

University Athletic Committee
April 12, 2011
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Fred Benfield, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Michael Doughty, Kenny Jarels, Art Keown, Margarita McGrath, Jacqueline Nottingham, Scot Pleasant, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Joseph Tront, Franklin Warren.

Members Absent: Devin Cornwall, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, James Penven, Steve Prisley, Glenn Reynolds, Jim Weaver.

Representatives: Scott for Richard Benson, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton

Guest Present: **Katie Cross**, Associate Director SAASS, **Tom Gabbard**, Associate A. D. Internal Affairs; **Chris Helms**, Associate A. D., Olympic Sports, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate A. D., Administration, **Dennis Wolff**, Head Coach Women's Basketball.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

BUSINESS

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

The agenda was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Minutes for the March 15, 2011 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

REPORTS

Coaches Perspective – Women's Basketball (Dennis Wolff)

- Dennis Wolff was named the sixth head women's basketball coach at Virginia Tech on March 22, 2011. Prior to accepting the women's head coaching position, Wolff served one season as the Director of Men's Basketball Operations & Assistant to the Head Coach for the Virginia Tech men's basketball program. Before coming to Virginia Tech, Wolff served as the head men's basketball coach at Boston University from 1994-2009. Under Wolff's guidance, the Terriers won three straight conference titles (2002-2004) and made four consecutive postseason appearances (2002-05) for the first time in school history. He was a three-time America East Coach of the Year and a two-time NABC District 1 Coach of the Year selection.
- 15 years at BU had a 100% graduation rate.
- 2002 daughter was McDonald's National Player of the Year. Been on the parent's side of recruiting women to college basketball.
- Recruiting for women starts at a younger age.
- Coaching philosophy centers on defense first, improving fundamentally, improving teamwork.
- My goals for the program are to rebuild the program from the ground up. From how we expect them to play, to act, etc. Work hard with the recruiting and transform into a winning team.
- I am realistic about where we are at but also really enthused about the opportunity to coach the team and excited about everything we have to offer here at Virginia Tech.

Q: Can you give us a timeline in regards to you staff? Do you have any more room on the roster to bring in any new players for this year?

A: I have hired two women already. Billi Godsey, from UNBC. Chantelle Anderson, who was a three time All American at Vanderbilt, she was 2nd pick in WNBA draft, this past year she was a coach at a division II school in Florida. I think the student-athlete can connect to these coaches. These coaches

have good experience in basketball. I have a person in mind but no commitment yet and the director of operations will be filled after recruiting. We have space on the roster right now. We need help in the back court. We have had one student-athlete decide not to stay after I was hired. We would like to get a point guard or a two guard if we could.

Q: Are there any areas that you are planning on focusing on in recruiting? Junior college, is that an option?

A: We need to focus geographically, Northern Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina. When recruiting early and you have offers on the table, families are more willing to take unofficial visits closer to home. So I think if we can identify early enough we might do that. It is not the easiest thing to get a Junior College student-athlete into Virginia Tech. We have found a couple that we want to check out that went to Junior Colleges as qualifiers which makes them a little more voluble. The other area that we are investigating is international student-athlete.

Q: How did you receive 100% graduation rate 15 years in a row?

A: We fought with the student-athletes. We had one athlete that had to come back when he was done but he got his diploma. Summer school before they start was a big help. Boston was the type of place where the students liked to stay in the summer for both summer sessions. It will be the same thing here. When I go into a home and make promises to the families about my backing their daughter up and us working together and all wanting their child to graduate. I stick by that. So if they miss class there are consequences. If they miss study hall there is consequence. Issues that I have ever had with players and their families had more to do with academics than anything else. And I did not stand down when they pushed me into a corner.

Q: What are reasonable expectations for this program?

A: I would like to get back up to being competitive this year. Back in the NCAA Tournament within 5 years.

Q: Could you say a few words about coaching philosophy and the difference that there might be between coaching men and coaching women?

A: I don't ever remember comparing my daughter to my son or vice versa in their athletic careers. I have thought about this and what is going to be new to me. But what I have gotten so far when I have been in the gym with women has just been dealing with basketball. I am going to have to be tolerant with how they feel about things and yet I am going to have to be firm with them without being overly critical. You have to get them to play outside themselves. They have tried so hard to do the right thing. They sometimes play to not make a mistake. You have to identify the ones that have the most talent and get them to play.

Subcommittee Report

Academic Integrity

Student Athlete Academic Support Services

Handout

Members: Fred Benfield; Michael Doughty; Mike Ellerbrock; Kenny Jarels; Jacqueline Nottingham (Chair); Holly Scoggins; Don Shoemaker.

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 the NCAA requirements. To quote from the University Integrity 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.

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Subcommittee has evaluated five services (7) Freshman/transfer orientation, (8) Academic progress monitoring and reporting, (10) Learning assessments, (12) Post-eligibility programs, and (13) Academic evaluation of prospective student-athletes.

No problems were found in the five services that were reviewed:

It was suggested that perhaps a video could be developed, that would be available as a podcast online, for all incoming student-athletes to view. The video would cover some of the basic orientation topics and include answers to Frequently Asked Questions. It would be a resource, providing a consistent message, for all

students. Recommendation was made to develop an electronic format for the academic progress report which may save preparation time and be more efficient for those involved.

Question to Katie Cross: Does the academic progress reports come back to you?

A: They come back to our office where they get sorted and given to each academic counselor that works with that sport.

Q: Do you then pass on to coaches?

A: We evaluate them. Contacting the student if there is a note either good or the professor has a concern and then we share with the coach. We meet every week or every other week with staff and coaches.

Q: Can they give you permission to access Scholar?

A: Yes they give written permission.

Q: About how long are you meeting with each student?

A: 15 minutes to 30 minutes.

Q: How do you handle situations when you don't get the academic report back?

A: Individual basis depending on if the student is a freshman or grade that is questionable. We will encourage the student to contact the professor. I might contact by e-mail or phone to see if we can get feedback if I am really concerned.

Q: Does the faculty always respond?

A: Not always but pretty good.

Q: It seems that learning assessment would be so critical. At any other schools that you know of do they have any techniques or tools or systems that we might want access to?

A: Most of them use the assessment method.

Q: Is there a standard one?

A: Beth Noteware, our learning specialist, created that through our national association. They have an annual meeting for learning specialist and they share information. That assessment was created from the information shared from a number of peer institutions. She put it together, based on collaboration with our staff.

Art dismissed the committee at 4:50 p.m.