University Athletics Committee
November 28, 2007
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center


Members Absent: Susan Anderson, Bryan Collier, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Steve McMullin, David Ford.

Representatives: Melinda West for Dwight Shelton, Alex White for Leon Geyer, Chris Wise for Zenobia Hikes

Guest Present: Patricia Lovett, Assistant Director Student Life Athletics, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA; Drew Weaver, Student-Athlete

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 October 11, 2007 meeting.

Business

Student Athlete’s Perspective: Drew Weaver

- Rosemary Goss introduced Drew Weaver, member of the Virginia Tech Golf Team and the winner of the British Amateur and asked Drew to talk about what life is like as a student athlete, his experience in England, and something about his upcoming experience at the Master’s.
- Drew stated that he had a great summer and that he was very fortunate to be able to play in and win the British Amateur.
- Drew stated he was very proud to represent Virginia Tech. The reporters talked to him about golf, but turned to the tragedy that happened at Virginia Tech on April 16. Drew wanted to make sure that the media got the right information about how positive the University was and how well they had handled things.

Q. What has been one of your biggest challenges being a student athlete?
A. Time management. Your senior year in high school you do not realize how demanding college will be on you time. Coaches want time, academics take time and there is not much spare time. You need to learn how to balance things. Thankfully I was able to quickly figure out when to do certain things.
Rosemary Goss stated that there was an issue that came up in the self study that we need to have a mechanism in place that would encourage or almost force our student-athletes to be more involved in campus activities, student organizations and volunteer work. Jim Weaver expressed the concern that many of our student athletes have some real time constrains with what they are expected to do for their sport. Trying to keep up with their academics, particularly in the semester when their sport is traveling, is a real challenge. Drew said he could not agree more and that the office of student life offers the student-athlete volunteer work to give back to the community, but it is on a volunteer basis.

Q. What kind of comments would you like to give the faculty about student athletes in the classroom?
A. From a student perspective the only time it is really tough is when you talk to your teacher when you miss class and they are not overly forgiving. We really appreciate when teachers give us the opportunity to come in during office hours and go over the notes that were given. I have had a few teachers that if you miss an exam for team travel they will not let you make it up but add the percentage to the final exam. That is difficult, no one wants a final that will be ½ the grade when it is normally 20 or 25% of the grade. But overall my teachers are very helpful and understanding.

NCAA Certification Self-Study Update (Rosemary Goss,)
Rosemary thanked members of the committee who were able to meet with the evaluation team led by Dr. Joe Johnson, former University of Tennessee President.
- Overall, it appeared to be very positive during the site visit. Jim Weaver stated that this was also his view of the visit. It appeared they were most interested in verification of processes. Stated that he came away feeling cautiously optimistic.
- Sharon McCloskey reported that the exit interview seemed to be much more positive this cycle than the previous cycle. Nothing seemed to be a major situation that would cause us to not be certified.
- The NCAA committee meets in February, but they do not give us their response until April.

Compliance Subcommittee Update (Alex White)
- The subcommittee has met three times and has met with a number of individuals. We’re on task to prepare and distribute the report in January prior to our next meeting.

Letter to University of Virginia Athletics (Rosemary Goss)
- Rosemary drafted a letter to send to the Department of Athletics at the University of Virginia commending them for a positive Virginia Tech fan experience during the recent Virginia Tech-UVA football game.
- There was a recommendation to send this to the Cavalier Daily, in addition to the Athletics Department.
Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

- Opening comments: We’re very proud of the way our football team has played in the stretch run. Frank and his staff have done an outstanding job of getting ready after a tough loss against Boston College and then keeping focus after the wins in November. We are one of two institutions in the country to have won 10 games in the regular season each of the last four years (not counting bowl games or league championship games). The only other team is USC. That’s as high a compliment as you can pay a program to have that kind of consistency.

- What would you think if college football went into playoffs?
  - I’m anti-playoff. The BCS keeps in place all of the bowl games, creates the rewards for the people who have earned them. The primary objective of the BCS it to match the top two teams – everyone knows the criteria going into the season. Everyone has an equal chance. If we were in a playoff system, we would not get our fan base. You would play in a number of different locations. I do think ultimately that you might take top 10 teams in the BCS – seed them, then have them play. This would give us one more game. It would be somewhat of a playoff but would retain emphasis on the regular season.
  - A true playoff (of the top 16 teams) would not be logistically possible. The economics of it would not work out.

- How long is the ACC tied to Jacksonville for the football championship?
  - This is the last year of the arrangement.
  - There are three proposals in now, including Charlotte and Tampa. Charlotte would be the best in Jim Weaver’s view – many of the ACC fans could go and return in one day to attend the game.

- What about the soccer tournament?
  - Tonight we host Cal Berkeley in soccer. If we win, it’s dependent upon what Brown University does. We will play the winner of Brown vs. ODU. If ODU wins, it will be here. If Brown wins, it will be in Providence on Sunday.

Announcements

Spring meetings will likely be held on Thursdays.

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.