Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:40. The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes for the March meeting (dated February 28, 2007) were approved with corrections.

**BUSINESS**

**Academic Progress Rate (Chris Helms)**

(Handout)

- The goal of the academic performance program was to shift to a more academic culture.
- There are several components to the performance plan:
  - Graduation success rate (NCAA) is a metric for calculating graduation rates.
  - Also part of the performance plan was measures that strengthened eligibility of athletes.
  - Incentives and disincentives is also part of the performance plan.
- The information in the handout package reviewed by the Committee was put together by Jon Jaudon.
- The APR is a metric that is designed to give a more real-time rate compared to other metrics. The NCAA instituted this to provide more real-time data. It includes athletically-aided athletes. This makes up the cohort by team. Information is reported by team. Other metrics such as federal graduation rate uses sport categories – here you can see each team as represented.
- Each student athlete in the cohort has the ability to earn 2 points each academic semester – one for eligibility and one for retention. During an academic year, an athlete can earn up to 4 points maximum for their team.
- By design, the APR will be a four-year rolling compilation of rates. This program started in 2003, so we are currently in the fourth year. What is provided today in the package is three years worth of data. With the 2006-2007 year, that will be the fourth year, and from there forward, it will be a rolling rate.
- General comment by Jim Weaver: across the country, it has taken some time for this new system of measurement to get the attention of coaches. It was also unclear how the NCAA was going to use it and move forward with it. But this has changed in terms of awareness, attention, and consequences to this measurement system.
- 925 is the threshold – this equates to a 50% federal graduation rate. For a team to incur contemporaneous penalties, you have to be both below a 925 and have a(n) individual(s) be 0 for 2.
- None of our sports after three years will be subject to contemporaneous penalties.
- At the beginning of Fall semester, we had two sports that were required to have an APR improvement plan (baseball and men’s soccer).
Now that these more recent data are available, these two programs are moving the right direction.  

The NCAA rules for continuing eligibility are: every semester an athlete has to pass a minimum of 6 hours during each semester and a minimum of 18 during each year. And as a freshmen, it is 24 hours for the first year including summer. After sophomore year, have to have completed 40% of your degree, etc. The idea is that you’ll always be within a five year window of completing your degree.  

This system forces coaches to do recruiting even more systematically – there is a higher risk of loss of scholarship if you just award scholarships just for the sake of filling up a roster or having practice players (where the risk would be that these players are not retained).  

Historical penalties will begin to be incurred for the “worst offenders” – there will not only be loss of scholarships (for 1 calendar year), but also loss of practice time (from 20 hours down to 10 hours for example).  

NCAA Athletics Certification (Rosemary Goss)

- The NCAA Athletics Certification process continues – the final report goes to NCAA May 1 and goes up on the web April 13.  
- Our site visit will occur November 12-14. The chair of the site committee is the former president of the University of Tennessee (Dr. Joe Johnson).  
- Final assessment will be February 2008.  

Policy 1035(Rosemary Goss)

- Policy 1035 that was discussed in the UAC a few months ago was approved by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. This policy will be included in the Student Handbook in the Fall and replaces information previously contained in the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP).  

Questions for Athletic Director

- Q: For years we heard the APR was coming and now we’re dealing with it. Is there anything out there in the NCAA that people are talking about that you all are thinking about?  
  - There are 2-3 presidential committees appointed related to fiscal responsibility. There is concern that athletic programs are spending too much in a “race” against other institutions. We were behind for a long time – other institutions have spent a lot more than we have.  
  - We’re involved with Christiansburg in a new swimming facility. It’s our responsibility as administrators to invest in facilities so our athletes can have what they need to practice and compete. The athletic department will also build a practice basketball facility. We got questions about why we were not planning just to build a new coliseum. We don’t need a new coliseum – what we really need is a practice facility. We also need facilities for wrestling and volleyball teams. On the ground floor of the new facility we’re going to build a 10k square foot weight room, which will be designated for our Olympic sports.  
  - Another issue is always academic enhancement – we’re always to improve upon that.  
- Q: Is there anything in the NCAA report that is sensitive that we need to be aware of when the site visit occurs?  
  - Jim Weaver: I think we’ll have plenty of time to digest the full report and answer that question in the Fall in preparation for the site visit. I don’t think we have a major problem. I don’t see anything that is going to stop us from getting certified. I think our approach could be a model.  
  - Sharon McCloskey: I agree with that – for example, with regard to gender equity, I’ve worked on that part. We had a lot more in gender equity plan than we actually needed – we know a lot more about certification in this area now. Our meeting schedule, etc. – everything in this is so organized.  
  - Jim Weaver: If I had to pick an area where we have the most to do is the area of diversity. We’ve tried to do our best but we haven’t done some of the documentation that some people thought we should. That is an area where we’re probably the most vulnerable – but not to the extent of not getting certified.
Rosemary Goss: we’ve also been having each committee identify internal things we want to work on, and some of those will come back to this committee. There will be some things that the sub-committees will need to ask for this committee’s help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jessica Botzum has been named one of the Skelton Award recipients – awards student athletes who have achieved excellence in athletics and academics. She was also named to the 2007 Homecoming Court, along with Brian Collier.
- Student Athlete Academic Summit will focus on the NCAA Certification Process, May 17.
- Women’s lacrosse coach, Katrina Silva, will speak at next meeting.
- Next committee meeting date: May 3.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.