

University Athletics Committee
September 22, 2015
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Margarita McGrath (UAC Chair), Susan Sumner, John Pinkerton, Holly Scoggins, Robert Bodnar, Jacob Lutz, Ryan Shifler, Rachel Holloway, Brian Strahm, Harvey Casey, Bob Denton, Terry Swecker, Joseph Gabbard, Bill Lansden, Amanda Smith

Members Absent: Patty Perillo, Whit Babcock, Joe Tront, John Clary, Paul Winistorfer, Jennifer Hundley, Donna Raines

Representatives: Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton

Guests Present: Matt Mayotte, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services
Mary Anne Steinberg, Ph.D., Coordinator, Learning Assistance Program
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Associate AD of Student Development
Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD, Compliance and Governance
Desiree Reed- Francois, Executive Associate Athletics Director

Recorder: Alison Whittaker, Athletics

Margarita McGrath, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, and was passed by unanimous vote.

2. Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2015

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 21, 2015. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Business

3. Review Schedule

Review of the schedule of future UAC meeting dates and tentative agendas.

4. Subcommittees

Review of the 2015-2016 UAC Subcommittees and assignments.

5. SAASS (Student Athlete Academic Support Services) Report

Matt Mayotte, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services

- Introduced new staff member, Dr. Mary Anne Steinberg- Coordinator, Learning Assistance Program.
- Overview of Academic Support Services.
 - SAASS provides comprehensive academic support to approximately 600 students in 22 sports in the following areas: Tutorial assistance; Study Hall; Mentoring; Learning Assistance Program (LAP); and Computing services.
- Introduction of the SAASS staff.
 - Virginia Tech is well under the recommended 150-1 student to academic coordinator ratio.
- Study hall and tutor sessions overview.
 - Structured study hall for Freshmen and those under the 2.3 GPA threshold.
 - Fall 2014, 135 student athletes participated, Spring 2015, 127 student athletes participated.
 - Tutoring- 7000 tutor contacts in the 2014-2015 academic year; 400 so far for Fall 2015.
 - Student athletes no longer able to contact tutors directly, all requests go through Ryndee Mitchell to coordinate.
 - 92% success rate setting up tutors with student athletes.

- Student athlete majors- Top 15 for 2014-2015.
- 2015 Academic Report- Team GPA's.
 - Spring 2015 Semester Mean GPA 3.08, improved from Fall 2014 Mean GPA of 3.064.
- SAASS Spring 2015 Initiative and Goal #1- Reduce the number of student athletes below a 2.0 GPA.
 - Implemented monthly academic skills workshops through the SAASS Learning Assistance Program to help student athletes learn strategies to develop the academic skills and personal attributes needed to be successful at the college level.

Questions/Comments:

Meeting with SAAC suggested; student athletes not pleased with the new tutor request set up.

How does a student athlete set up a tutor session?

They are to email Ryndee Mitchell to set up a tutor session and she facilitates the whole process. Working on solutions and improvements, very open to suggestions from SAAC.

How was this relayed to the student athlete?

Team meetings, Coaches and informational packets were given out to every student athlete.

Suggested an online system to help facilitate the process and suggested Sport Administrators and Head Coaches to help communicate to the student athletes.

About how long does it take to get a response? Is this too much for one person?

An email receipt of the student athlete's request is sent immediately back to the student. It typically takes 2-3 days for an appointment to be set up with a tutor. We currently work with 100 tutors.

Where do advisors fall in this setup?

Some advisors set up tutors ahead of time knowing the student's needs.

What is the average student body GPA? Is it similar, higher or lower?

Dr. Holloway will find out the average student body GPA.

Are the goals set by the teams?

Question for coaches, it is up to each coach.

Are coaches evaluated based upon team GPA?

Yes, it is in the coach's contracts and they are incentivized. It is part of their responsibility.

Mary Anne Steinberg, Coordinator, Learning Assistance Program

- How SAASS determines at risk students.
- Developed a 3 tier system with Robyn Jones. Created cut scores based upon national averages for all VT incoming Freshmen.
 - Incoming Freshmen evaluated by their SAT/ACT scores, high school GPA and Nelson Denny test. Watch list is created to identify those who need additional academic support and they are divided into 3 Levels. Level 3 students will have additional testing.
 - 48 students currently participating- 32 students in Level 1; 13 students in Level 2 and 3 students in Level 3.

Questions/Comments:

Do you have enough resources to manage?

We would love to work more closely with Level 1's. Looking at ways to support the students more.

What happens when they become Sophomores?

They transition to the mentor program.

How do advisors (Academic Coordinators) choose to see students?

Professors will notify SAASS and advise who needs help in many cases.

Students often get tutoring off campus, how does that work with the tutor program that is set up?

There is math tutor listserv used by Virginia Tech students.

SAASS is not aware that this is happening outside of our academic center. The Writing Center is used for all English tutoring. All resources available to the general student body are also available to the student athletes.

6. Introduction of Bill Lansden, Executive Director of the Hokie Club/Sr. Associate Athletic Dir. of Dev. University Development

7. Tour of SAASS and the New Indoor Practice Facility

Meeting Adjourned for Tour of SAASS and the New Indoor Practice Facility at 4:18pm