees and student-athletes, provides equitable opportunities for growth for everyone, and addresses the well-being of its personnel.
- Report was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Rosemary adjourned the committee at 4:46 pm (motion was proposed, seconded and approved)