

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

**Members Present:** Fred Benfield, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Glenn Reynolds, Stephen Schoenholtz, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Dean Staffer, Franklin Warren, Jim Weaver, Lorenzo Williams

**Members Absent:** Hannah Billings, Larry Killough, Jacqueline Nottingham, Scot Pleasant, Joseph Tront.

**Representatives:** Glenda Scales for Richard Benson, Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton.

**Guest Present:** **Chris Helms**, Associate A. D. Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Pete Hughes, Head Coach Baseball, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate A. D. Administration, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiatives for Athletics, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator, Danny White, Director of Student Athlete Affairs.

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

## **BUSINESS**

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Agenda for today's meeting was approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved), Minutes for the October 2011, meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

## **REPORTS**

### **Coaches Perspective – Pete Hughes - Baseball**

Pete Hughes is in his fifth season as Head Coach Virginia Tech baseball program after serving as Head Coach for Boston College for eight years. I have taken over a program 3 times. First thing I do is assess the three major areas of the baseball program: (1) Where you are academically? (2) What kind of people do you have in your program? (3) What kind of talent level is in your program? Then you have to figure out what individual is going to work for you in the recruiting market as the best fit for Virginia Tech.

#### Recruiting

- Look at transcripts (need over achievers and workers)
- What Kind of people (I want workers – high energy)  
First Year recruited 23 student-athletes from winning backgrounds. Made sure they were confident. I played all freshmen in one of the best leagues in the country. I knew they would struggle but I needed confident guys that could see that they were going to play and get better down the road and in three years they got really good.
- Talent level – we need special players.  
Our prospects have to be able to do one thing special for us. Less than 1% of high school baseball players can play in the ACC, the best baseball conference in the country.
- Where do we go to find them? Now that you have targeted the individual that you want you have to realize where you are in the recruiting market. That tells you where you want to go. We cannot beat in this region UVA, North Carolina, South Carolina, Clemson and Vanderbilt in recruiting. It is not because they get in earlier or work harder than us. Most of the time we offer the prospect first. We use

the Hokie alumni and Hokie connections which are our greatest asset in the region. Then we go to the Northeast where we can beat the Big East in recruiting. I can sell warm weather conference to a cold weather region. I can offer Virginia Tech tuition to a northern parent and have a \$20,000 savings compared to NE Region costs before I even start talking baseball. We go to the Midwest, same deal, recruit against the Big 10 high price education. We go to baseball rich areas, California, Florida, Texas where there is not enough division I options for so much talent. Our roster is spread out all over the country.

### Five years later

- Academically: we took over a program that had a 2.3 accumulative GPA. We now have a 2.7 .
- APR then was a 935 and currently a 977.
- We have created a community service program called 19 ways. Our players do 19 things in the community during a calendar year to make a difference.
- Talent wise:
  - I think we have changed the culture of our program. We took over a program that was 4-25 in the ACC the year before we got here and three years later we achieved the highest national ever for VT, 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Set school record with 8 athletes drafted in one year. We have 14 athletes drafted in 5 years.
- In recruiting market you can sell academics and a chance to develop your skills to reach the next level. We have that track record now and it helps.
- 5 years ago I looked to see if we could turn this around.
  1. I saw a great academic institution and representation. I could sell that in our product.
  2. I could sell a college community that reviles any in the nation for passion.
  3. One of the best baseball conferences in the country. That is a pretty good product. You just have to get out and hustle. That is what we have done. We just need to keep growing and taking all aspects of our program to higher levels.

Q: Baseball trips are longer than some of the others. How do you get them to study when you are gone? They should be mature enough and they get enough support on campus before we go on the road. We should not have study hall on the road. But we have had it on a few occasions.

Q: Don't they study on the bus?

Yes but on their own.

Q: 40 rounds in the pro draft, how many rounds are real pro prospects versus destined to minor league? Top 10 rounds.

Q: In terms of money what does a minor league player get paid?

\$650 a month.

Q: What advantage does the "batter's eye" give to the batter?

I am getting a lot of questions about that. Not a score board or a drive in movie theater. It provides a background for our hitters so when the ball comes out of the pitcher's hand there is a consistent dark background.

Q: What does the 19 Community Service number come from?

19 is my number. That was my mother's favorite number.

Q: So they have to do 19 service projects in the course of a year?

They make the decision of what 19 community service projects they want to do in a year's time. They have already solicited \$5,000 in donations for the Shave for the Brave on October 28, 2011 at English Field. Herma's Readers, Breast Cancer, Special Olympics have also been part of this years work. It gets our athletes grounded and makes them realize how privileged they are to be a student-athlete at this great university and the associated responsibility that accompanies privilege .

Q: Do you lose any High School prospects to the draft?

I think that we do a really good job of identifying young men who value education.

Q: A guy that is here at Virginia Tech and gets drafted his junior year. Do you try and counter with getting your degree and playing one more year in college.

After the draft, it is a tricky time in our office. What kills us more is the Major League Baseball deadline to sign, it is August 15. Everyone takes negotiations up to the 15<sup>th</sup> that is the week before we

start school in the fall. So we have to guess on scholarship. If the parents, students-athlete do not believe in the worth of the degree which he is going to carry around for the rest of his life when he is done playing minor league baseball after 5 years and has to pay a mortgage and raise a family with that degree. If they do not believe in that they are going to sign.

Q: Typically what kind of money are we talking about?

Austin Wates went in the third round for \$600,000 signing bonus. Jessie Hahn went the 5<sup>th</sup> round, signed for \$550,000, Justin Wright 48<sup>th</sup> round, our number 1 pitcher, did not like school, did not get the support from home. He signed. Matt Price, sophomore, draft eligible because he was 21 years of age, drafted 8<sup>th</sup> round, Red Sox, money was not factored in and he loved the organization that drafted him and the opportunities they were going to give him. Signed.

Q: Do you declare that you are open for the draft like basketball?

No, we need to start doing that.

Q: There are no 19 or 20 year old fellows in minor league baseball?

Yes, they get drafted out of high school. When you come to 4 year college you are eligible again when you are a junior or 21 years of age. You can go to Junior College and are draft eligible every year. We do not stop recruiting ever. You had better be good as a negotiator and get players at the right price or your program will not be deep. That is all we do in the recruiting process, negotiate the right scholarship.

Q: How many scholarships do you have?

11.7 scholarships, 27 guys on scholarship (that is an NCAA limitation that is 3 years old). We have a 35 man roster. We are the only sport that has a minimum scholarship number 25%. So we are the only equivalency sport where the NCAA declares what our minimum scholarship will be.

## **Habitudes, Images that Form Leadership Habits and Attitudes (Danny White/Jon Jaudon)** Handout

Two years ago Dr Gary Bennet was introduced to this program through the University of Oklahoma. Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama are some of the other schools using this leadership program. There are 4 books in program a total of 52 images, thirteen images/lessons in each book. Our initial team, Jon Jaudon, Gary Bennett, Reyna Gilbert-Lowry and Danny White came up with a program that shares 10 images annually to the sport teams.

- Pilot program: 4 teams involved in Spring 2011
- April Workshop & Invitation for staff to help facilitate the program
- Fall 2011: 9 teams , roughly 145 athletes,
- Spring 2012: 3 additional teams, 70 additional athletes (total of 12 teams, 215 athletes)
- Seamless Curriculum: 10 Images in 10 weeks

Invitation to join us to everyone on the UAC.

## **Committee Assignments (Art Keown)** handout

I: SAASS: study hall, tutoring, technology and computing resources, mentoring, and academic advising

**Chair: Holly Scroggins**, Stephen Schoenholtz, Fred Benfield, Susan Short, Franklin Warren, Jermaine Holmes

II: Governance and Rules Compliance: Financial Aid, rules education and rules violation.

**Chair: Joe Tront**, Jacqueline Nottingham, Richard Benson, Don Shoemaker, Dean Stauffer, Hannah Billings, Tim Parker

III: Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being: Title IX and equity

**Chair: Scott Pleasant**, Margarita McGrath, Mike Ellerbrock, Robena Hughes, Lorenzo Williams, Sharon McCloskey, Pam Linkous.

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

Q: Just attended a Faculty Senate meeting for campus planning 2012-2018. Why is the Athletic Department not included?

When I took this job, 14 years ago the athletic department was far behind and has been playing catch up. I would rather not be included in the university planning because we can get things done much faster thanks to Lu Merritt.

Since we meet last the ACC has added 2 more schools, Syracuse and Pittsburg. The ACC has changed its exit fee to 26 million.

Q: How will the new schools effect schedules?

### **Basketball**

- will likely add two games to the conference schedule, 16 to 18 games
- Additional TV money – TV contracts can be renegotiated if league adds or drops at least 2 institutions.

Q: What type of structure will the ACC use?  
Will be discussed in the next few weeks.

Q: Will we keep the Big 10 Challenge?  
I believe so.

### **Football**

- 14 members in conference we are allowed to play 12 games.
- 10 league and 2 non-conference games.
- I believe one of these needs to be against another BCS conference school.

Q: What about the schools already signed to play in the future? What happened to that scheduled game?  
They will move, drop, or buy out.

Q: Any ideas how conference alignment will shake out?

- A lot of publicity on North and South.
- Could keep current 2 divisions and just add Pittsburg to one and Syracuse to the other.

Q: Reseating

- We will be reseating next year 2012.
- We reseated 6 or 7 years ago.
- We got a lot of compliments from different institutions in the ACC and other conferences on our process the first time we did this.
- We have tried to consult with others and enhance the process even further this time.

Art Keown dismissed the committee at 5:00 pm