University Athletics Committee  
February 7, 2008  
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center

**Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, David Ford, Leon Geyer, Rosemary Goss, Adam Kress, David Lowe, John Maher, Margarita McGrath, Scott Pleasant, Ken Stanton, Lu Merritt.

**Members Absent:** Hap Bonham, Bryan Collier, Sam Easterling, Kelsey Hoffman, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, Mary Ann Lewis, Steve McMullin, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.

**Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Chris Wise for Zenobia Hikes.

**Guest Present:** Jon Jaudon, Associate AD, Administration, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Chris Helms, Director of SAASS, Tim Parker, Assistant AD, Compliance.

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. Approved. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes for the November 27, 2007 meeting. Approved.

**Business**

- Rosemary welcomed Leon Geyer to the meeting because his teaching schedule prevented him from attending during fall semester.
- Rosemary also shared an article from *the Chronicle of Higher Education* about the increasing numbers of international students playing intercollegiate sports and another one from USA Today about graduation rates for football teams that were in bowl games. Virginia Tech was mentioned favorably.
- As chair, Rosemary attends the Hokie Club Board of Directors meetings twice a year. Very positive comments were made about the athletic academic program.
- Rosemary also introduced Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, and welcomed her to the meeting. Her position was created out of the NCAA review. She will monitor the progress of NCAA plans for improvement for the third cycle review. Natalie will be on all three subcommittees that were established by the NCAA review for the University Athletic Committee. Natalie circulated the plans for improvement that she is charged to follow up to see that they are incorporated. Leon Geyer volunteered to help with
the initial set up of the Diversity Review Committee when Natalie requested a volunteer from the UAC committee.

Financial Aid Subcommittee Report (Steve McMullin)
Hand Out Attached
- Steve was unable to be with us today due to the flu. Rosemary served on the committee and she commented that she had no idea the complexity of financial aid issues.
- The subcommittee met with and interviewed; Shauna Cobb, Compliance Director, some coaches and associated AD’s for various sports, and people from the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid.
- Football, Men’s and Women’s Basketball, Women’s Tennis and Volleyball all have fully funded scholarships for student athletes.
- All the other sports are given a determined number of scholarships, and it is up to the coach how they are distributed.
- If a student-athlete gets an outside scholarship, the conditions of that particular scholarship determines if it counts against the sport or not.
- The coaches and compliance department must depend on the student-athlete to tell them of any outside scholarships that they receive.
- At some universities coaches put together packages depending on what the student will qualify for in federal and/or state aid. Some university’s coaches only go after the very poor or very rich. Some states have programs where a B average student can go to a state university on state scholarship so all the athletic scholarship money can be used to bring in out-of-state student-athletes. This puts some of our programs at a disadvantage in recruiting.
- Jon Jaudon stated that we are working to fund each athletic scholarship offered at Virginia Tech to the out-of-state value. That would give our coaches the greatest flexibility in recruiting.
- Lu Merritt stated that the Athletic Fund is currently funding a percentage of the scholarships offered through 35 million in endowments and ideally he would like to have 135 million in the endowment to fund all athletic scholarships.
- NCAA only tracks the number of scholarships, not the amount of money spent for a scholarship.

It was moved and seconded to accept the report of the Compliance Committee’s Financial Aid Report and send it to the President. Motion carried.

Fall Academic Update (Chris Helms)
Handout
- 41 percent of student athletes maintain a cumulative 3.0 or greater GPA.
- 40 percent of student athletes achieved a 3.0 or greater fall semester GPA.
- The average team cumulative GPA is 3.04. The best fall number we have seen.
- The average team semester GPA is a 2.95. This is the second best on record.
- Men’s Tennis has the highest GPA for 2007 among men’s teams.
- Women’s Track has the highest GPA for 2007 among women’s teams.
- 10 teams achieved a 3.0 or greater semester GPA.
• 13 teams maintained a 3.0 or greater cumulative GPA.

Chris brought before the committee his need to find a permanent home for the transitions course for new student athletes that has been taught for 10 years. It is a 1 credit pass/fail class taught by one of Chris’s staff. Without an academic sponsor, it will go away this fall.

Michael Dame congratulated Chris on his report and the work his office is doing with the student athletes as the majority when finished playing their sport are prepared to go and do something with the rest of their lives.

Announcements

Future meeting dates:
March 13, April 10 (meeting will be Third Floor West Side), and May 6.

Future Agenda Items:
Would like to invite a member of the football coaching staff speak about recruitment.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Report of the Rules Compliance Subcommittee
University Athletics Committee  
February 2008

Members: Steve McMullin (chair), Rosemary Goss, Larry Killough, Alex White, Michael Dame

**Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the Rules Compliance Subcommittee of the University Athletics Committee is to ensure that all individuals and organizations associated with university athletics are aware of and adhere to NCAA, ACC and university rules and regulations that govern them. The Rules Compliance Subcommittee has been commissioned to evaluate rules compliance in five key areas: rules education, monitoring recruiting activities, financial aid administration, eligibility certification, and the reporting of rules violations.

The charge of this subcommittee is to work in concert with the staff of Internal Audit and Management Services (IA&MS) to review the focus areas of the operations of the Department of Athletics and perform an independent review of areas not covered by those reviewed in the current year by IA&MS. This report focuses entirely on administration of financial aid to student-athletes.

Members of the subcommittee interviewed the following Athletics personnel:

- Tim Parker, Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance
- Shauna Cobb, Compliance Director
- Randy Butt, Sport Supervisor for Men’s and Women’s Tennis
- Peter Hughes, Head Baseball Coach
- Katrina Silva, Head Lacrosse Coach
- Tom Gabbard, Sport Supervisor for Men’s Basketball, Men’s and Women’s Track, Men’s and Women’s Cross Country
- Lisa Rudd and Gary Steck, Athletics Business Office
- Dave Cianelli, Director of Track & Field
- Kelly Cagle, Head Women’s Soccer Coach

Members of the subcommittee also met with representatives from Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid:

- Marilyn King, Senior Associate Director
- Dawn Brown, Financial Aid Counseling Coordinator for Athletics and Professional Students
- Stephanie Breeding, Senior Assistant Director for Client Services
Findings

Athletics Compliance and Business Offices—Virginia Tech’s system of administering financial aid for student-athletes outside of the Department of Athletics appears to be working well. Athletics personnel who had worked at other institutions mentioned how much better they thought the Virginia Tech system was compared to other institutions. All coaches and sport supervisors complimented the Compliance Office for their diligence and responsiveness to requests for information. However, they also noted that the Compliance Office has been understaffed (the office recently expanded from two to four) and that fully staffing the office is critically important. The Athletics Business Office supports Compliance in tracking budgets and equivalency. Combined with tracking by coaches, a solid system of checks and balances is in place to ensure compliance with financial aid requirements. Representatives of both the Compliance and Business Offices noted that refunds to student athletes generated by the Banner System have caused compliance problems due to over payment of financial aid. Compliance personnel would like to be able to review proposed refunds to student athletes, but they have been told that is not possible.

Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid—Representatives of both the Athletics Business Office and the Compliance Offices, as well as coaches, mentioned that timeliness of information requests from Financial Aid is an issue. One person handles all student athlete applications, in addition to applications of many other students. Coaches may be put at a competitive disadvantage in recruiting because they are not able to provide accurate and timely financial aid information to recruits. Representatives of the Athletics Business Office noted that both they and the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid must make last minute adjustments to financial aid and budgets when the University makes changes in meal plans. Representatives of the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid expressed concern that there was not more interaction of units that deal with student athletes such as the Registrar’s Office, Bursar’s office, and Compliance.

Coaches and Sport Supervisors—All coaches and sport supervisors were well versed in the rules governing countable financial aid and equivalency. The primary issue that coaches had to deal with regarding financial aid was availability of information in a timely manner. Several coaches noted that they had to tell student-athletes (and their families) they would have to give up some financial aid that the coach was unaware of when scholarship allocations were determined. In some cases, coaches did not receive final financial aid information until well into the Fall Semester. At least one coach also noted that unlike other institutions, Virginia Tech is unable to put together packages of athletic and noncountable aid because coaches do not receive information until August. The final issue of timeliness (noted earlier) deals with coaches’ inability to provide accurate information about financial aid to recruits when they need it. Sport supervisors noted that they get all the information they need from the Compliance Office and that efforts of coaches to track their own financial aid distributions make their jobs easier.
Recommendations

1. When vacancies occur within the Compliance Office, the Athletics Department should actively work to fill those vacancies as soon as possible. The Office of Compliance provides critical support for coaches and sport supervisors and full staffing is necessary to provide timely responses on questions of compliance.

2. Representatives of Athletics Compliance, Office of the Registrar, the Athletics Business Office, Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid, and the Bursar’s Office should meet (perhaps each semester) to discuss issues related to financial aid for student-athletes. One initial topic for consideration is how to avoid future disbursements of refunds to student athletes which are not warranted. In the absence of careful monitoring, such refunds could cause the University to be out of compliance with NCAA rules.

3. Representatives of the Athletics Compliance Office and the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid, should meet to determine if and how more timely information regarding financial aid for student-athletes could be provided to the student-athletes, their families and coaches engaged in recruiting those student athletes. The two offices also should discuss potential avenues for the University to offer “packages” of athletic and noncountable aid to student-athletes.

4. Although the Rules Compliance Subcommittee realizes this is a resource issue, dedicating one person’s time in the Office of University Scholarship and Financial Aid, even if for specific months such as July, August and September, to financial aid for student-athletes could improve response time.

5. Explore what other institutions are doing regarding making the NCAA Compliance Assistant Program, internet (web-based) version (commonly referred to as CAi) and Banner more interactive and implement the findings if solutions are available.