

**University Athletics Committee**  
**March 21, 2017**  
*Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center*

Members Present: Holly Scoggins (Chair), Whit Babcock, Kevin Gehr, Debbie Greer (for Dwight Shelton), Rachel Holloway, Robena Hughes, Matt Mayotte, Thomas Mills, Robert Parker, Jay Poole, Terry Swecker, Joe Tront, Steve Trost, Chris Wise

Members Absent: Mike Casasanta, Joseph Gabbard, Leon Geyer, Jennifer Hundley, Bill Lansden, Irene Leech, Jacob Lutz, Patty Perillo, John Pinkerton, Stephen Schoenholtz, Savita Sharma, Dwight Shelton, Paul Winistorfer

Guests Present: Sarah Armstrong, Tom Gabbard, Tim Parker, Desiree Reed-Francois, Jill Wilson

Recorder: Megan Burkner, Assistant Director Compliance

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*Holly Scoggins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.*

**Administrative Items**

Information from last meeting available on google site.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda, and was passed unanimously.

**2. Approval of Minutes from February 22, 2017**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of February 22, 2017. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Business**

**3. AD Update and Q&A**

*Whit Babcock, Director of Athletics*

- Five Updates
  - “Drive for 25” (moving from 10,000 donors to 25,000 donors)
    - Good opportunity for growth based on recent increases in giving percentages
    - Extremely challenging goal, but optimistic

- Competitive Success
  - Men's Basketball -- NCAA Tournament appearance
  - Wrestling -- ACC Regular Season and Tournament champions; finished 6<sup>th</sup> nationally at NCAA Championship
  - Men's Track & Field -- ACC Indoor champions
  - Women's Basketball -- NIT Sweet Sixteen
- Annual Competition with UVa ("Commonwealth Clash") in all sports
  - Currently have nine wins over the Cavaliers
  - Need two more wins in 2016-17 to ensure no worse than a tie
- Two Newest Coaches
  - Jill Wilson, Volleyball
  - John Sung, Lacrosse
    - 14<sup>th</sup> in Country
    - Currently 2-0 in the ACC
- Wrestling Update
  - Tony Robie will be introduced as the new head coach

#### **4. New Head Coach Introduction and Volleyball Program Report**

##### ***Jill Wilson, Volleyball Head Coach***

- Has heard many positive comments about many departments/areas on campus from student-athletes
- Fell in love with Virginia Tech during her interview
  - Coming to VT from LSU, her alma mater
  - Energy on campus has made a positive impact on recruiting
- Associate Head Coach, John Wasielewski
  - Left Duke after 17 years
- Assistant Coach, Tom Amberg
- Team is making big strides
  - Talk about being "CEOs" in life, classroom, family, etc.
  - "Whatever you want to be, be the best"
  - Very eager and open-minded group
  - Home contests on April 15<sup>th</sup> (noon and 3 pm); free and open to all

##### **Questions/Comments:**

- *How are the players impacted by coaching changes?*
  - *Large roster returning; 15 players*
  - *Very positive response from the recruiting world*
- *Comparison of ACC vs SEC?*
  - *Was previously an assistant at UNC*
  - *Depth of teams in ACC has grown immensely*
- *What resources do you need? Do you have the tools you need?*
  - *Taking some time to evaluate where things are*
  - *Get recruiting budget updated to make that a priority; most important part*

## 5. Facilities Update

*Tom Gabbard, Senior Associate Athletics Director, Facilities and Operations*

- Capital Projects
  - Baseball
    - Will have 1,100 stadium seats; over 2,000 total
    - Club area, new press box, tv setup
    - Hitting facility revamp, including clubhouse
    - Target completion: February 2018
  - Tennis Center
    - Taking to BOV in May
  - Rector Field House
    - Softball indoor hitting facility with infield area
    - New throwing area for track & field
    - Target completion: February 2018
  - Bowman Room (Planning Phase)
    - Convert to dining facility
    - Have done feasibility study
- Renovation Projects
  - Golf (finished)
    - Two golf simulators
    - Putting green and chipping area
    - Offices for men's and women's coaching staffs
    - Locker rooms for men's and women's teams
  - McConnell Auditorium (to begin in April)
    - Funding for this project was provided by a donor
    - When finished, will seat 150
    - New sound system/video/etc.
    - Target completion: August 2017
  - 4,000 Cassell seats to be upgraded (to begin after May graduation)
  - Basketball gameday locker room (out for bid)
  - Jamerson corridors (planning phase)
- "Maintenance Reserve" Projects
  - Lower East Side resealing in Lane Stadium
  - Studio/video expansion
    - Mandated by ACC -- still learning the scope
    - Will be able to broadcast every sport contest at ESPN3 quality
    - Potential revenue recovery

## 6. University-Wide Academic Support for Student-Athletes

*Rachel Holloway, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs*

- Academic Integrity
  - Student-athletes face both academic and athletic pressures
  - VT GPA standards are higher than NCAA minimum standards
  - University recently updated its Honor Code
  - Increased understanding about the honor system

- Recent audit of student-athlete integrity (motivated by UNC case)
- Athletics Eligibility
  - Must be academically eligible to be athletically eligible
  - Requiring student-athletes to visit with on-campus advisor
- University and SAASS (system of support)
  - Advising
  - Academic counselors
  - Faculty outreach
  - Tutoring program
  - Study halls
  - Class attendance checks
  - Learning Assistance Program
  - Career and professional development
- Student must partner fully with this support to be successful
  - “own” their learning . . . more likely to be highly successful

### **Questions/Comments**

- *Virginia Tech academic requirements are more restrictive than NCAA minimums. Do any institutions simply use NCAA regulations as their academic qualifications?*
  - *Assume so, yes, but not sure*
- *University has implemented first-year experience program*
- *How are team GPA trends addressed?*
  - *Would be addressed between SAASS and Provost*
- *Is NCAA doing anything about number of basketball games in a season? Burdensome schedule . . .*
  - *No proposals in the 2016-17 cycle (T. Parker)*
  - *NCAA governance has identified topics to address in the near future, including examining time demands of competition schedules (T. Parker)*

### **7. Additional Business**

- Next Meeting (April 19)
  - Subcommittee Reports
  - Danny White
  - Communicate any additional items

***Meeting Adjourned at 4:59 pm***