

University Athletic Committee
April 10, 2012
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Jacqueline Nottingham, Scot Pleasant, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Dean Staffer, Joseph Tront, Franklin Warren, Lorenzo Williams.

Members Absent: Hana Billings, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Glenn Reynolds, Stephen Schoenholtz, Jim Weaver.

Representatives: Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton

Guest Present: **Chris Helms**, Associate A. D., Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holms**, Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate A. D., Administration, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiative for Athletics, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Women's Administrator, **Tim Parker**, Associate Director for Compliance, **Vickie Sarfo-Kantanka**, Assistant Director for Compliance.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

BUSINESS

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

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

Minutes for the February 2012 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

REPORTS

Subcommittee Report

Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being: Title IX Equity Subcommittee (Scott Pleasant)

Handout

Members: Scott Pleasant (chair); Mike Ellerbrock; Robena Hughes; Margarita McGrath; Lorenzo Williams, Pam Linkous and Sharon McCloskey.

- Virginia Tech is required to comply with the Title IX portion of the Educational Amendments of 1972 because they receive financial assistance.
- In Fall 2011, Virginia Tech contacted Helen Grant Consulting to evaluate the University's compliance status with the athletic provisions of Title IX.
- In light of the above, the 2011-2012 University Athletic Committee (UAC) Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being Subcommittee was given permission by Mr. Jon Jaudon (Associate Director of Athletics for Administration) to use HGC's report as the basis for their review and report.
- Effective Accommodation of Student Interest and Abilities: Virginia Tech is in compliance.
- Athletic Financial Assistance (Scholarships)
Athletic grants-in-aid to women's teams are 1.9% above the allowable 1% difference between the rates of awards. Helen Grant Consulting concluded that the reasons for the difference in the rates of awards were nondiscriminatory and that Virginia Tech is in compliance.
- Equal Opportunity and The Equivalence Standard – The remaining components of Title IX: Institutions must provide equal athletic opportunities for members of both sexes.

- Cross Country/Track stated that they were not provided practice gear or sports bras.
- Women's Swimming team members stated that they sometimes had to share beds.
- Men's Baseball; Men's Cross Country/Track and Men's Soccer coaches stated that their locker rooms were not as spacious and did not include a lounge/video area like the women's teams.
- Helen Grant Consulting reported that spectator restrooms and concessions similar to those at baseball are needed for the softball facility.
- As well, the report indicated that the new indoor hitting/practice facility is not being shared equally.
- Football has a "training table" three nights per week during the season. No women's team was provided training table meals.
- There is a Title IX disparity in that all assistance coaches in two men's sports (football and basketball) have courtesy cars/allowances as compared to one women's sport (basketball)

Q: Am I write to conclude that we are being asked to assign courtesy cars for one additional female sport asst. coaches?

Yes

Governance & Rules Compliance (Joe Tront)

Members: Joe Tront (chair), Richard Benson, Hannah Billings, Jacqueline Nottingham, Don Shoemaker, Dean Stauffer; Tim Parker.

Handout

- Purpose is to ensure that all individuals and organizations associated with Athletics Department are aware of and adhere to NCAA, Atlantic Coast Conference, and University rules and regulations that govern them. 2011-2012 three key areas reviewed: financial aid, playing and practice seasons, and summer camps.
- Internal audit comes along first and reviews these areas and the UAC follows up the subsequent year.
- Regular educational seminars on NCAA rules as well as the annual recruiting examination provided by Athletics Compliance. The Athletics Compliance staff was available at any time to answer questions or provide interpretations of potential recruiting violations.
- Detailed processes for record-keeping and checks and balances are used to ensure NCAA rules were being followed. Computer software is employed to help the tracking of prospective student-athlete aid and playing time.
- A common theme for the two Olympic sports, as related to financial aid, is that other schools seem to have mechanisms to provide financial support for student athlete outside of countable Athletics aid. This support may be need-based or academic in nature and is likely drawn from general scholarship or financial aid funds. The committee recommends that the appropriate persons be tasked with investigating whether or not we are competitive with our ACC peers.

Q: Do you have an example of aid that other universities might be giving?

Some states offer tuition waivers for in-state students who meet certain academic thresholds out of high school. Some institutions have greater resources of academic aid to draw upon that student-athletes qualify to receive based upon their academic credentials at the institution they are attending.

Student Athlete Academic Support Services (Holly Scoggins)

E.F. Benfield, Stephen Schoenholtz, Holly Scoggins (Chair), Susan Short, and Franklin Warren.

Handout

- Charged with evaluating Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). Arises from NCAA certification requirements.
- This review must occur at least once every three years by academic authorities outside athletics.

- During the current academic year the subcommittee has evaluated five of fourteen services. Study Hall, Tutoring, Technology and Computing Resources, Mentoring, and Academic advising. The remaining services will be evaluated in subsequent years.
- Mission Statement: The Virginia Tech Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) office is committed to providing fundamental and supplemental programming, consistent with University and NCAA policy, aimed at enhancing each student athlete's educational experience.
- SAASS has ten full time staff members including the Director and the new Assistant Director. They occupy the third floor of Lane Stadium.
- The purpose of study hall is to provide a structured approach to studying.
 - All first-year student-athlete (transfer students included)
 - Any student athlete presenting an overall GPA below 2.3 (Some coaches have raised this level)
 - Any student athlete earning semester GPA's less than 2.0
 - Any student athlete with the recommendation of an Academic Coordinator or coach.
- Staff in Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS) coordinate individual and group tutoring appointments on-site, six days a week in a wide variety of subject areas. It is the goal of the Tutorial Program to provide tutorial assistance for any request made by a student athlete.
- SAASS has 29 computers and two printers allocated for student use.
- There are no longer blocks on non-academic websites due to current lack of IT staff to maintain and monitor it.
- There is not full-time monitor in the computer lab. A student worker serves as a systems administrator from 9:00 am to noon each weekday.
- The "Road Warrior" laptop loaner program is no longer used as the University now requires each student to have a computer.
- Advising at Virginia Tech is a collaborative process between student and advisor leading to the exchange of information that encourages the individual student to make responsible academic and career decisions. Student athletes receive academic advising services from two sources: major advisors and SAASS academic coordinators.
- The student athlete Mentor Program at Virginia Tech is an active one-to-one relationship between former and current Virginia Tech student athletes. These relationships are formed to foster guidance, trust, and support for the academic and personal enrichment of student athletes.
- The lack of a full-time SAASS-dedicated IT staff position presents challenges to tutoring, advising and computer lab services. Two recent attempts to hire a part-time (no benefits) IT staff position have proved unsuccessful. A full-time, highly qualified systems administrator would be of tremendous benefit to SAASS. Technical support would allow the advising and tutoring programs to utilize new, holistic data management and scheduling systems that are currently in use by some of our peer institutions.

Q: If they hire full-time person does that money have to come from the Provost?

Good question. Could come from either

Q: What percent of your budget is contributed to the tutors?

Probably between \$80 and \$90 thousand dollars

Q: Are there tools that other schools are using besides manual processes to coordinate with Faculty grade reporting on each student?

We are working with the Registrar to develop an online system that we can send out progress reports electronically. It will be integrated into the Hokie Spa system. We are hoping to launch that in the Fall of 2012.

A system called "Grades First" currently in use by athletic departments at LSU, Colorado, Florida State,

and many more peer institutions exists. (upgrades to server system and addition of a SAASS IT staff position would be necessary) It is a host system and the university has reservations about host systems. But we are fortunate enough to get the green light to move forward which will allow us to manage on the IT side because they do all the upkeep management of the system if it goes down.

Q: Will that include tutor management?

Yes. Tutor management, advising records, study hall management. It can do a number of different things that will help us manage SAASS.

Q: Can you adapt for your needs are is it just a package?

You adapt it totally to what you need. We can send out text message alerts and e-mail alerts; students can go in and sign up for tutors on their own. We can provide travel letters for the student', we can do all that in this system.

Q: When you are talking about the mentoring program it said former athletes? Are you using students that are still here that have used up their eligibility?

Over the past couple of years, we have had several faculty, staff or administrative people on campus and retirees.

Q: How do people find out about it?

We advertise and talk to particular groups.

Questions for Associate Athletic Director (Jon Jaudon)

Q: Jon can you give us an update regarding the student-athletes that are studying abroad, service learning in Punta Cana this summer as part of Habitudes?

- 11 student athletes are going to take part.
- It is being overseen by Scott Geller, in the psychology department.
- Begins on 9th of June, spend a week here in Blacksburg on campus in class. The group will leave on the 14th to go to the Dominican Republic and will return on the 24th and will spend another 4 days in class on campus. Danny White reported after a scouting trip to Punta Cana that Virginia Tech is very much involved as an institution there. There are VT logo's on a lot of the buildings. VCOM is very involved with a clinic in the area.
- We are collaborating with peace corp volunteers to bring in a group of Dominican volunteers to teach through an established educational program (AIDS/HIV prevention) the first 2 days of the five days we will engage with the students of the Dominican.
- Katie Cross from Jermaine's staff, Danny White from our staff will be going to chaperone and Scott Geller's GA will be going to teach the classes on site in the Dominican.

Art dismissed the committee at 4:47 p.m.