University Athletics Committee  
May 8, 2008  
Bowman Room

**Members Present:** Susan Anderson, Rick Ferraro, Rosemary Goss, Mary Ann Lewis, David Lowe, Margarita McGrath, Steve McMullin, Lu Merritt, Eileen Van Aken, Jim Weaver.

**Members Absent:** Hap Bonham, Bryan Collier, Richard Cothren, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, David Ford, Leon Geyer, Zenobia Hikes, Kelsey Hoffman, Larry Killough, Mike Kelly, Adam Kress, John Maher, Scott Pleasant, Dwight Shelton, Ken Stanton.

**Representatives:** Melinda West for Dwight Shelton

**Guest Present:** Chris Helms, Director of SAASS, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Jon Jaudon, Associate AD, Administration, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate AD/SWA,

**Recorder** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm. The minutes from the April meeting need to be revised and will be sent at the first fall meeting. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. Approved.

**NCAA Athletics Certification Update (Natalie Hart)**
- A press release went out this morning that we are fully certified and received the best outcome possible. Our next visit will be in 2017.

**UAC Action Items from NCAA Review (Natalie Hart)**
- Several recommendations:
  - Have UAC look at our mission statement and see if it’s still relevant for the Athletics Department. We would like the UAC to have a part in providing input to revising the mission statement.
  - Perhaps UAC should report to the Commission on Student Affairs and the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (we currently report in to this commission) – President Steger felt it was up to the committee.
- A motion was made to enact sharing UAC minutes with the Commission on Student Affairs and report through Jim Weaver’s quarterly meetings with the Board of Visitors Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics. Motion was seconded. Motion approved.
- Natalie will put together a committee in the fall to look at the Athletics Department mission statement.
Year in Review (Jim Weaver)

- The Hokie Club has 6-8 large tours each spring. The circuit started a little earlier than in the past, well before the spring ACC championships were contested. In trying to organize my remarks for these tours, I went back to my remarks from similar presentation last year. Last year, I talked about memories from 2007 (after the April 16 tragedy) and then I talked about ACC championships.

- Significant memories:
  - When a few days after the tragedy, got the call from NY Yankees that they wanted to do something for us, and invited President Steger and me to a game and presented Virginia Tech with a $1 million dollar check.
  - When Drew Weaver, of our golf team, won the British Amateur and qualified for the British Open, as well as the Master’s.
  - Opening football game against ECU – it was the first time that the Hokie Nation came together en masse since the tragedy. ECU gave us $100,000 for the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. We also received a $300,000 check that day from the ACC.
  - Men’s soccer team did not win the ACC championship, but went to the second round of the ACC Soccer Tournament. They went on to the NCAA College Cup (the final four) but lost to Wake Forest in the semi-finals and placed third in the country.
  - Jessica Botzum finished her Tech career with five ACC titles and NCAA All-American awards while leading the women’s swimming team. The team finished 22nd nationally last year and this past year 23rd, finished fourth in the ACC both years. (I’ve challenged all of our teams to finish in the top echelon within ACC, defined as top third).
  - In Charlotte, when VT took on UNC, ranked #1 and led in all but one minute and lost in the last seconds. The men’s basketball team has earned three first round “bye’s” in the ACC tournament.
  - March 18: NY Yankees came here to play a game. It was a very special time. They were as gracious and generous with their time as you can imagine.
  - Two weeks after that just before the Master’s, Johnson Wagner, a 2002 graduate, won his first tournament, the Houston Open and also qualified for the Master’s.
  - Women’s softball team defeating the USA Olympic team – that was in late March and it’s on TV tonight on ESPN2.
  - In 2007, spring semester and fall semester, we won five ACC team championships. We tied with Florida State and UNC who also won five team championships in calendar year 2007. All three of us won four last spring and one in the fall. Our fall was the football championship (second in four years).
  - This is since April 16 – I think that speaks volumes about our coaching leadership and bringing the right people in.
  - Last fall, we announced our highest graduation rate ever – 76%. That placed us third behind Duke and Wake Forest within the ACC. Women’s...
cross-country and track were 100%, women’s basketball was 100%, football was 80%. We’re proud of the way we’re competing and what we’re accomplishing in the classroom and on the field of play.

- Our fundraising arm last year raised $26 million and also finished in the upper echelon within the ACC.
- We’ve won 8 total ACC championships since we joined the ACC, and may win another one, with the softball championship being contested this weekend at Maryland.
- Four of our student athletes won post-graduate scholarships.
- There is not a lot happening legislatively within the ACC. We have a final ACC meeting soon, and we will have to share that information next fall.
- Angela Tincher became one of just a few student athletes who struck out 2000 batters in their collegiate career. The only other two are currently on the USA Olympic Team.

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

- The news on ESPN today – they’re releasing the APR – they’re talking about hundreds of schools that failed to make it.
  - We have one sport we’re having an issue with – men’s wrestling. We’ve applied for an appeal. Jon would you explain this more?
  - Jon: if your four year rate in a particular sport is less than 925, (ours is in wrestling) and you have one or more athletes earning an 0/2 semester point total in the current year reported you are subject to a contemporaneous penalty. Therefore, we were subject to a penalty. We appealed based upon the facts surrounding our four year rate being heavily influenced by the five+ students leaving our program after the departure of Tom Brands to Iowa. The NCAA said that they would not penalize us if we showed a 925 rate for this year. We’ve monitored this year’s progress very closely. We won’t know the result until our students return in the fall 2008. We anticipate meeting this standard and not being subject to penalty as a result.

- Rosemary: I went to the athletic banquet a few weeks ago and it was wonderful to see the student athletes receiving recognition for athletic and academic achievement. Too bad the reporters aren’t here during an event like this (vs. when there are problems).
  - There are about 100 awards given out in less than two hours. This was the 10th year we’ve done this. Our videography department does a better job each year at putting together a video of all sports.

- David Lowe: I arranged for Chris Helms to come to the Alumni Board to speak about the student services for our athletes. It opened the eyes of the Alumni Board about what we do (as it did mine in being part of this committee). This will be my last year on the committee.
  - Susan Anderson will also be coming off the committee. Rosemary thanked both for their service.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.