

University Athletic Committee
September 12, 2012
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Kristen Blue, Kelsey Brunton, Richard Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Jacqueline Nottingham, Bijan Peters, Glenn Reynolds, Susanna Rinehart, Stephen Schoenholtz, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Dean Staffer, Terry Swecker, Joseph Tront, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent:

Representatives: Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton, Christi Boone for Bevlee Watford

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, **Reyna Gilbert-Lowry**, Assistant Director of Athletics for Student Life, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Women's Administrator, **Tim Parker**, Associate Director for Compliance.

Recorder: Shelby Smith, Athletics

BUSINESS

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

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

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

Also included in packet is the Athletics Committee Charge – please review

Future meetings will be October 16th and November 14th.

Jon Jaudon – team schedules and missed class time:

- Expectation for the upcoming academic year. UAC committee approved a scheduling policy and procedures in 1998 on student athlete class, campus life and travel time. Several sports/teams could have issues at exam time if in ACC or NCAA Spring Regional play because of change in academic calendar. Policy strongly suggests not competing during final exams if at all possible. See handout for details on sports/ anticipated missed days.
 - Question – Just days of week that would possibly be missed? May not have Friday class, etc. so no class missed that day? Jon- that is correct
 - Question – How will exams be rescheduled if during competition? Will that be pre-negotiated with particular faculty member? Jon - We will work on exam requests in January when classes begin. Men's basketball is leaving for a tournament in December, Jermaine and his staff worked with faculty to make arrangements for the two athletes to take exam early. Otherwise those two athletes would take a later flight to accommodate the exam.
 - Question – Is this something that will continue to happen? Jon – with the expansion of the conference this may happen more often. We have not had this many conflicts in years past.

Jermaine Holmes – SAASS

- Spring 2012 grade update past out to committee. This information is also shared with the Coaches, Administration, and Provost Office. Please remember to be careful how you share this information. If you ever get questions regarding this information please direct them to Jermaine or one of the Associate AD's. See report for complete details. Overall we had a good spring 2012 semester.
- Registrar's Office has developed a good system with which we can now send notices, faculty projects, etc. out electronically. For faculty it will be no different than logging-in to HokieSpa to submit grades. We piloted the program over the summer and it worked great and got a lot of positive feedback from faculty. Some of you who teach will see that this fall via email. It will explain how to get to it, how it works, etc. This will help coaches, administrators, faculty see the progress of athletes. These notices will be sent out a couple times a semester for feedback from faculty.
 - Question - Football had 22 athletes with 2.0 or below – is that normal? Jermaine – that is pretty normal and is a combination of seniors, freshmen, etc. Could also include athletes who chose to pursue the NFL or who just don't perform well.
 - Question – is the 2.0 what you would expect for football athletes? Jermaine – that is the minimum for the university. We don't set a minimum; we want them to strive to get the best possible grade.
 - Question – What kind of advising do you give athletes to help them decide on a major? Jermaine – Career Services has walk-in hours, Wed 1-3pm in SAASS, University Study Advisors or Business Advisors.
 - Question – Of the students who are regular Master's what programs are they in? Jermaine- Business Administration, Curriculum and Instruction, Industrial and Systems Engineering
 - Question – What's the link for coaches when recruiting and the athlete says "I want to come but I'm interested in X, Y, Z". How do they handle that? Jermaine- Our office will coordinate a meeting with representatives from a particular college that they have interest in. It's very sport specific also. Several departments on campus have information sessions for prospects to discuss their interests. Weaver – most times on official visits athletes will meet with colleges to see what their interests are.
 - Question – do most athletes come to orientation? Jermaine – we don't have complete information on that but we hold a Summer Academy now so all athletes here for the summer do attend orientation.

Reyna Gilbert-Lowry – Student Life Report

- We do hold orientation for all incoming freshmen and transfer student athletes. Jermaine, Sarah, as well as Nutritionist, and various others to help the transition for our athletes.
- We also work on career development, personal development, and community outreach (500 + hrs.).
- Career Services Liaison is Joanna Smith. We work closely with Joanna with regard to personal development programing. See handout for complete details.
- Outreach – 6 students won ACC Outreach Program awards for their commitment to the community.
- Study Abroad Program – This summer a group of student athletes went to Puna Cana, Dominican Republic as part of the university 3954 course.
- Some programs underway are: Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP), Financial Literacy workshop, Habitudes, Junior Jumpstart, Senior Transition Seminars, etc.
 - Question – Are athletes expected to do some sort of leadership program if not in Habitudes? Reyna – The teams that do not participate in Habitudes still do some sort of leadership training program. It's not mandatory but very highly encouraged. Very positive comments on this program from Richard Ferraro.
 - Question – Will we hear of the travel abroad from this summer? Jon – We will share/give presentation at a future UAC meeting, to include bringing in the student athletes that went on this trip.
 - Question – Wouldn't it be better for the Alumni Association to work with athletes to avoid Parker/Compliance issues with regard to our donors in establishing a relationship with them?

Weaver – We are working with the VT Athletic Fund to thank them for the scholarships they contribute so I think although I understand what you're talking about with regard to Parker's issues I don't think this is a particular problem when we're trying to express the appreciation for the donations.

- Art – at Penn State they have a strong football alumni group that acts kind of like an advisory board like we do in the College of Business in terms of networking and helping kids get jobs and they work with their equivalent of Tim Parker to assure no violation occurs but it's a great program.
- Jon – 2 nights ago Brian Thornburg, VT Athletic Fund, met with our SAAC committee to let them know exactly how the scholarship program works through the annual fund and through the endowment fund that contributes to the 11-12 million dollar scholarship bill that is paid each year. Trying to help our students understand there is actually people behind that money and it just doesn't appear out of thin air for us to utilize for their benefit. We've worked hard to help our athletes understand that concept over the past years.

Art Keown – Committee Assignments

- Reports are due in spring. This year we did the committee assignments electronically which worked great. See handout for details. We would like to have one report presented at each of the spring meetings. We can do all together if necessary. Please get together with your committee members after this meeting. I have the last reports in print so you have something to go by.
 - Jon, normally the governance and rules compliance was due in December. Did we get permanent relief from that? Only got it delayed for the ACC review so we may need to have that one this fall.

Jim Weaver – Director of Athletics

- Question – Does Notre Dame get to choose who they play? They agreed to play 5 ACC football games per year? Weaver – All the details have not been worked out at this time. The conference will decide who they play and will be discussed in the fall ACC meetings that will start in 3 weeks in Boston. It will take 3 years to play all ACC teams and then it will repeat the cycle with opposite venues. We are very excited to think Notre Dame will be coming to Blacksburg and play in Lane Stadium. And equally exciting for Hokie fans who like to travel to go to South Bend much like they went to Texas A&M, etc.
- Question - Will this impact contracts? Do they get TV contracts, etc? Weaver – Yes, this will be significant impact on TV contracts. Notre Dame will get the money when they play a home football game and we will get the money when we play a home football game with Notre Dame and there is no sharing of monies in between.
- Question – Is this a precursor to them entering the league or is there any chance of that? Weaver – I don't think that will happen in the short term. It's possible that it could happen 10-12 years down the line but I think it was very significant for Notre Dame to maintain their independent status rather than join in the football aspect of the conference. I can just tell you as a little kid in the early 50's I remember the only thing on television, college football wise, was Notre Dame on Sunday. I think if you look at the geographic area that the ACC controls, Canada to Cuba, I think we now impact the entire rest of the country because subway alumni etc want to know how Notre Dame is doing. I think it's a great opportunity to have Notre Dame in its membership all-be-it 5 games in football. All other sports are going to be in the conference. The only sport that will not be in the conference is football.
- Question – Will they have access to ACC Bowl package/contracts? If so how will that work? Weaver – I don't know the totality of that yet. I had some conversation about that last week all-be-it minimal. If they do that's not a problem because we'll be able, in my opinion, to find enough bowl games for those in the ACC who qualify. 2014 will see monumental changes – we have two years on current contracts.
- Question – Why not have 8 teams vying for the National Championship instead of 4? Weaver – the Counsel of Presidents felt that it was now sound academically. What do I mean- some institutions have final exams before the Christmas holidays and some have them after they return. So they felt that was

imbalance in fairness and felt everybody could play the semi-finals/finals in a 10 day period over the holidays.

- Question – When did negotiations start with Norte Dame? For some of us today was the first we've heard of them joining the ACC? Weaver – I don't know the answer to that. I will tell you that Commissioner Swafford had had some conversations with the Notre Dame AD over the last year to two years because the Notre Dame AD goes to the meetings of the BCS. He's the only AD in the country that has that privilege. And again that's the way it's been since the whole BCS deal started a long time ago. I found out at 7:20 this morning from a call from the VT President's office telling me Notre Dame had been voted in.
- Question – When current Norte Dame TV contracts end will they come into the conference? When will they start to play ACC games? Weaver – They will not start to play ACC games until Notre Dame reaches an exit strategy and status with the Big East Conference. At this time Big East has a 50 million dollar exit fee.
- Question – Do you think the ACC will go to 16 teams? Weaver – I don't know of any interest in going to 16 teams at this time. The real coo is Notre Dame. That will drive television revenue up, I'm told, minimally 1 million dollars per ACC School per year additionally. It's hard to put a figure on where you could get a million dollars when scholarships go up annually. Notre Dame coming into the conference will help to increase revenue.
- Question – How does a program can have a coach that over work teams, too many practices, etc. get away with it and how we avoid that situation? Weaver – We have a very solid compliance program and Tim Parker heads that program. We have 4 people under Tim who helps keep this from happening. You get to know what to do who to know and who is doing it. We take compliance very seriously. We tell everyone there is NO GRAY! It's either black or white; we do not take anything for granted. We investigate any type of issue that comes to us where anonymous or not. In terms of practice every team has forms that must be turned in to compliance. Coaches submit the form electronically, we send out to all members of that team for review. Any athlete is free to send back to us any concern they may have regarding accuracy of that form or if they feel there is error on that form.

Art dismissed the committee at 4:55 p.m.