

University Athletic Committee
April 23, 2014
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Tom Burbey, John Clary, Bob Denton, Richard Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Katherine Lafon, Chris Lomaka, Margarita McGrath, Glenn Reynolds, Susan Sumner, Terry Swecker, Joe Tront.

Members Absent: Whit Babcock, Michael Cole, Art Keown, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Patty Perillo, Susanna Rinehart, Stephen Schoenholtz, Susan Short, Mallory Taylor.

Representatives: Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton.

Guest Present: Sarah Armstrong, Associate Director SAASS,
Katie Cross, Interim Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services,
Derek Gwinn, Assistant AD Compliance,
Chris Helms, Associate Director of Athletics Olympic Sports,
Jon Jaudon, Associate Director of Athletics, Administration,
Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate A. D. /SWA;
Bridget Brugger McSorley, Director Compliance & Athletics Title IX,
Tim Parker, Associate A.D. for Compliance.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

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 March 25, 2014 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

BUSINESS

Glen Reynolds

Thank you for my time served. If you are not a Hokie Club member please join the Hokie Club.

**Facility Athletic Representative – Joe Tront
(Handout)**

Larry Killough will be leaving the position. Handout of description of the position. Joe opened the floor for additional nominations and asked for any discussion. The president's office will make the decision soon. There is a NCAA meeting on May 12, 2014 that the new FAR will be attending.

REPORTS

Academic Integrity SAASS – Tom Burbey

Members: Susan Short (Chair), Tim Burbey, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Larry Killough, Katherine Lafon, and Malory Taylor.

The Academic Integrity Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee has been charged with evaluating Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). This charge, in part, arises from NCAA requirements. Operating Principle 2.2 of the NCAA Certification Self-Study Instrument requires that the university conduct a review of academic services for student-athletes. This review must occur at least once every three years by academic authorities outside athletics.

SAASS provides services to support student-athletes in balancing academic and athletic demands.

Comprehensive academic support services include study hall; tutoring; technology and computing resources;

mentoring; academic advising; success skills; freshman/transfer orientation; academic progress monitoring and reporting; assistance for special academic needs; learning assessments; assistance for at-risk student; post-eligibility programs; academic evaluation of prospective student-athletes; and student athlete degree selection. A SAASS professional is assigned to each athletic team and provides the leadership for coordinating academic support efforts for each team member.

Committee Procedures: During the 2013-14 academic year, the UAC subcommittee evaluated freshman/transfer orientation, academic progress monitoring and reporting, learning assessments, post-eligibility programs, and academic evaluation of prospective student-athletes. The process has been designed by UAC to evaluate each service at least once on a three-year review cycle.

The committee was delighted to find an impressive set of services and resources provided by the Student Athlete Academic Support Services area.

When fully staffed, there are 10 full-time positions (9-advising; 1-administrative) that are a part of the SAASS team at Virginia Tech.

Although tutoring was not included as a review area for 2013-14 report, the committee noted that SAASS provided over 10,000 tutoring appointments during the past year and strongly urges the department to pursue the hiring of a tutoring coordinator.

The SAASS staff works diligently to develop strong relationships with university advisors and other advising liaisons across the campus to assist in coordinating schedules for students unable to attend the July orientation program. It was suggested that perhaps a video could be developed that would be available as a podcast online to provide all incoming student-athletes access to this information.

Freshmen/transfer orientation

- Second day of assigned University Orientation
- New Student Athlete Orientation

Problem area is in reference to transfer students. It has taken 3 to 4 weeks for the Registrar's Office to evaluate transcripts for prospective students with regard to transfer credits and within that time some of these students have chosen to attend other institutions.

Last week we meet with the Registrar's office and were told that this delay is down to 2 to 3 weeks for the general population.

Academic Progress and Monitoring

- Academic eligibility review and compliance
 - The office of University Registrar and the Compliance Office work with a SAASS liaison (Sara Armstrong) to review and troubleshoot eligibility issues.
- Progress reports to faculty
 - Each term, over 2,100 progress reports are prepared and distributed electronically to academic departments and faculty asking for input on the academic success of student-athletes in the classroom. The response rate for these forms is between 58-59%. The academic progress reports are used as a proactive method for monitoring academic success and to identify any issues prior to becoming serious problems.
- Scholar tracking

Learning Assessments

For each freshmen class, there is a review of high school grade point averages, SAT and ACT scores. Data is compared to national and Virginia Tech averages. It is the responsibility for the staff to determine a student's strengths and weaknesses and to develop a plan for support. The review committee noted that the Nelson Denny reading test was administered to first year student-athletes prior to the start of the 2013-14 academic year.

Post-eligibility Programs

Student-athletes who wish to return to Virginia Tech to complete their education or to pursue other educational goals will contact the SAASS staff or Office of Student Life expressing an interest. It is at this time, after a

review of his/her academic records that the SAASS staff will determine if the student is an appropriate candidate for post-eligibility programs.

Virginia Tech is a member of the **National Consortium for Academics and Supports**. Students are actively encouraged to participate in the Degree Completion Program (DCP) and the Outreach and Community Service Program.

NCAA and ACC Post-Graduate Scholarships – These scholarships are awarded to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are at least in their final year of intercollegiate athletics competition.

NCAA Division I Degree Completion Award - NCAA created this program to assist student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility for institutional financial aid (in five years). Applicants must have completed eligibility for athletics-related aid at a Division I member institution before applying and must be within 30 semester hours of their degree requirements.

No problems were found in the services that were reviewed: freshman/transfer orientation, academic progress monitoring and reporting, learning assessments, post-eligibility programs, and academic evaluation of prospective student-athletes. The subcommittee was pleased with the services and level of support provided by the Office of Student Athlete Academic Support Services and its staff. The efforts and goals of the department to encourage and promote student-athlete success are to be commended. In response to the significant number of tutoring appointments conducted by the SAASS team, the subcommittee recommends that a tutor coordinator position be added. SAASS is encouraged to conduct a thorough assessment of staffing needs and to develop a staffing plan that incorporates the strategic vision of the unit. In addition, the committee recommends the exploration of an on-line transfer process that will expedite the transfer of credits for all Virginia Tech students.

Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being – Robena Hughes

Members: Margarita McGrath (chair), Michael Cole, Glenn Reynolds, Susanna Rinehart, Susan Sumner.

The 2013-14 University Athletic Committee Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being Subcommittee was charged with reviewing and reporting on Virginia Tech's status with Title IX and Gender Equity compliance.

We conclude that the Department of Athletics has addressed the majority of recommendations given in this year's Assessment Report from Helen Grant Consulting. The athletics program should be commended for its efforts to fully comply with Title IX requirements. We have two areas of concern that we outline below.

1. The subcommittee reiterates the recommendation by the previous sub-committees and repeated again in the Helen Grant assessment concerning providing equal use of the hitting/practice facility for baseball and softball. Per the Title IX Response Document provided for this sub-committee's review, the Director of Athletics and the Associate Athletics Director for Internal Affairs have endorsed a plan to provide the softball team an indoor practice facility. Virginia Tech Athletics will undertake a 25 million dollar facilities enhancement project effective this spring (2014). The second phase is to include a renovation of Rector Fieldhouse to accommodate a new softball hitting facility, permanent concessions for softball, and additional restrooms for patrons of softball and indoor track. The enhancement project also includes improvements to the existing softball stadium – new restrooms, concessions and a ticket booth. Whether providing a hitting/practice facility for softball requires sharing the existing facility or a separate facility by renovating Rector, the committee has identified this as an area of concern in meeting Title IX requirements.
2. We recognize that the second area of concern, equality issues surrounding the provision of Director of Operations for our men's and women's teams stem from broader trends in university athletics. We support the Athletics' Department plan to conduct a needs assessment in order to determine the best placement for a new Director of Operations that would address the current equity issues.

Governance and Rules Compliance – Terry Swecker

Members: William Swecker, Jr (Chair), Richard Benson, John Clary, Robert Denton, Christopher Lomaka, and Stephen Schoenholtz. Bridget Brugger McSorley and Tim Parker provided resources for the sub-committee.

Recommendations:

1. Revise the mission of the Rules Compliance Subcommittee. Since establishment of the subcommittee, Internal Audit has increased the frequency of evaluation (3 out of 4 years, rather than 1 of 3 years) and has hired a specialist with knowledge of NCAA rules. Likewise, it is unclear whether the subcommittee should restrict its activities to just NCAA compliance or compliance with Conference and Commonwealth/University rules. It may be time to refine the efforts of UAC and the subcommittee relative to Internal Audit.
2. Assure that anyone serving in a coaching capacity participates in the new coach orientation conducted by the compliance office.
3. Consider development of best management practices in establishing and enforcing team rules to be shared among coaches and sport administrators.

NCAA Proposals – Derek Gwinn

1. First aid, CPR and AED certification by our coaches. Require for any coach to have those certifications for anytime that an athlete is participating in required athletic activity. They made an alternate proposal that the coaches do not need to be certified that we just have to have someone with certification at required athletic activities which is typically going to be your athletic trainers. Both of those proposals have been adopted. Which one is considered to be the final one is yet to be determined. Most cases here at Virginia Tech we always have an athletic trainer at any athletic activity with exception to individual sports such as pole vaulting, etc.
2. Strength and Condition Coaches to be certified by a national recognized organization. Human Resources here requires all full time strength and conditioning coach to already be certified before hiring.
3. Football any time they go out on the field for a practice they must have 3 hours of recovery time before they can go back out and have additional practice on the field. They can do film review.
4. Drug Testing – If a student athlete tests positive for marijuana in an NCAA drug test instead of being suspended for an entire calendar year they would be suspended for half of a season.
5. Meals – Two versions as well. Basically to provide unlimited meals to all student athletes at the institutions discretion. First version was only during their playing season. The other version is to supply meals for the entire academic year. Both adopted.

Question – Does that affect you in a budgetary way at all?

It will. There have been some numbers thrown out by several schools. You are looking at \$500,000 to \$755,000 a year increase it could be more. I have heard that schools are discussing having cafeterias in their athletic departments. The conferences will give guidance.

Question – Can you explain the current situation and truly does one Basketball player has the stage change NCAA rules are has this already in motion?

This has been in works for several months. It was actually proposed October 21, 2013. Schools provide comments to their conference office and the conference takes that to the NCAA.

Question – I am having a hard time believing that anyone is hungry. We have seen our Oasis provided to our student athletes.

I don't think so. A full Athletic Scholarship student-athlete gets more than a regular student meal plan. They get 20 meals a week and regular students get 14. And there are other opportunities that we can feed them in meal situations. They are at least getting 3 meals a day.

Question – Are there student-athletes competing at a high level that are having to go buy food because on our current system that is not enough food?

Not our Full Athletic Scholarship Football or Basketball players.

Question – But this proposal would provide access to all student-athletes?

Yes all student-athletes. Under the current system a walk-on would have to pay for a training table meal. This will eliminate the term training table.

Question – Will this create some fraud?

There could be fraud now. We give our off campus full athletic scholarship student-athletes a check for their board. We do not monitor what they spend the money on. The purpose of the money is to supply them with meals.

Question – Walk-on and non-scholarship student-athletes, does this give the university the ability to provide food for them if they wanted to?

It gives the ability to pay for. They were regulated by the dining hall. If we had them in practice and missed a meal than we could give them that meal. But now it is opened up to whenever. We have already been able to give pre game meals to all athletes, scholarship or not. There have always been opportunities for non-scholarship student-athletes to get feed directly in conjunction with competition. Now the opportunities will be much broader and not just with competition but with practice also.

Questions for the AD

Question – This whole thing with Northwestern do you ever see it becoming an issue at Virginia Tech?

There is a right to work law in the state of Virginia. You cannot form a union.

Joe dismissed the committee at 4:55 pm