

University Athletic Committee
November 18, 2014
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Lu Merritt, Whit Babcock, Rick Ferraro, Joe Tront, John Clary, Paul Winistorfer, Tom Burbey, Bob Denton, Art Keown (Chair), David Knight, Margarita McGrath, Brian Strahm, Susanna Rinehart, Susan Sumner, Susan Short, Bryce Chalkley, Ryan Shifler, Bijan Peters

Members Absent: Jacob Lutz, Katherine Lafon, Terry Swecker, Donna Raines

Representatives: Savita Sharma for Dwight Shelton

Guests Present: Matt Mayotte, SAASS
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Athletic Administration
Lisa Rudd, Athletic Administration
Tim Parker, Athletic Administration
Chris Helms, Athletic Administration
Kevin Dresser, Head Coach, Wrestling
Desiree Reed-Francois, Athletic Administration
Sharon McCloskey, Athletic Administration

Recorder: Darla Chudzik, Athletics

Art Keown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was modified to change the order of presentations; a motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, and was passed by unanimous vote.

2. Introduction

Chair Art Keown explained that subcommittees have not been set up yet; there will be an additional meeting in December or January to discuss subcommittee structure.

3. Approval of Minutes from October 22, 2014

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 22, 2014. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Business

A. New Mission Statement – Desiree Reed-Francois

Desiree Reed-Francois discussed Athletics' old mission statement, from 2008, and the need for a new mission statement to guide the department in light of the new staff and policies. A consultant was hired, and met with senior staff to come up with core values "buzz words," then a committee was created to work on the mission statement. The mission statement best represents who we are as a university and a community. Evaluations, promotions, hiring and termination decisions will be based on the mission statement.

Different designs were submitted and voted upon for new branding to go along with the mission statement. All Athletics staff members will get a piece of Hokie stone with the new branding on it.

Whit Babcock – when he first came here, no one knew the mission statement, so he wanted to start with that foundation as a first item of business. We are keeping the “strong together” component as part of the VT branding.

Answers to questions asked:

- a. Checking with Corps on logo design (similar to the Corps logo) – Whit will check with Larry Hincker’s office and/or the Corps
- b. We are now developing the “Pylons of Promise” to help with our students understanding our expectations and promises
- c. The logo could potentially be used by the entire university if the “Athletics” portion comes out; Athletics was cautioned to be careful about creating a logo to be used exclusively by Athletics
- d. Have not really considered how the logo would scale, for pins, letterhead, etc.

B. Coach’s Perspective – Kevin Dresser, Head Coach, Wrestling

Kevin is starting his ninth year at VT; he moved to VA from Iowa, and started the very successful wrestling program at Christiansburg High School. When he took over the VT program, the team GPA was 2.4; it was over 3.0 last year. In nine years, only one wrestler has ever been academically ineligible.

In the first year of his program, the team finished 80th out of 81 teams at the 2007 NCAA’s. In the past three years, we have finished 11th, then 10th, then 8th last year. ESPN3 is covering the Ohio State match, and there are matches in the Moss Arts Center this season.

Devin Carter went from 149 weight to 141 after he competed at the higher weight for a few weeks; the decision was his. He got a psychology degree in four years, and is getting a master’s in one year.

We are striving to keep the team GPA over 3.0 again this year.

Answers to questions asked:

- a. Coaches can wrestle the athletes in practice.
- b. The trend toward schools dropping wrestling programs is over; when Kevin competed there were 146 Division I programs; now there are half that, but the number is steady.

C. **The Committee then visited the wrestling facilities to watch practice.

D. Post-Graduation Survey – Reyna Gilbert-Lowry

Reyna Gilbert-Lowry discussed the survey numbers for post-graduation plans, and for the student athletes’ satisfaction survey. The numbers in Athletics are comparably to the university as a whole. Another survey will be conducted closer to graduation to get more accurate results. The numbers do not add up to 100% because student athletes could put down more than one response.

E. Athletic Competition Scheduling – Tim Parker

Tim Parker discussed the need to update the Scheduling Policies. Exceptions to the current policy include the baseball team playing an ACC series on commencement in the spring.

With regard to weather issues and cooperation of faculty for unforeseen circumstances, Chris Helms said that Athletics has gotten great cooperation from faculty over the years. Bryce Chalkley reported that he has never had a problem with faculty accommodation his need for a change in exam and assignment schedules.

Per Tim, both travel days and competition days contribute and count toward missed class time. Per Joe Tront, the ACC is discussing missed classes as well.

A subcommittee will be charged and set up to redo the 1998 Scheduling Policies document.

5. Announcements

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm.