University Athletic Committee  
October 11, 2007  
Bowman Room


Representatives: Alex White for Leon Geyer, Richard Ferraro for Zenobia Hikes

Guest Present: Tom Gabbard, Associate Athletic Director, Internal Affairs, Chris Helms, Director for SAASS, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, David Kniola, GA – Office of Provost, Patricia Lovett, Assistant Director Student Life Athletics, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. There was a motion and second to accept the agenda as presented. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes for the September 20, 2007 meeting.

BUSINESS

NCAA Athletics Certification Self-Study (Rosemary Goss)
- In the last meeting of this committee, Rosemary informed the UAC that the Peer Review Committee would be on campus in November 2007 and wants to meet with this committee for 30 minutes. Since we have many new members, Rosemary has contacted Natalie Hart, who is working on NCAA Certification and asked if she had any idea what the committee wanted to meet with the UAC Committee about. She said that they probably want to know if UAC has been kept informed of what was going on with the self study process.
- There is a steering committee meeting next Thursday. There are some summary reports that the steering committee will be taking a look at next week. Rosemary will ask Natalie to share with the UAC, so that you will have a little more feel of what is going on before meeting with the NCAA.

Student Athlete Academic Support Services Review (David Ford)
Handout distributed by email prior to the meeting and at the meeting.
- Last meeting the UAC formed a subcommittee consisting of the following members:

  1. David Ford, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
  2. Rosemary Goss, Professor, Apparel, Housing & Resource Management
  3. Larry Killough, Professor, Accounting and Information Systems
  4. Mary Ann Lewis, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
  5. Thirwall "Hap" Bonham, Professor, Management.

- David Ford presented the SAASS 3-Year review plan and summary of the subcommittee report that concluded that SAASS was a strong and viable organization executing services and
programs for student-athletes with utmost integrity. Five recommendations were submitted. (refer to handout).

1. Assessment practices of SAASS should be formalized with The VT Office of Academic Assessment to determine appropriate data points and create a comprehensive assessment plan.
2. The UAC is complementary of the intended effect of the Transitions course.
3. The SAASS should consider adding a non-credit program for student-athletes in their junior/senior years of study (issues pertinent to life after college)
4. Communication between SAASS staff and student-athletes is critical
5. Engage SAASS staff in the larger university community.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve this report and to distribute it to the NCAA Committee on Athletics Certification

Discussion:
- Comment on recommendation #3 might be useful for all students in the university, not just student athletes.
- Many Colleges have something analogous to this – would there be value in coalescing this into something that is university-wide? This might be interesting to explore. The sub-committee wanted to focus on not forgetting about the students when they leave VT; we also consider their experience during their freshmen year.

- **Approved** and forwarded to the Steering Committee for review next Thursday.

A process for this review was discussed. From the last 10-year NCAA Review (in 1998) the UAC was charged with conducting a gender equity review and a rules compliance review. Rosemary requested that she would like to have a little more of the procedure established so that the chair has all this written down as to when these reports are due and what is going to be done.

NCAA looks at three areas: academic integrity, governance and rules compliance, and equity and student-athlete well-being. The UAC would set up three sub-committees to review these areas each year.

1. Academic Integrity would continue to do the Student Athlete Academic Support Services Review.
2. Under the Governance and Rules Compliance we would use our current Governance and Rules Compliance Review. This is an annual report from January through December. This report is approved at the UAC meeting in December and then sent to the president of the university. It covers the previous academic year.
3. The Gender Equity Review would be conducted under Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being.

As the committees are put together, make sure to look at the terms of the people serving on the University Athletics Committee so there is continuity and not all sub-committee members moving off UAC at the same time

We do need to appoint a committee to do Governance and Rules Compliance for this year; Tim Parker is ex officio member. This year we are supposed to look at Financial Aid and Recruiting as a focus area since eligibility is being reviewed by internal audit,

For those of you who are new this year on the UAC, Tim Parker, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance, is our ex officio in this area. He works with NCAA compliance on behalf of the Virginia Tech Athletic Department. Historically we have attached a chart of every violation that happened during the academic year under review to the compliance report. Tim works with this
committee as an Ex officio and Larry Killough as the facility representative to the NCAA. Steve McMullen; Mike Dane; Alex White will serve on the committee; Rosemary will assist the committee.

Facilities Update (Tom Gabbard)
(Handout distributed)
Projects completed since last year’s report:

1. Softball field lighting completed May 2007
   - 100 candle power on infield and 70 on outfield
   - well within the NCAA limits
   - Musco lighting system
     - Scot Thomas, Head Softball Coach had a night practice and called to say the lighting was very good but pointed out Moseley Practice field lights are in the center fielders eyes and would have to be off during a softball game.

2. Additional lighting on Moseley practice field facility
   - The temporary light poles used for the construction of the west side were saved and reused to light Mosley.
   - These are Hubble Lights.
   - Opens up the practice fields for night time practice time for both men and women’s soccer and lacrosse. With this many teams and players we run into scheduling conflicts and this should help.

3. Lane Stadium Hall of Fame/Memorabilia Hall
   - Bottom Floor center of West Side Lane Stadium.
   - First week in November it will be open to the public.
   - There are a few more artifacts and banners that need to go in there. We’d like to leave coaches a little more time as their season goes on to finish up their areas and then we will put in the final pieces of glass to secure the rest of the cabinets
   - All sports are represented – first time we’ve been able to have all sports consolidated in one area. One area is dedicated to the recognition of different Colleges on campus.
   - Academic All Americans
   - Hall of Fame
   - Hokie Bird
   - Also a tribute to the fans.
   - Designed by DJS Design out of Charlotte and the exhibit company that put it all together is 1220 from Nashville TN.

4. Basketball Media Room/Post game interview area
   - We had been using one of our meeting rooms for post-game interviews.
     - We now have a press work area and press conference area for post-game. It’s the old heat lab location.
   - This will be for basketball or for administrative press conferences.

5. Renovation of two Lane Stadium bathrooms
   - This will be an ongoing project until all 40 restrooms are restored. Some of the 40 are as old as Lane Stadium.
   - Plan is to do them all.
   - Two were done this summer sections 2 & 4 because North end zone does not have restrooms and section 2 & 4 are the oldest restrooms closest to them.
   - New fixtures, flooring, lights, toilets and painting.
   - Completed phase three of Cassell ambulatory renovation.
   - North side and South side of Cassell now conforms with rest of upgrades we’ve done in the last few years.
• Created a new gift store, new first aid station, some more concession areas. We carved out two family ADA restrooms. This will help for basketball and also for graduation.

**Following projects are planned or are ongoing at this time:**

1. **Soccer/Lacrosse Game Operations Building and hanging banners.**
   - We have hung banners on the back of the stadium.
   - Top of stadium, we have a game operations booth coming to us that will sit on top of the high part of the bleachers. It’s four times bigger than the one we have now.
   - Two radio booths, a video booth, and usual game operations booth.
   - ACC does a lot of video streaming now. Our Olympic sports are now reachable by video streaming. We’ve been able to use this for camera locations.

2. **Office renovation of previous academic advising area on third floor of Cassell.**
   - Previous academic area is being renovated now. It’s about 6,000 square feet.
   - When we moved Student Athletic Academic Support Services to West Stadium, we tripled square footage to 19,000 square feet.
   - Creating space for office suites for Olympic sports (Lacrosse, Men & Women’s Soccer, Volleyball). Each coach and assistant coach will have their own office and will no longer have to share offices.
   - Press dining will continue in Monogram Room but will double as a team meeting room.
   - Student Life has already been moved to a suite of offices in one of former academic areas.

3. **Infrastructure work in Cassell and Jamerson both electrical and plumbing.**
   - The building is a 40-year old building and electrical and plumbing needs to be replaced.
   - We have done a plumbing, HVAC, and electrical study.
   - This will be long-term expensive project; first step of project we’re focusing on electrical and plumbing. Basketball has already been done in July, we’ll shut down the building for four days and completely re-do electrical room and upgrade for future use.
   - Phase 1 of the plumbing is ready to begin. Working on galvanized pipes.
   - In addition to doing the renovation of academic offices, we’re putting sufficient duct work in, so that when we’re ready to upgrade A/C system, all the new duct work will be sized for the turnover so we can hook it up to the new ducts.
   - This will be 2-3 year project, costing several million dollars. We won’t see the results but will feel them.

4. **New addition to softball field bleachers.**
   - We have an opportunity to host NCAA regional and super regional events and need more seating and amenities.
   - We’re going to increase the capacity – the bleacher system has been ordered and will arrive in December. We’ll try to get it up before first softball game. Increase capacity to over 1,000 people and have two additional press boxes.
   - We will be aggressive in hosting tournaments if we are eligible.
   - One of the issues was the height of the dugouts – we were able to lower them just a little without having to demolish them.
   - We built restrooms on the softball side on the soccer facility. New walkway, landscaping, steps etc. Softball will have access to these, and will be ADA-compliant. We won’t need to use portable toilets for softball games.

5. **New addition to baseball left field/third base side terrace.**
   - Fans seem to enjoy sitting on the hill near third base on a blanket. We’ll create a series of terraces 7 feet wide on that third base side--something similar to outdoor theatres. This allows us to increase capacity by at least 1000. It also blends with horticulture garden, and also keeps fans who like this way of watching the games happy.
6. New hitting facility
   - This will be an indoor facility, closer to the Rector Field House, outside the left field out field line.
     1. This facility will take the pressure of the Rector Field House. When we put indoor track into the field house, we have a tendency during the week to roll up the floor and put batting cages inside the track. This facility will allow us to have permanent indoor hitting facility, with pitching mounds as well. We can also have workouts during the winter.
   - There will also be band storage so that we can avoid using tractor trailers for storing instruments. We will build band storage space and take the tractor trailers out of there.

7. New basketball practice facility.
   - This is scheduled to break ground in March 2008, 15 month project.
   - Complete late summer 2009.
   - Location is the parking lot beside Cassell and the tennis facility.
   - It will be about 49,000 square feet, and have two practice courts.
   - All women’s and men’s basketball administrative offices
   - 2 new locker rooms, team lounges, team classrooms, equipment room, 3,500 square foot strength facility for basketball programs and new training facility for basketball programs.
   - This allows us to be more competitive from a facility standpoint in ACC.
   - The building will be Hokie stone. The architect has been great in how they’ve oriented the building. It will blend in great with the Washington Street front.
     1. Athletics encroached on recreational sports by taking the tennis facilities on Washington Street. So Athletics will build six more courts for recreational sports, and we’ll put them by our six outdoor varsity courts. It gives athletics and recreational sports a win - win. The current recreational sports outdoor courts are not in shape for competitive sports. By building 6 NCAA regulation courts the recreational sports club team can host some team events.
   - We will take the old space in Merryman Center that women’s basketball occupied and expand our video capability with a studio and space to consolidate equipment.
   - The men’s basketball offices currently near football offices. We will be able to expand our football facility and have some larger offices by knocking out walls (needed for recruiting when meeting with recruits and families).
   - Also, when basketball moves to their new facility, the back courts can become a permanent facility for volleyball practice facility and one for wrestling facility.

Future Capital Project
- New field house has been authorized by the board of visitors.
- It will allow the indoor track to be permanently in the Rector Field house saving the Athletics Department warehouse rental cost of $40,000 a year and wear on the track by not having to take apart and put back together.

Questions: What is involvement in the swimming facility being built in Christiansburg?
- Aquatic center will be located just behind the Kroger in Christiansburg on 460.
- The infrastructure has been completed by the Town of Christiansburg. Footers are being laid now. The pool construction folks are there with Lionberger construction who is overseeing the entire project.
- It’s a 16.5 million dollar project with Virginia Tech Athletics contributions totaling $5 million.
- The contract calls for Virginia Tech Athletics to have morning and afternoon practice times as well as 10 weekends a year at our choosing to host ACC meets as well as ACC regional diving meets.
- There will be turning lanes coming from both directions and all traffic patterns they’re creating will allow for bus transportation to get in and turn around.
We will have our own separate Virginia Tech locker rooms for our Men and Women teams located within the facilities.

We will be allowed to decorate and make suggestions that will make it a Virginia Tech facility by look and design as well as Christiansburg High School as they will be using that facility as well.

We hope to be in it in January 2009—but that is a very fluid target date.

Our $5 million is based on 20 years of commitment and 25 years of use in the contract. The last 5 years has no financial commitment and we will renegotiate at that time. It's a real win-win for both parties.

This has generated increased interest in our swimming and diving programs that we have never had before.

This facility will have 50 meters of pool as well as a diving tower that goes to 10 meters and will put Virginia Tech as one of two facilities within the ACC footprint that meet ACC diving standards and can do all that the ACC demands to host ACC meets as well as regional diving meets.

We have hosted on Virginia Tech campus this fall the number one male and the number one and two female diving recruits in the country and Head Coach Skinner is at a home with the number one breast stroker in the country. We would not be able to do this without this facility. Both men’s and women’s programs will increase in stature.

Mr. Weaver stated that Head Coach Ned Skinner has done more with less than any coach he has seen in his 41 years in athletics. He has done a remarkable job for this university.

Last year for the first time ever we fully funded our men’s swimming and diving programs.

Virginia Tech had two young ladies represent us at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships and both were 2 time All Americans, Sara Smith and Jessica Botzum.

We were 22 in the country with these two young ladies and are expecting to be higher as we recruit more top notch athletes.

Comment from Jim Weaver:

- We are diligently trying to have a very strong broad-based program. We’re not just about football. Football is the engine that drives the train, but we are trying to help every one of the 21 teams so they can be successful in the ACC.

- When you have success in this conference then you become a national program because the ACC is a national conference.

- If you finish in the top of this conference then you have the ability to be a top 10 or 20 caliber team in anything that we do.

- The biggest factor that has allowed us to be more broader-based is our entry into the ACC because we get consistent revenue sharing on an annual basis that we never had previously.

- The largest revenue we ever received from the Big East was 5.1 million and that was largely due to expenses for the Bowl Game that year.

- We are in the 9.5 million dollar mark on an annual basis in revenue distribution with ACC.

- We have been able to reinvest out money into facilities for Olympic Sports, to get our scholarships levels up, to help our coach’s salaries, operational budgets, recruiting budgets, etc.

- Our coaches have been able to take advantage of the resources that we have been able to give them.

- We also received the Nike contract that started July 1, 2007 for eight years worth 9.7 million dollars.

- We did not take any of their budget money for equipment from them as well as travel money upon moving into the ACC.
• The Coaches have that money to reinvest in their programs as they see fit. We’re very pleased with the way things have unfolded since we’ve entered the ACC.

Q: Have travel expenses been reduced?
R: Absolutely. We were spending almost all of our money getting the teams to the sites. We used to have to travel by airplane and now we are able to use buses, but still have to fly to Miami, Boston College, and Florida State.

Comment: We do a gender equity study every two years – and the last time we did this, the softball field lighting was one of the issues noted. So these facility upgrades come from the studies we do.

Comment: Rosemary noted that Jon Jaudon brought copies of the Student Athlete planner for the committee members. There is a lot of policy information in this as well, including Policy 1035 (used to be called “Comprehensive Action Plan”). The Principles of Community were added to the back of the planner.

Comment: Rosemary shared an article that was written by an Ohio University fan, that has been circulating. Rosemary read some excerpts from the article.

Comment: David Lowe stated that the Athletics Department under Jim Weaver has done a wonderful job in this area and he is continuing to work with them. The Alumni Association has received multiple letters stating what Rosemary read in the article published in the newspaper. On behalf of the Alumni Association, David Lowe commended Jim Weaver, Tim East as chair and the leadership of the Athletic Department for taking this and creating a better image for college athletics around the country.

Comment: whatever they are doing in the volleyball program, is working well. Attendance has been high and performance has been strong. Coach Riley is in his second year and doing a wonderful job for us.

Announcements

Miscellaneous (Rosemary Goss)
• The UAC is meeting with the visiting evaluation team from NCAA is Tuesday, November 13, 2:30-3:00 at The Inn at Virginia Tech.
• When the email is sent out, please reply to Rosemary if you cannot make it and briefly indicate why.
• Next meeting is Wednesday November 28th, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Request for Future Agenda Items (Rosemary Goss)

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.