

University Athletic Committee
February 11, 2014
3:30 PM
Bowman Room Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Richard Benson, Tom Burbey, Michael Cole, Bob Denton, Rick Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Larry Killough, Chris Lomaka, Margarita McGrath, Susan Short, Susan Sumner Terry Swecker, Joe Tront.

Members Absent: John Clary, Art Keown, Katherine Lafon, Lu Merritt, Patty Perillo, Glenn Reynolds, Susanna Rinehart, Stephen Schoenholtz, Mallory Taylor

Representatives: Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton.

Guest Present: **Sarah Armstrong**, Associate Director of SAASS, **Bridget Burgger-McSorley**, Director of Compliance and Athletic Title IX, **Katie Cross**, Associate Director of SAASS, **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate AD, Administration, **Sharon McCloskey**, Sr. Associate Director of Athletics/SWA, **Chris Riley**, Head Coach Women's Volleyball.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

BUSINESS

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

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

Minutes for the November 2013 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Head Coach Presentation – Volleyball (Chris Riley)

- Recap of 2013 year
 - Finished 22-12, 10 and 10 in the ACC, RPI Ranking 65.
 - 2 All Americans – Victoria Hamsher – Engineering Major
Kathryn Caine – Business Major
 - ACC is one of top 5 or 6 conferences in country
- We are really proud of the program and where it is going. Very proud of the work we have done on character and leadership development. Every day we work on building our young women. That is the goal of our program in every aspect. Winning is very important but not as important as the quality of the person that we produce coming out of Virginia Tech.
- 2012 won the ACC Sportsmanship Award
- 2012-2013 Academic Achievement Award for Volleyball Nationally, program requires a 3.35 GPA, our team was 3.41 for that year.
- We meet with our SAASS person, Katie Cross, every week and go over everything that our student athletes are doing academically for the week. We are pretty aware of their needs.
- Some of our challenges
 - Scheduling with RPI in mind
 - Finding tournaments where high RPI teams are playing is difficult and we have to be the last team in the tournament.
 - Academically - classes offered only at one time for two years in a row. We have to schedule practice before that class or student athlete misses practice. If there is a conflict you go to class.
 - Travel in the ACC because of the change to 15 teams.

Question – What is the size of your team?

We have 16 to 17 players on our team. 12 of them are on full athletic scholarship and the rest walk-ons.

Question – What is the greatest injury?

Most frequent is the ankle. Our players jump 10 times more than basketball. Every play is one jump. The average play length is 5.2 seconds.

Question – How do you keep them from tearing ACL?

We have not had ACL injuries. Ankle injuries from jumping on each other. Our training room does an unbelievable job in pre practice and post-practice preparation.

Question – Do you always have 12 scholarships?

That is the NCAA maximum.

Question – How do you go about recruiting and where do you recruit?

I recruit everywhere there is talent. We take the best of the best.

Question – Do you recruit by a position?

Yes and no. There are some positions we recruit specifically toward, at other times we recruit athleticism and fit them into the rotation.

Question – General cost from bussing back from South Bend verses flying them to get back to class.

Question – Cost of chartering vs buses for 20.

Basketball charge is \$30,000 to \$40,000 vs bus \$3,500. Ten times.

Question – What other facilities would help you out?

We are one of 6 ACC schools that does not have their own facility to be able to play in. Cassell is a great home court advantage for us. A 4,000 seat facility for volleyball would be ideal. Understanding what I would like to do is to make Cassell into a 4,000 seat facility. We have talked about this quite a bit for wrestling as well. Trying to make it into a more intimate environment for everybody involved.

SAASS Fall Grade Report & Direction – Katie Cross

Jermaine Holmes gave his synopsis of his time at Virginia Tech and his farewells. Katie is the Interim Director for SAASS. Any questions about what we are doing, direct them to Katie. If any questions about the search for a new Director, direct questions to Karen Saunders.

Handout

- A total of 412 student athletes on team rosters
- 52 percent of student athletes achieved a 3.0 or greater fall semester GPA
- 48 percent of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA
- 130 student athletes made the Dean's List Fall 2013
- 17 student athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA
- 6 student athletes maintain a cumulative 4.0 GPA
- The average team fall semester GPA is a 3.02
- The average team cumulative GPA is a 3.03
- 11 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater fall semester GPA
- 12 teams maintain a 3.0 or greater cumulative GPA

Sharon McCloskey - Women's Soccer had an outstanding year and at the final four the NCAA gives an award for the Elite 89 because they have 89 championships and one student athlete is chosen from each championship and Katie Yensen of VT was chosen for Women's Soccer. What are your needs? – An additional tutorial coordinator. We are struggling with retaining staff. A lot of that has to do with the salaries compared to the market value and what other schools are able to offer staff. With the addition of a tutorial coordinator it would lighten the work load of some of our Olympic Sports counselors. But it only helps if we are able to retain those staff. Some of our Olympic Sports such as Women's Soccer have had four to five different counselors in a student athlete's career.

Question – You say salaries, how much difference?

Within the ACC \$5,000 to \$6,000 more per person.

Thanks to Jermaine for his service.

Facilities Report (Tom Gabbard)

Handout

Completed Projects since last time we talked:

- Football equipment room
 - Adjoined to new football locker room
- Oasis
 - Tremendous asset to Olympic Sports
 - rehydrate and training
- Cassell video boards/studio
 - HD across the board
 - ESPN 3 uses our equipment and our people. A great asset to the Olympic Sports.
- Stadium south upper sealing
- Football weight room renovation
 - Completed in 1998 and it needed a fresh look. Using the new equipment, taking out the old allowed us an extra row of racks. More people at one time. Added a new floor to the speed and agility room.

Planned or under construction:

- Indoor training facility
 - We have selected a design and build team.
 - Budget is not quite there yet. If we do not get the budget we may have to go back out.
 - We hope to present to the Board of Visitors in March.
 - It is a gorgeous building and blends into campus so well. It is not a metal building.
 - It will go on the east half of the football practice field. We will break ground late spring or early summer with the purpose of having it ready for the August 2015 preseason practice for football. But it will be used for soccer, lacrosse, baseball. All our sports will have an opportunity to use that facility because it is so close to their locker rooms and so close to our medical facility that we are really delighted to be able to use it so much. It is going to be real asset to us and frees up the Rector Field House.
- Rector renovation/softball hitting facility
 - Will then be renovated and the track put in there on a permanent basis.
 - There will be some additional space added as well. New Softball hitting facility will be constructed.
 - Part of that facility will be additional restrooms for Softball and Track
 - Concessions stands permanent.
 - Ticket office permanent.
- Hall of Fame display
 - Doorway coming from the walkway to Cassell now has a Hokie Stone Arch and from that we will extend down the west wall (back wall) of the Cassell with the same paneling that is done on the concession side and will have two interactive television screens and all the Hall of Famers will go down each side of that wall. Once Basketball season is done we will finish that project up.
- Newly renovated medical area
 - The training room was rehabbed about 10 years ago. When we build the new Olympic Sports weight room the old weight room was adjacent to the old training room. We have knocked the wall out between the two. Edward Via Osteopathic medicine doctors now have offices in the training room. We have a whole new training room and a whole new rehab area out of the old training room. We have more than doubled the size of the medical support space that we can provide our athletes in one area. It is not quite done, will be done in another 5 days.

Questions – What was the price tag on the new indoor training facilities?

The budget for it is between 16 and 18 million and they are not quite there yet.

Question – Horn in the coliseum is awfully loud. Can it come down?

Part of the video board project was a whole new sound system for Lane Stadium and for the first time in our lives we had to turn it down. I would like to enhance the sound system in the Cassell so that graduation does not have to adapt. First I have heard about the horn.

Questions for the Athletic Director

We have a new Athletic Director, Whit Babcock, who will be at our March meeting.

Jon Jaudon announced that before we meet again in March we will host the ACC Wrestling Championships here on March 8th. We would love to have everyone here attend. We are the defending ACC Champions.

Sharon McCloskey wants to commend the search committee on the search they did. The speed of the process was unbelievable. I think you made a great choice.

Question: Article in the Collegiate Times today about coaches. - Personally when it comes to selection of coaches

I do not say I am going to hire a female or a male. I like to get the best candidate whether it is male or female.

It is very hard to retain a women coach because they have to choose between a family and their career. If they have a family they have to juggle. I have tried to work with our women coaches to allow them concessions.

We do suggest to our men coaches of a women's sport that they have a female on staff.

The article was not inaccurate.

Question – Has it been explored to make Cassell more home friendly by putting seating on the floor?

We have explored it a number of times and in a number of different ways.

One of the issues is rushing the floor.

I can tell you that Cassell Coliseum is hated by visiting teams when it is full. It is a tough place to play. I do not know what we would accomplish by doing that.

Joe dismissed the meeting at 4:55 pm to the tour

Tour:

- New medical area
- Oasis
- Video boards/studio