

University Athletic Committee
September 25, 2008
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

- Members Present:** Hap Bonham, Kristen Callan, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, Charisse Ghattas, Rosemary Goss, Kenny Jarels, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, Mary Ann Lewis, John Maher, Lu Merritt, Scott Pleasant, Steve Prisley, Glenn Reynolds, Ken Stanton, Jim Weaver, Meghan Weyrens-Kuhn.
- Members Absent:** Eileen Van Aken, Eric Davis, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Leon Geyer, Zenobia Hikes.
- Representatives:** Clive Yorster for Margarita McGrath, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton.
- Guest Present:** Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Chris Helms, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, Colin Howlett, Acting Director for SAASS, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator, Tim Parker, Senior Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance.
- Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Rosemary welcomed new members and guest to the committee and asked them to introduce themselves to the committee first and then old members introduced themselves. Rosemary then reviewed the charge to the committee, which was written in 1988. She also explained the typical role of this committee.

The agenda was accepted as presented.

Minutes for the April and May 2008 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future meeting schedule for fall semester (Rosemary Goss)

- October 23
- November 20

REPORTS

Report of the Admission Appeals Committee (Rosemary Goss) Handout

The University has an admission appeals committee. This committee serves athletics, colleges and special programs for the purpose of hearing appealing on behalf of students who have been denied admission. It is customary each year for the committee to give a report to the UAC.

- For admission in the 2007-2008 academic year, 15 cases were heard, 14 of which were from Athletics and one from the Arts. Fourteen of the cases were approved, and 12 enrolled. All 12 are still enrolled for the 2008 fall semester and have an average GPA of 2.59 (range 2.08 – 3.31)

- In terms of more historic data, for the terms summer 2002 through spring 2008, 76 cases were heard and 64 were approved (84% approval rate). Of these, 59 cases were from Athletics and 49 were approved (83% approval rate.). Nine of the 64 never enrolled, despite being offered admission. Of the 55 who did enroll, 20 are still enrolled in good standing (GPA range 2.01 – 3.31), 10 graduated, 10 left in good standing, 5 left on suspension but are now eligible to return, and one left on final suspension.
- Another 21 cases have been heard for summer or fall 2008, 13 of which were from Athletics and 8 of which were from the Arts. Nineteen were approved. Eight students already enrolled in summer and have an average GPA of 3.36 (range 2.20-4.00). Sixteen of the 19 approved are enrolled for the 2008 fall semester, three did not accept the offer.
- The operating document of the appeals committee requires that the number of approved cases not exceed 1% of the freshman class, about 50 students with our recent freshman goals of 5,000 freshmen. The largest yearly number of approvals in the seven years of reports is 19, the number for the current year. This is 0.33 percent (one third of one percent) which is well below the maximum permitted.

Department of Athletics Mission Statement (Natalie Hart) Handout

- Virginia Tech just completed NCAA certification in April 2008.
- This takes place every 10 years.
- The certification looks at:
 1. Academic Integrity
 2. Governance and Rules Compliance
 3. Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being
- Natalie's position was created after this certification to make sure that we (Virginia Tech) are making good on all the promises given to the NCAA and all the recommendations the NCAA gave us.
- One recommendation involved reviewing the mission statement
- The senior staff reviewed the Mission Statement approved in 1999 to see if a revision was necessary.
- That revised Department Mission Statement was presented to the UAC.
- The UAC **accepts the report** provided by Natalie Hart that detailed the new Mission Statement for the Athletics Department (this motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Team Schedules and Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon) Handout

Our Scheduling Policy and Procedures was approved by the UAC on September 16, 1998. Jon has been giving this report since that time. Refer to handout distributed by Jon Jaudon on expected missed classes for student athletes based on the fall and spring competitive schedule.

- The policy does not want any single student to miss more than 9 classes. We are in compliance with the policy with the exception of Golf and Track & Field. The numbers listed are the maximum absences possible for an athlete to miss.
- Specific waiver request were approved by the Provost's office (Dr. David Ford)
- Rosemary reminded the committee that student athletic academic support services (SAASS) reports to the Provost's office and not to the Athletic Director.
- Q: It is a practice of SAASS to send a letter to the professors at least a full class period before the absence occurs if not a week before depending on the sport and availability of knowing who is traveling. Sometimes it is last minute because of injuries or pre qualifying. The coaches of any sport traveling (leaving campus) must turn in a complete travel roster and itinerary list before departing campus.

Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Colin Howlett) Handout

- At the beginning of each academic semester SAASS reports to the UAC on student academic performance based on the last semester completed.
- Organization chart was handed out for the Student Athlete Academic Support Services (SAASS). Dr Karen Sanders is listed as the Associate Vice President for Academic Support Services effective in July, 2008. Dr Ford will be retiring.
- A total of 452 student athletes on team rosters
- 42 percent of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA
- 28 percent of student athletes made the Dean's List
- 21 student athletes earned a 4.0 semester GPA
- 11 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA
- 13 teams maintain a 3.0 or greater cumulative GPA
- Top GPA's: tennis (men) and volleyball (women)
- We had 41 student athletes with a cumulative GPA less than 2.0.
- The handout also includes historical data on spring semesters the last 9 years, Graduation Rate Comparisons with other ACC institutions, and NCAA Graduation Rates Report since 2004 through projections for 2011.

Graduation Rates 2007-2008(Colin Howlett) Handout

- The first sheet is a comparison of where we stand as an institution in comparison to the rest of the ACC and our peer institutions.
- The Federal Graduation Rate is a six year graduation rate. Federal undergraduate graduation rates are a function of undergraduate students who enroll fulltime as freshmen and who graduate within six years of initial enrollment.
- Federal student athlete graduation rates are a function of the student athletes who enroll as freshmen, receive athletics related financial aid, and who graduate within six years of initial enrollment.
- The general student population has a federal graduation rate of 79%. VT Athletics federal graduation rate is 76% and that is only the student-athletes who received financial aid upon entering Virginia Tech 6 years ago. If a student transfers to another university and graduates from there, they are a negative statistic for us.
- Data on GSR (graduation success rate) takes into account other factors that Federal Grad Rates do not. It factors in students that transfer in as well as out and midyear enrollees. It, too, gives students a six year window to graduate but is reported as a four year cohort average.
- We do work with any student at any time to finish up their degree, regardless of whether it is within the six year window.

BUSINESS

Committees Assignments for 2008-2009 (Rosemary Goss)

- Last year we used the NCAA certification work (reports) for some of our committee work. We found out late last year that we could not substitute one report from the certification reports so we worked on to meet that deficiency.
- We decided in the spring last year to name committees in a way that parallels the NCAA certification process.
- Academic integrity has 14 items that the NCAA wants us to look at. The committee that meet last year, Rosemary Goss, Hap Bonham, Marry Ann Lewis and Chris Helms, decided that we would study one third of the items each year so we would have a three year cycle of review.

- In addition to the Academic Integrity committees volunteers were sought for Governance and Rules Compliance and Equity and Student-Athlete Well Being.

Questions for the Athletic Director

Jim Weaver

- Football and Basketball Season Tickets will be issued for each game. Just a rumor that tickets next year will be on a swipe card like student tickets this year.
 - Women's Soccer started off nicely but two serious injuries this week will impact that program this year.
 - Men's Soccer knew that they lost a lot of people after last year's run to the college cup or final four and placing third in the country.
 - Volleyball team is off to best start in 12 or 13 years. They are now 10 and 2. They defeated Virginia in 3 games on Tuesday night. If you have not seen them this year you need to see them.
 - Cross Country team has not been on the road yet.
 - In August the NFL put out a code of conduct with six points of emphasis. I think it is so good that I wrote commissioner Swofford and told him I thought we needed to do the same in the ACC. It falls right in line with the Hokie Respect Sportsmanship Campaign. We were awarded the ACC Sportsmanship Trophy last year and 19 of our teams have won sportsmanship awards in our four years in the ACC.
- Q Student tickets are assigned randomly. Group student season tickets must identify all the member of the group that want to sit together. Sandy Smith, Assistant Athletic Director for Ticketing, does everything he can to accommodate that request. Student tickets are in the upper tier of the east side, section's in the South End Zone and then in the North End Zone.
- Rosemary suggested that we have Sandy Smith come in for a future visit with the UAC.
 - Rosemary asked UAC members to provide input on future agenda items. Please send her an e-mail or talk to her.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.