

**University Athletic Committee  
December 1, 2010  
The Tide Room  
Christiansburg Aquatic Center**

**Members Present:** Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Mike Ellerbrock, Richard Ferraro, Larry Killough, Art Keown, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Jacqueline Nottingham, James Penven, Scot Pleasant, Glenn Reynolds, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker,

**Members Absent:** Devin Cornwall, Kenny Jarels, Steve Prisley, Dwight Shelton, Susan Short, Joseph Tront, Jim Weaver.

**Representatives:** Mark Dottore for Michael Doughtry

**Guest Present:** **Chris Helms**, Associate Athletic Director, Olympic Sports, **Jermaine Holmes**, Director of SAASS, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiative for Athletics, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator, **Ron Piemonte**, Diving Coach, **Ned Skinner**, Head Swimming Coach

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

## **BUSINESS**

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:47 pm.

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

Minutes for the October 27, 2010 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

## **REPORTS**

### **FAR Selection Process Subcommittee (Art Keown)**

The attached committee report (attached at the end of this report) was circulated and discussed. In a letter dated July 18, 2010, President Steger asked Rosemary Goss, who was the previous chairperson, to have the committee develop such a recommendation. The development of the guidelines was explained. The terms of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) were set out with a good deal of flexibility given to the President. The one year term allows for the orderly termination of a FAR if such action is felt appropriate. It also allows for the appointment to continue, with flexibility to end the appointment when the President feels it is appropriate (either he/she feels the appointment has been long enough, or for any other reason). The idea is that there may be times when extending the FAR appointment may be in the best interests of the University. Examples given included when the FAR is up for a leadership position within the ACC, or if there is some unusual circumstance in which the FAR's experience may be of value – for example, when Tom Brands left for a position at Iowa and took with him a large number of our wrestlers, the FAR was given the task of overseeing the release appeals. In such cases it may not be desirable to remove the FAR until the situation, or leadership term, has expired. It was also pointed out that this is a relatively time consuming position, and as such, the FAR should hold a senior academic rank. That way this appointment will not interfere with efforts to reach senior academic rank (full professor). In addition, membership on the UAC may function as an initial screen for candidates to be considered, with the experience on the UAC providing experience and knowledge. Finally, the FAR must be able to interact with colleagues outside of Virginia Tech and effectively communicate the issues and decisions that the President feels are in the best interest of the university.

The proposal was accepted as presented (a motion to accept the proposal was made, seconded and passed unanimously).

## **Coaches Perspective – Ned Skinner & Ron Piemonte, Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Coaches**

**Ned Sinner** pointed out that:

- The men had 7 Academic All-ACC performers last season (next closest was U. VA and UNC with 5 each).
- Our men tend to hover around a combined GPA of 3.0.
- Trey Stewart is a current Skelton Award winner as our program has had multiple.
- The women had the highest GPA of any sport at VT in spring '09.
- The women tend to hover around a GPA of 3.25 and consistently rank within the top 3 of all sports at VT.
- Our women have finished in the top 25 at NCAA's 3 of the last 4 years, and have finished as high as 3rd at ACC's (2009).
- Our men finished 4th at the 2010 ACC Champs. And return the majority of their point scorers.

**Ron Piemonte** began by pointing out how the new facility has impacted the diving program.

When talking about the success of our recruiting class for next year, he pointed directly to the importance of the new facility (with no disrespect to War Memorial). He note that we have been bringing in a very high level athletes for as long as he has been coaching here, and they have all loved Virginia Tech. The difference now is - we have the new facility open, and not still under construction. He feels this has made a difference in signing some great athletes during this recent recruiting cycle. First of all, many of these top athletes currently train in very good facilities, and they want to go on to the next portion of their career in a great facility as well.

Secondly, these athletes are taking recruiting trips of top programs that all have excellent facilities. Finally, it is hard for those athletes to commit to come to Virginia Tech with War Memorial as the primary facility that they will train and compete in. It just doesn't compare to what they currently train in, or the schools that they are choosing to visit. In short, the new facility is a beautiful, state of the art facility that provides an outstanding environment to both train and compete.

He closed by noting that we are looking forward to the future of what will happen with having this facility, and signing some top athletes. It should only create a “chain effect” for our future. He now feels we have all the parts of the puzzle. A great school, an excellent athletic department, a beautiful place to go to school, an excellent coaching staff, a great group of student-athletes that create the kind of environment that people want to be part of..... and now a great facility to round it all out.

Art Keown adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m. for a tour of the Christiansburg Aquatic Center. The tour ended at 5:05 p.m.

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## **Virginia Tech Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) Appointment Guidelines**

The President:

- has sole authority to appoint or terminate the FAR.
- may choose to consult with the University Athletics Committee (UAC) regarding the selection.

The Faculty Athletic Representative:

- serves at the pleasure of the university President on an annual reappointment basis with the number of consecutive terms determined by the President.
- must be knowledgeable of the goals and objectives of the university and be able to understand and express how Athletics can support those aims.
- should be chosen from the ranks of senior academic faculty.
- must be able to interact with colleagues outside of Virginia Tech and effectively communicate the issues and decisions that the President feels are in the best interest of the university.

Current faculty serving or having recently served on the UAC may function as primary candidates for consideration. UAC service can be a valuable asset to those appointed as FAR due to the knowledge and experience gained while serving on the UAC.