

University Athletics Committee

February 22, 2017

Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Holly Scoggins (Chair), Leon Geyer, Rachel Holloway, Robena Hughes, Jennifer Hundley, Bill Lansden, Jacob Lutz, Matt Mayotte, Thomas Mills, Robert Parker, Stephen Schoenholtz, Savita Sharma, Dwight Shelton, Terry Swecker, Joe Tront, Steve Trost, Paul Winistorfer

Members Absent: Whit Babcock, Mike Casasanta, Joseph Gabbard, Irene Leech, Patty Perillo, John Pinkerton, Jay Poole, Chris Wise

Guests Present: Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Lee Hawthorne (DSA), Chris Helms, Tim Parker

Recorder: Megan Burkner, Assistant Director Compliance

Holly Scoggins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

Whit Babcock unable to attend. Chris Helms will stand in.

A motion was made to approve the agenda, and was passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 24, 2017

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 24, 2017. The motion was passed unanimously.

Administrative Items

Need new representative from Student Council

Subcommittees

- Moved reports onto UAC web page for review and access
- Bring any questions to Tim Parker
- New reports due at April meeting

Business

3. AD Update and Q&A

Chris Helms (standing in for Whit Babcock)

- Departure of Wrestling Head Coach Kevin Dresser
 - Leaving to become head coach at Iowa State University
 - Coach Dresser is a native of Iowa
 - He had been on a five-year contract, and was the highest paid wrestling coach in the ACC
 - Virginia Tech currently ranked 4th in the nation
 - Athletics administration met with team immediately to re-confirm our commitment to maintaining the level the team has achieved, and ask student-athletes what qualities they would want in the new head coach
 - Assistant Coach Tony Robie named interim head coach

Questions/Comments:

- Concern about losing team members or recruits?
 - Recruits have all confirmed their commitments
- Is this typical timing?
 - No, atypical. Pushed by Iowa State releasing their coach early

4. Student-Athlete Academic Awards

Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Development

- ACC Honor Roll
 - Minimum 3.0 GPA for the academic year
 - 263 athletes last year
- Scholar-Athlete of the Year (ACC award)
 - 3rd or 4th academic year
 - 2015-2016 winner: Virginia Tech swimmer Brandon Fiala
- ACC All-Academic Team
 - Recently named for the Fall
- Weaver/James/Corrigan Postgraduate Scholarship (ACC award)
 - Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
 - Completed at least seven semesters
- Male and Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year (ACC award)
 - Each institution has influence on criteria
 - One male and one female; must have senior standing
- Skelton Award (Virginia Tech award)
 - Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4
 - Junior, Senior, or 5th-Year student-athletes
- NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship
 - Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2
 - Exhausted athletic eligibility
 - Planning to pursue a graduate degree
- Ethnic Minority and Women's Enhancement Postgraduate Scholarship (NCAA award)
 - Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2
 - Seeking admission into sports administration graduate program

Questions/Comments:

- Skelton Award has faced some challenges in awarding money to student-athletes
 - The award is considered athletically-related financial aid per NCAA regulations, so it counts towards individual and team financial aid limits
 - Can you do it as a deferred award?
 - Spirit of award is to help student-athletes during their academic career
 - Could potentially use toward study abroad? Summer?
 - Can apply toward summer aid
 - Travel scholarships could be a reasonable approach
- Award Ceremony at the end of the year?
 - AD Honor Roll Breakfast
 - Honors student-athletes who achieve over a 3.0 GPA during the previous year, and various other academic achievements
 - "The Gobblers"

5. Academic Update: Fall 2016

Matt Mayotte, Director, Student-Athlete Academic Support Services

- Working with 551 student-athletes on 20 team rosters
- 300 student-athletes earned 3.0 GPA or greater in the Fall 2016 semester
- Student-Athletes vs. Student Body (2.99 vs 3.16)
- Reviewed historical Fall semester trends
- Social media contact information
 - Twitter: @VT_SAASS
 - Instagram: @VT_SAASS

Questions/Comments

- What teams carry the lowest GPA?
 - Men's Basketball (2.11)
 - Have created more oversight and structure for the spring semester
 - Football (2.41)
 - Probation = required tutoring
- What are the trends with Men's Basketball and Football?
 - Will provide that information at a future meeting
- Success in-season vs out-of-season?
 - Every sport is different
- GPA minimums to graduate at Virginia Tech?
 - Each department can set its own GPA
- Do you get push-back from coaches?
 - Coaches respond well to make student-athletes successful in the classroom
- Time commitment each student-athlete gives to his/her sport?
 - Golf and Baseball teams are away from campus the most
 - UAC subcommittee currently examining missed class time
 - Gathering specific data
 - Will review any correlation between missed class and academic success
- Are we recruiting kids that are not set up to be successful at Virginia Tech?
 - In some cases, yes
- Staffing? What is the ratio of advisors to student-athletes?
 - Staffing has increased in recent years
 - Learning assistance areas have more need now
- What happens to students below a 2.0? How do we support them?
 - Specific required programming

6. New Programs and Initiatives in Fundraising

Bill Lansden, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Development and Executive Director of the Hokie Club

- New Hokie Scholarship Fund Program
 - We are not raising enough money to pay for our scholarships
 - Our donation/benefit program was an outlier nationally – this was one driver for the change
 - Only 4% of Virginia Tech alumni are giving back to the school (this places us in the bottom four in the ACC)
 - Example: University of Louisville raising \$16M more than us annually
 - Giving to athletics at Virginia Tech has been declining over past six years
 - Parking is the most valuable perk
 - Cumulative giving helps with priority in seat/parking selection
 - New giving deadline is March 31st
 - Results: 5886 total gifts thus far in this cycle
- “Drive for 25”
 - Goal: 25,000 Hokie Club Members

Questions/Comments

- Did you see an increase in ticket sales for football?
 - It's been about the same
- How does reseating work?
 - Donors can pick any seat in the section that is open within your donation level
- Faculty seat assignments?
 - Will be based on their giving and how long they have had season tickets
- Hokie Scholarships vs Major Gifts?
 - Major Gifts do not go toward scholarships

- What is happening with the group that had not yet renewed?
 - Calling each personally, email, etc.
- Working to create a culture of giving
- Competition between athletics and other departments within the University
- To get athletics benefits, gifts have to be toward athletics
 - Ohio State is an exception (can donate to academics and still reap athletic benefits)

Meeting Adjourned at 5:14 pm