

University Athletic Committee
February 4, 2009
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Eileen Van Aken, Eric Davis, Sam Easterling, Leon Geyer, Charisse Ghattas, Rosemary Goss, Kenny Jarels, Larry Killough, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Pleasant, Stephen Prisley, Meghan Weyrens-Kuhn, Dwight Shelton, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Hap Bonham, Kristen Callan, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, Richard Ferraro, Mike Kelly, Mary Ann Lewis, Margarita McGrath, Glenn Reynolds, Ken Stanton.

Guest Present: Reyna Gilbert, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Life, 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, Stephen LaPorta, Athletics Administration Intern, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator, Tim Parker Senior Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance,

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm. The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes for the November 21, 2008 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

BUSINESS

Update from Chair

- Welcomed Jermaine Holmes new Director of the Student Athlete Academic Support Services to the University Athletics Committee.

Fall Academic Update (Jermaine Holmes)

- There were 490 student athletes as of Fall 2008.
- Fall 2008 Academic Recap
 - 206 (42%) had a 3.00 GPA or better.
 - 192 (39%) maintain a 3.00 or better cumulative GPA
 - 15 student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.00 GPA
 - 8 student-athletes maintain a cumulative 4.00 GPA
 - The average semester team GPA was 2.92
 - The average team cumulative GPA is 3.02
 - 8 teams achieved a 3.00 GPA or better, led by Women's Tennis (3.54), Women's Track (3.27), and Women's Swimming (3.17).
 - 12 teams maintain a 3.00 or better cumulative GPA led by Women's Cross Country (3.31), Women's Swimming (3.31), and Women's Tennis (3.28).
- Tutoring Activity:
 - Fall 2008 showed a slight increase in tutoring appointments (5245) as compared to Fall 2007 (5024).
 - Fall 2008 showed a slight decrease in missed tutoring appointments (155), as compared to Fall 2007 (218).
- Questions:
 - Lu Merritt: What is a tutoring appointment? R: When the student-athlete sets up a hour-long appointment with a tutor for a given subject. These are generally one-on-one appointments.

- Lu Merritt: What are the consequences if students miss an appointment? R: We track this and provide feedback to coaches. Coordinator will follow up with student-athlete as to why they missed an appointment.
- Rosemary Goss: Can you talk about the tutoring process? R: Some of our tutors are retired teachers. Tutors are hired as hourly wage. Our learning assistance staff help with training for tutors. There are general tutors, advanced tutors, and strategic tutors (increasing training needed to reach last two levels). Advanced and strategic tutors tend to work with more at-risk student-athletes.
- John Maher: I think it's wonderful that we have this tutoring available to students. However, I had a student athlete in my class and was asked to find a tutor for an advanced course I teach. We had everything set up. After the semester was over, I talked with the individual who had said they would tutor, but he was never contacted to provide tutoring. Just want to make you aware of this but I'm not sure what the solution is. R: The way the process works is that a student-athlete may come to us requesting that tutoring help. It sounds like in your case, we didn't have a tutor available, so your department was asked to identify one. The student must not have followed up on this. Within our unit we can look at how to better communicate between student-athletes and departments.

Governance and Rules Compliance – Eligibility

- A summary of the report is as follows:
 - “This report summarizes the findings of the Committee on Governance and Rules Compliance that operates within the University Athletics Committee. The specific focus of the review in the current academic year is on *Eligibility*. The report is presented in three parts. The first is a summary of an interview conducted with Ms. Heather Robertson, Coordinator of Athletic Compliance in the Department of Athletics. The second is a summary of an interview conducted with Mr. Clyde Cridlin, Assistant Registrar and Ms. Erika Perdue, Athletic Eligibility Coordinator and Graduation Analyst within the Office of the Registrar. The final part of the report is a review of the Rules Education Notebook. As the comments will show, there appears to be a rigorous, independent athletic eligibility evaluation of student-athletes conducted on an on-going basis. The committee did not discover concerns nor do we have recommendations for changes in the procedures or reporting.”
- The report was approved and will be sent to President Steger. (Motion was proposed, seconded and approved.)

Questions for Athletic Director

- Q: How does the coaching staff feel about signing day? R: I spoke to them this morning and they feel that they got everyone they wanted and they recruited to their needs. I think it is a positive recruiting class.
- Q: When will the football schedule be coming out? R: The schedule for 2009 will be released publicly on Monday. We play at home against Marshall, Nebraska, Miami, BC, NC State, and UNC. We're on the road at Duke, UVa, Georgia Tech, Maryland, East Carolina, and Alabama.
- Any ACC comments about bowl games? R: I thought that the CEO's and the President of the Orange Bowl did a wonderful job. This was our second year in a row going to the Orange Bowl and it was so much easier. It was a much better trip this year vs. last year in terms of logistics. It's always good when you win. We played very well against Cincinnati and played well in the Championship game against Boston College. I was very pleased with how our football team and staff hung in there throughout the season. I will tell you we had more people there than tickets that we sold through our ticket office. The secondary ticket market is killing institutions. Our fans having been to 16 different bowl games now,

are very savvy at getting better tickets than what Orange Bowl gives each institution. I was telling Orange Bowl leadership about some of our frustrations.

- Comment: For the championship game, the VT allotment of tickets seemed to be better seats than in the past. R: Thank you for commenting on that. We pushed that hard in the transition from Jacksonville to Tampa. But we still had people going to other places because they could get them cheaper. It's important to remember that in a 12-month period, we played in the state of Florida six times (2 Orange Bowls, 2 ACC championship games, at FSU, and at Miami). And then add in the downturn of the economy, it's very difficult to expect your fans to get to multiple games. This year it was in Tampa and it will be in Tampa for one more year. Then it comes to Charlotte, North Carolina for two years. I believe Charlotte will be the final destination for the game because it's centrally located for the ACC. If it doesn't work in Charlotte, I think it will end up moving to a campus.
- Q: I know that a long time ago we started talking about tickets. We had discussed that when students ordered season tickets for football, they could indicate a preference for where the seats would be. Could you give an update on this? R: To be honest, no work has been done on that. The ticket office personnel haven't really had time. I'm hopeful that will become a reality this year. I'll be sure to remind the ticket office about this.
- Comment: This is a testament to all the associate athletic directors. With regard to the Hokies Respect campaign, when I work on the football field I make it a point to talk to coaches and the television crews to welcome them to VT, because I take this campaign seriously. One of the things I hear frequently from assistant coaches, ESPN and TV reporters is how well they are received here on campus. R: I appreciate that. Probably the comment that we heard last year that was so fulfilling, was when Bobby Bowden said this was the best sportsmanship he's seen anywhere in 30 years.
- Q: Sportsmanship is a huge thing this year in NCAA; they're calling it "respect the game." There is a suggestion that other universities look at what we're doing with Hokies Respect. It sounds like we're going to be the model for the conference.
- Comment: I think our security people are to be commended. When there is a complaint, they are right there. They have not been belligerent or overly reactive. R: The one cartoon that we have gotten the most mileage out of is probably the one that we also got the most criticism over (and the most joking about) is the "jerk alert" one. But it's effective.

Announcements

- Kelly Cagle, women's soccer team head coach, will join us at the March meeting.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.