
Members Absent: Susan Anderson, Coleman Collins, Zenobia Hikes, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Jerry Niles, Jesse Richardson, Dwight Shelton, Norrine Bailey Spencer, Terry Swecker, LaChelle Waller.

Representatives: Bill Campion for Zenobia Hikes, Mark Crisman for Terry Swecker, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton

Guest Present: Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life, Summet Bagai, President of the Student Government Association, Dave Cianelli, Director Cross Country/Track, Chris Helms, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Director of Athletics SWA.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The agenda was accepted as proposed. The minutes of December 8, 2005 were approved.

Business

Memo “Important Parking and Traffic Notice for Next Home Football Game” (David Ford)

Handout:
Last meeting David Ford was asked to check on an e-mail memo that went out to the faculty and staff last fall before a weekday home football game. The purpose was to check on whether the memo contained reference to canceling evening classes. David’s research revealed that that the memo did not cancel classes nor request faculty to cancel classes. There has been an arrangement between Athletics and the Faculty Senate that there will be no more than one football game played at home during the week. It was suggested that faculty be aware of the football schedule when they are putting together their class schedules before the semester starts in order to make provisions for parking or other difficulties that may occur.

Coaches’ Perspectives: Track & Field & Cross Country (Dave Cianelli)

Coach Cianelli was hired at Virginia Tech July 2001 as Director of Track & Field and Cross Country. He has six teams: Men’s Track and Field (indoor and outdoor), Women’s Track and Field (indoor and outdoor), Men’s Cross Country and Women’s Cross Country. Women’s Cross Country fall GPA of 3.25 and the Men’s Cross Country fall GPA of 3.33 were the highest of all fall teams. Dave said: “I feel that the students that we recruit are dedicated to their academics as well as their sport. Moving from the Big East Conference to the Atlantic Coast Conference, we have strengthened our program each year both on a conference level and on a national level. We have moved on the national level much faster as we had our first individual national champion last year.” Coach Cianelli noted that Spyrdon Jullien received individual national champion in indoor track & field in the weight throw and outdoor track & field in the hammer throw. Track Wire has our Indoor Women’s Track & Field team ranked 15th and our Men’s Track & Field team ranked 10th. His teams have three seasons. Cross
Country starts in August and ends in November, Indoor Track & Field starts in January and ends in March and Outdoor Track & Field starts in March and ends in June. Some of our students are in all three seasons. National’s will be at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville this June.

Moving from the Big East Conference to the Atlantic Coast Conference is a better fit as the ACC is much stronger across the board in all the event areas. The Big East schools were more Cross Country and Distance oriented.

Coach Cianelli indicated that recruiting is a year around activity in which he never overlooks the top Virginia student-athletes. Our recruiting scope is national and some of our top student-athletes are international. We currently have five internationals out of our total of 72.

The NCAA limits scholarships to 12.6 for the men and 18 for the women. Cross Country and Track & Field scholarships are counted together. Because of how our sport is counted we can split up a scholarship. On the women’s side right now we have not split aid; we have given full scholarships to the top athletes. In December, early signing this year, we signed up eight individuals and of this group six are ranked in the top 10 in their event nationally. This is by far, the best recruiting class we have had.

Coach also said that the indoor facility is critical to our program because of where we are located and the climate. It is a huge advantage over schools in this area of the country, northeast or midwest that do not have indoor facilities in attracting top level student-athletes. Jim Weaver noted that the next facility that the Athletic Department will undertake is a new Field House for football and other Olympic sports usage and Rector Field House will be turned into a year round indoor track facility.

**Continuing Discussion: Alcohol Abuse Prevention:** (Joe Tront)
Zenobia Hikes and Joe Tront have decided to form a task force to look into both fan behavior and alcohol use on campus. Joe is going to organize this task force and potentially chair it. He would like anyone who wants to participate in it to let him know. Joe would like to keep it to 7 to 9 people. He wants to get this going in two weeks. The task force will be giving interim reports and soliciting input from this committee. In response to a question, he indicated that there will be a student representative on this task force.

**Reports**

**Student Life Programs** (Megan Armbruster)
Handout
Megan implement’s the NCAA Life Skill Program here at Virginia Tech Athletics. There are five sections: See Handout

**NCAA Compliance Subcommittee Report** (Frank Gwazdauskas)
Handout
Frank thanked all the members of his committee for their work. He went over the report and after a brief discussion the chair asked for a motion to approve. Rosemary Goss motioned for approval and David Lowe seconded and the majority approved. The report will be forwarded on to the President.

**Questions for the Athletic Director** (Jim Weaver)
Football schedule was discussed. Our basic philosophy is to play the conference slate and one opponent a year from another equity/BCS conference. The 12 game schedule begins this fall and we had to add some I-AA teams to meet the scheduling demands.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM.