University Athletics Committee
March 13, 2008
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center


Representatives: Chris Wise for Zenobia Hikes, Michael Ermann for Margarita McGrath.

Guest Present: Jim Cavanaugh, Assistant Coach Football, Shauna Cobb, Director of Compliance, Jon Jaudon, Associate AD, Administration, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Chris Helms, Director of SAASS, Particia Lovett, Assitant Director Athletics Student Life Office.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 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 February 7, 2008 meeting. Approved based on correction regarding the transitions course.

Coach’s Perspective: Recruiting (Coach Cavanaugh)
- Recruiting is our lifeline; about 12-13 years ago, we started making progress here. We have been able to play with in-state players.
- Each Assistant Football coach has an in-state area. We identify a kid football-wise, and academically. We also identify “can we get him?”
- The recruiting process puts a tremendous amount of pressure on these kids and families. The competition for these kids is intense. High school coaches are tremendously influential.
- The NCAA allows five official visits. Once we can get a kid to visit, we have a high success rate (the facilities, the campus, etc.). We have one of the best support systems there are for athletics. Chris Helms and his staff do a great job. But the kids and their parents have to see this.
During their official visit, Chris meets with them, Coach Beamer, myself all give a talk. Then they go out and visit the campus. The most important thing however about our buildings are the people in them.

We’re investing $125k in these kids, scholarships etc…. Now we don’t know them as well as we used to because there are rules about when you can and can’t recruit. You don’t have the same time on the road to study these kids and meet the families because of the earlier commitments.

Sharing of Faculty Athletic Representative Description (Natalie Hart)

- Handout
- Part of what came out of the certification process was a job description for the FAR; wanted to distribute to the committee (refer to handout).
- FAR is Faculty Athletic Representative to NCAA – Larry Killough is this currently. This is part of the review we’ve been undergoing.
- Jon Jaudon: The ACC is a very FAR-power-driven conference. We’ve been in other conferences and by far, the ACC has given authority to the FAR like no other conference I’ve been part of. They are the official voting member of VT with ACC legislation and decisions. In some conferences, it might be the President or Athletic Director. At some conferences, the FAR doesn’t even attend. The ACC is the exact opposite of that. Larry serves a vital role in our involvement within the ACC. He is also a member of the NCAA post-graduate scholarship committee.

Discussion of Academic Progress Rates (Jon Jaudon and Chris Helms)

- Handout
- NCAA Academic Progress Rate Report.
- This is part of a larger academic reform package that NCAA passed back in early 2000’s. It is designed to be better than the graduation rates measure. It’s a measure of how your team is progressing academically.
- Point system using two questions that are answered for each scholarship athlete at the end of every semester: Is the student eligible for the next term? Is the student enrolled for the next term? If yes, you earn two points out of possible two points.
- The minimum is 925 – if below that and if you have an “0 for 2” student, you are subject to contemporaneous penalty. The penalty is equal to the scholarship amount the 0/2 student was receiving.
- Multiyear rate – 2003-2007. Men’s wrestling is below the 925 as a result of the 2005-06 year in which we lost our head coach to Iowa and he took five scholarship athletes with him. We lost all of those retention points. Subsequent to that, we had three other athletes leave. NCAA has given us relief. If an injury prevents a student from returning, we can get a medical waiver. The sports of football, men’s basketball, baseball, and wrestling are the ones that have the most problems with maintaining a high APR.
- Last year was the first year that schools could lose scholarships due to penalties.
Discussion of First Year Course (Chris Helms)

- The course discussed at the last meeting needs to find an academic “home” otherwise it will go away.
- Chris Helms: I appreciate the committee’s feedback. Various course descriptions were sent via email to the committee to offer examples of other university courses that mirror our transitions course. I’m open to any kind of suggestion for how to move forward.
- What about it being a UNIV course? It seemed that David Ford said that there wasn’t support for that. There are a number of UNIV approved courses. We took the proposal for this course as a UNIV prefix to and it wasn’t accepted. I think it was disallowed because of a rigor issue.
- It seems that there is potential for getting this through – but it needs some revision in the area of expectations of students.
- The current proposal doesn’t follow the course format for new courses – in that format is the justification section – justify why this course needs to be offered, who takes it, why it’s at the level that it’s at. That’s where you would talk about it’s need for the student athlete who do not have a first year experience in their department.
- Rosemary and Eileen offered to work with Chris to help revise the course proposal and submit again to the University Curriculum Committee.

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

- Jim Weaver was not in attendance because he was attending the ACC basketball conference tournament.

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

Future agenda items
Next month we will invite some of our Olympic sports athletes and have an update on the Hokie Respect campaign.

Announcements
- Kent and Adam have been working with Jim Weaver on a “Hokie Cheer Campaign” The top ten winners will be selected and submitted to the Athletics department to see if they want to implement them for next year. We’re getting sponsors for prizes. We have a website hokiecheer.com. We have a face book site. All the businesses in town are being really supportive. We’re doing this under the Hokie Respect frame – any cheers that don’t fit this won’t be considered.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.