

University Athletic Committee
February 4, 2010
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

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

Members Absent: Kenny Jarels, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Hunter Pittman, Sean Ryan, Jim Weaver.

Representatives: Deborah Smith for **Mike Ellerbrock**, Chris Wise for **Richard Ferraro**, Alex White for **Leon Geyer**, Shep Zedaker for **Steve Prisley**, Samantha Baker for **Dwight Shelton**. Vicki Langford for **Bev Watford**, Peggy Quarterman for **Paul Winistorfer**.

Guest Present: **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletics Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director for SAASS, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate Athletics Director, Administration, **Ned Skinner**, Head Coach Swimming and Diving.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics.

BUSINESS

Rosemary Goss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm. The agenda was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved). Minutes for the February 4, 2010 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Coaches Perspective: Swimming and Diving (Ned Skinner)

The 2009-10 season marks the 12th year at the helm of the Virginia Tech men's and women's swimming and diving teams for head coach Ned Skinner. Ned has gotten married and started his family after coming here. Virginia Tech Athletics were in the Atlantic Ten when he first came here went to the Big East and then the Atlantic Coast Conference. I had always dreamed of being an ACC coach and did not have any idea that coming to Virginia Tech would allow that. It has been a great journey here. Being in the ACC is a very challenging world. The ACC represents the finest in academics, athletics, and the pursuit of excellence. If you look across the board not just in football and basketball but in Olympic Sports, we really need to recruit the cream of the crop both as students and as athletics. The talent level of student athletes in the ACC is incredible. Students coming out of high school have typically scored points at the US National or Junior Nationals and have proven themselves at the highest amateur level. The facilities that our competitors utilize in the ACC are top notch, especially if you look at the upper half of the conference. It really is a journey to keep up and to put up the points needed to be competitive. The total support offered at VT is a very important to our potential for success. During my time here it is just unbelievable to see the growth of our Athletics Department. The SAASS office with Chris Helms and now Jermaine Holmes has grown so much and the support that it gives our student athletes is a huge reason our graduation rate is so high. Sports psychology and sports nutrition which is such an important part of what we do for our student athletes and how the training room has evolved, the doctor's offices and the impeccable care that we give our student athletes. It is really awesome to know that these young people are looked after in a major way.

We are real proud of our women's program. We had the highest GPA of any sport in the athletic department last year. We have a roster size of 34. We have been an Academic All American program for 15 straight years and our women take a lot of pride in how they conduct themselves in the classroom. We have had multi Skelton Awards winners, Claire Dickey who won last year. We have had quite a few post graduate scholars as

well. Right now we have Abby Barney, who is an active member of our team who was awarded an ACC post graduate scholarship.

The men's team seem to hover right around 3.0. The GPA is something that has continued to improve but it is tough when about 1/3 of our men are engineering majors. We are real proud of what they have done.

We just finished up our ACC Championships. Our women were fifth, they finished ranked 18th nationally and we will be sending four women to the NCAA championships. We had an ACC champion in sophomore Erika Hajnal, who won the 500 freestyle and the 1650 freestyle. We are really excited about where our women are going and hopefully we have some divers join these women in our pursuit of NCAA qualifiers. We have scored in six straight NCAA championships on the women's side. We really think we are on the right track. We had the ACC swimmer of the year in Jessica Botzum two straight years and last year we had the ACC Swimming Scholar Athlete of the Year in Sara Smith. We really feel like we are generating great swimmers and divers in the pool as well.

On the men's side we were fourth in the ACC this year. Our highest ever finish. The most points we have ever scored. Every person who attended the meet scored for the cause and that is something that we have never done on any side in the ACC. Charlie Higgins and Greg Mahon both medaled for us and they have a real good change to advance to the NCAA championship not the mention Mickey McDonald, the best diver that has ever come through here, is heading off to zones to hopefully qualify for the NCAA. He has scored at NCAA's four times. So we certainly hope his senior year finishes on the right note.

I brought a couple of student athletes with me today. I thought it would be good for you to meet the type of people that we are fortunate and blessed to have come through here. One of my favorite student athletes ever Sarah Ameen. Sarah is out of Woodbridge, VA and is captain this year. She is a former school record holder and she is a fantastic student graduating in May. Sarah is the vice president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. She is very involved within our athletic department and the assistance that our student athletes get. She will be heading off to South Vietnam this summer through a program called "Coaches for College". It shows that Sarah is a people person and a teammate first and that she gives of herself.

Kaan Tayla, a 2004 and 2008 Olympian. He was a multi time ACC champion and he has an interesting story. He transferred here to Virginia Tech from Binghamton University and he really did not take his academics seriously at Binghamton and it was all we could do to get him into Virginia Tech. He went on to be a magnificent student. He will be graduating this May with a degree in Business. Interestingly the only degree that we could get him in when he transferred was geography. So he started off the first year in geography and had to take classes along the way to stay on track to be eligible to compete and then ultimately be able to get into his desired curriculum of Business. He is a candidate for the PHD program here at Virginia Tech in Business.

Many of you who have been around Virginia Tech for a long time have seen War Memorial Pool. It has been our home since the 1950's when it started off two doors down in War Memorial and then they moved the pool to the other side of War Memorial in 1974 and that has been our home since then. Swimming and Diving program has been going on here for over 60 years. It is one of our longer standing sports at Virginia Tech. That facility has served us well but is one of the oldest in the ACC and we are real proud of what we have generated out of that facility. The Christiansburg Aquatics Center is going to be a magnificent facility not just for swimming and diving. It will certainly be our new home although we will stay for some practices at War Memorial Pool which is right on campus as this facility is five miles from campus. The Christiansburg Aquatic Center will serve so many community groups not just swimming and diving for Virginia Tech. Jon Jaudon should be congratulated for his vision of this facility. Glenn Reynolds also has done such a brilliant job of making it work. It is going to be beautiful. It is going to be functional. It is going to be our home base. When you walk in you are going to feel a Virginia Tech presence and it is going to evolve our program. It is really going to be a shot in the arm that we have been looking for. In 20 years of coaching in Division I, I have never had a pool that has windows. So I am not going to know what to do with myself when I can look outside and

see the sunshine. It is going to be a huge recruiting advantage for us and we have been able to bring recruits through but a lot of it is trying to sell the vision. And hopefully if it opens up this coming summer, we will really be able to benefit. Not just from their official visit but when they come here for swim meets and diving meets. They will be coming from all over the country to swim in a facility like this. We will be able to offer some magnificent home events. Not just our home swim meets but we will be able to host the ACC Championships and Regional or Zone Diving events. As you look at the community, it is going to be wonderful what this facility, the three different pools, are going to provide. A full therapy pool, which is going to help rehabilitate people, the local hospital will be able to use it. The recreation pool is going to be a great thing for our families to have something to do year around. It will really promote aquatic fitness and fun. And this "tank" which is 1.1 million gallons is going to add so much vitality and opportunity for aquatic programs.

Slide show of new Christians Aquatic Center.

Q: When is the target date for opening? June 1 at the latest.

Q: You mentioned swim meets at this facility, is there another common room. Yes there are two of those rooms that we just showed you. They are calling them multi-purpose rooms. There is also a wet classroom down stairs off the pool deck.

Q: Will the tank area be open to the public? Yes.

Q: What type of hours will the pool be open? Will it be open past 5:00 pm? Virginia Tech practices from 5:30am to 7:30am and 2:00 pm 5:30pm. Pool is open past 5:00 for public swimming.

Q: This was a joint venture between Virginia Tech and Town of Christiansburg or the county? Town of Christiansburg. We are committed to \$250,000 a year for 20 years payable to the town of Christiansburg, for a total of 5M. This is an 18M to 20M project. For that rental fee, we have some specifics written into the agreement. We have 10 weekends a year that we can reserve the pool for meets. We also have first right of refusal for practice times between 5:30 and 7:30 am and 2:30 and 5:00 pm in the afternoon. That gives us what we need out of the facility and we also have the men and women's locker rooms and Ned has an office. This project was started years ago and one of the reasons for the delay is our fault. The original plan did not have tower diving in it. Tower diving was voted into the ACC right as we began to break ground for this facility. We asked to architect to go back and redesign the facility to accommodate tower diving. The roof over half the building had to be redesigned and heightened in order to accommodate the 10 meter platform. That took some time and there were financials involved. We originally were 25 year commitment at \$200,000. They asked us to help with debt service for \$50,000 more per year over 20 years. We agreed because of what we had asked them to add to the facility in the tower diving. One other thing that it does for the town and the community is that it allows them now to host diving events that they would not otherwise be able to host. They will receive a lot more tax revenue from people coming to the area for these different meets. Age group swimming and zone diving events. We (Virginia Tech) were slated to host Zone Diving this year but they had to go to New Jersey because our pool is not open. That would have brought divers and families to our area. There will not be another aquatic center in the commonwealth of Virginia that can compare to this facility.

Q: Will there be a cost for any of Virginia Tech hosted meets? There could be for ACC championships but I cannot speak beyond that. I do not anticipate a cost for a dual meet or an invitational that we host there. We do not charge now for any Olympic sports and do not see charging in the near future.

Q: Is it a common occurrence now days for university's to partner with localities to build a shared facility like this? I just wondered if any other ACC schools have such a partnership. I know that Wake Forest has just purchased a minor league park from their community and is moving their baseball program to a downtown facility in Winston Salem. Penn State has a baseball facility that they share with a AA team. We had some conversation several years ago with the Pulaski team to upgrade English field if they were willing to go in with us and try to partner there. I think in the economic climate we find ourselves in will promote joint ventures.

Q: Would the athletes be going in mass to practice on a bus or would they have to drive themselves over there? We are looking at both options. Those that live on campus we are looking at BT to provide that transportation. Those who are off campus will probably drive themselves.

Q: How many swimmers and divers would you have going over there each day? We carry on average 64 total swimmers and divers on rosters.

Q: Will we have a brand on the place? A big VT logo someplace? Yes. The most likely opportunity for that will be on the record board. The aquatic center will have a record board that will have names of all events sponsored and Virginia Tech will have a record board for Virginia Tech events. The tile on the competition pool is a maroon the leisure pool side will have blue tiles. Virginia Tech team locker rooms will be burgundy and orange and the public locker rooms will be blue and yellow. The lane line will be maroon and orange in the competition pool and blue and yellow in the leisure pool. On the video scoreboard there will be the aquatic center logo and Virginia Tech logo. There will not be on the exterior of the building a large VT. I would see that we have something tasteful done as we do for the baseball, basketball, etc that would be out on Franklin Street that would say there is a Virginia Tech Swim Meet Today. We are not putting a reader board up as the town of Christiansburg has outlawed reader boards after Sonic put theirs up. There will be a Hokie Bird there. It will be a H2O Hokie Bird in the lobby. That was the request of the mayor. Bleachers will have a maroon tone to them. The athletic department video personnel have been working with the aquatic center to tell them where to place camera's and get the cable run. We have the conduit in the parking lot so that when TV does come in we can pull the cables to the control room. Currently working on sound system. The student athletes will have a separate entrance in the back on the level of the pool deck and there might be something we can do over that doorway to make it feel a little more like Virginia Tech. We were working with BT for extended services to make a stop there but now Christiansburg has service and this is one of the stops. The athletes can be bused from campus to the aquatic center.

Q: Any other school in the ACC have facility like this? Georgia Tech took over the Olympic pool from 1996 in Atlanta and it took them about 8 years to get it up and running in 2003. It is a beautiful facility and can host anything. Florida State just built a pool, it is outdoors. It is a 4.5 M facility, but they cannot host any sort of events because of the weather being a factor.

Q: Are some pools faster than others? The depth of the water in combination with the gutter system makes a pool fast. We have good depth and gutter system so the pool should be fast.

Q: Sara what are you going to do when you go to South Vietnam? It is a program called coach for college, a female from Duke started the program 3 years ago and they have been trying to get student-athletes from Virginia Tech, UVA, Duke and UNC to go to South Vietnam for 3 weeks to coach different sports. We have 4 swimmers and divers going this summer. I will be coaching volleyball. So you do not have to be an expert at what you are teaching. Basically it is going to help the kids over there learn sports and we will be in the classroom with them. There are four different subjects that we will help teach them. As a swimmer I could not do a study abroad because of training but this opportunity will give me a similar experience.

Report from Governance and Rules Compliance Committee (Joe Tront)

Handout

Members: Joe Tront (Chair), Susan Short, Drew Marrs, Larry Killough, Scott Pleasant.

Annual report that is produced and annually rotates through a series of topics that are examined by the subcommittee. This year the topic was recruiting and administrative oversight. The subcommittee met with a few coaches from various sports. This year Coach Dunkenberger from Women's Basketball, Coach Hughes from Men's Baseball and Coach Riley from Women's Volleyball. We generated a series of questions that we asked the coaches to test their knowledge of the rules in recruiting, about their practices and how things worked out for them. We documented the responses in the report. The committee feels fairly good about their responses in that they seemed knowledgeable to the rules and applied them appropriately. We were satisfied that they were in compliance. We also were tasked with a check up on administrative oversight.

Administrative oversight basically means is the upper administration in the university cognizant of what is going on in athletics and are they in fact providing the appropriate steering for making sure that athletics participates in the NCAA as they should. To that extent we asked Kim O'Rourke, who is the chief of staff for

President Steger, to document some examples of the President's activities in oversight of athletics and we put it in the report

Q: You did not mention anything about asking a coach how many visits can a recruit have? How many telephone calls? Your report does not really indicate to me that they have any knowledge of NCAA rules. We can generate an appendix to this committee report of all the questions and responses. We do not ask test questions. Coaches have to be certified each year with a test that is administered by the athletics department compliance staff and the ACC.

We are charged by this committee to give this report annually to the president. And each time we look at different compliance factors. What we have been doing is following up on the annual university audit findings of the athletics department. Whatever the audit looked at one year we follow up on the next year to see if athletics is following through.

The report was approved to be submitted to the president (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Report from Academic Integrity Committee

Report due April 1, 2010 to the committee

Report from Equity and Student Athlete Well Being Committee

Report due April 1, 2010 to the committee

Rosemary adjourned the committee at 4:29 pm (motion was proposed, seconded and approved)