University Athletic Committee  
December 15, 2004  
Bowman Room, Jamerson Center

Members Present: Megan Evans, Rosemary Goss, Frank Gwazdauskas, Dixie Watts Reaves, Art Keown, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Jerry Niles, Hilda Reynolds, Terry Swecker, Larry Taylor, Normine Bailey Spencer, Dwight Shelton, Joe Tront, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Mike Borzilleri, Lanny Cross, David Ford, Kayenda Johnson, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Jay Reynolds, Jesse Richardson, Bevlee Watford.

Representatives: Bill Campion for Lanny Cross

Guest Present: Megan Armbruster, Director of Student Life, Chris Helms, Director Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Administration, Tim Parker, Assistant Athletic Director, Compliance, Jim Thompson, Head Men’s Tennis Coach, Kelly Woods, Compliance Assistant, Robbie Davis, Compliance Graduate Assistant.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. The minutes of October 26, 2004 were approved. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

Announcements

NCAA Compliance & Oversight Subcommittee (Terry Swecker)
The subcommittee is reviewing the area of scholarship and athletic aid this year. The report that goes out to the President will also include NCAA violations from the past year. In a week or two the report will be sent out electronically to be approved so it can be submitted.

Business

New NCAA Recruiting Guidelines (Tim Parker)
New Restrictions:
- Commercial transportation via air, only coach class can be used
- The vehicle while on campus to transport prospects must be a normal mode of transportation for students (no limo’s)
- Standard lodging as provided to anyone.
- Standard meals as provided to student-athletes during the year
- Student host has to be a current student-athlete.
- Prohibited from providing personalized recruiting aid (no game jerseys displayed with names on back)

Each school must establish a written departmental policy regarding allowed and disallowed recruiting practices and must distribute it to student hosts.
Coaching Perspectives -- Men’s Tennis Coach (Jim Thompson)
Jim Thompson has been here six seasons. Men’s Tennis team has been number one in academics for the men’s sports all but one year and they were second that year. Jim recruits all over the world. Faculty members are very helpful to our international students. Student Life outreach is another way our international students learn. The Internet really helps to recruit international student athletes. Universities in Europe do not promote sports so they are not in competition with the United States for the international athletes. The biggest challenge in convincing a student to attend an American university is the potential cost since they can attend their home university for free many times. The committee commended Jim on his successes on and off the court.

Athletics Student Life Programs (Megan Armbruster)
Handout
Megan is in her second year and is implementing the NCAA Champs Life Skills Program. She has an intern she shares with Athletic Administration and a graduate student assistant. The Virginia Tech Athletics Office of Student Life is dedicated to providing comprehensive programming to ensure that the necessary tools for success are available to all student-athletes. The Life Skill program has been implemented at Virginia Tech with the purpose of fostering the development of the total student-athlete. The program focuses on five components viewed as critical to personal growth, which are as follows:

1. Academic Excellence
2. Athletic Excellence
3. Personal Development
4. Community Service
5. Career Development

Some of the activities OSL organizes are: New Student-Athlete Orientation, Personal Development workshops, Transitions II classes – “Transition from College into the Real World” program.

Megan works with Career Services to provide strength and interest assessments to student-athletes. She attempts to identify transferable skills which student-athletes have mastered as a Division I-A student-athlete that can be applicable to a career interest. Her office conducts career preparation workshops in collaboration with Virginia Tech Career Services Center (resume design, career fair preparation, appropriate attire workshop, dining and etiquette seminar, etc.) Her program encourages student-athletes to volunteer and/or get involved in activities and organizations that strengthen and captivate their interests. Her office endeavors to educate student-athletes in the process of posting resumes to e-Recruiting and On-Campus Interviewing through the Virginia Tech Career Services Office. The office has invited company representatives to participate in a mini-career fair, targeting student-athletes. Members of her office also critique resumes, cover letters, follow-up correspondence and arrange mock-interviews.

OSL has the job of nominating student-athletes for various NCAA, Atlantic Coast Conference and Post-graduate scholarship awards and honors. Additionally, they coordinate the community outreach requests and team community service projects as well as participate in organizing campus campaigns and fostering student understanding of each other and the community in which they live and grow. OSL provides support for and advice to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, enabling student-athletes to have a voice in the Athletic decision-making processes.
Revision to the Comprehensive Action Plan (Joe Tront) 
Handout
President Steger via memo of August 30, 2004, convened a task force to “review the Comprehensive Action Plan in its entirety and to make recommendations to him on any updates or revisions that would be beneficial.” President Steger asked the task force to “focus particular attention on Section IV, which deals with sanctions, and specifically the rather gray area of sanctions for misdemeanors.”

The original CAP was distributed to the UAC for comments and the revised version was subsequently distributed to the committee. The task force recommended several actions to clarify the university’s policy on student-athlete behavior. The CAP is contained in the student planner given to each athlete each year at the beginning of the fall semester. It is also online at www.hokiesports.com. The primary change is found in Appendix III which deals with Athletic Department sanctions for inappropriate behavior. In addition because of the new recruiting guidelines set up by the NCAA a section has been added describing guidelines and restrictions for recruiting. In accepting this report, the President tasked the UAC with periodically reviewing the CAP. The revised CAP will be in next year’s 2005-06 Hand book and not on line till 2005-06. The UAC suggested that the CAP be reviewed in two years at the earliest.

Reports

Results of the first “Huddle with the Hokies” Colloquium (Steve McMullin)
The first colloquium was a good start. About 30 people attending. Several suggestions were made regarding, different places to host and different times. The colloquium needs to be heavily advertised. Rosemary Goss will take over the chairperson duties for this subcommittee.

VT Graduation Rate Comparisons - Peer, ACC, Top 25 (Chris Helms)
Handouts
Chris Helms explained the report to the committee.

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)
Q: Any changes in BCS expected? A: They tweak the BCS every year. Bowl money differences from the Big East and the ACC. When we were in the Big East we received 4 million dollars for going to the Sugar Bowl and that was when we finished in first place. Big East gave you bowl money for your expenses based on your finish in the league, $4 million for first, $1.850 million for second, $1.6 million for third $1.350 million for fourth and $1.1 million for fifth. In the ACC we get $1.6 for going to the BSC at the Sugar or Orange Bowl and then $2 or $2.2 million to the Fiesta or Rose Bowl, $1.2 to go the Peach or Gator Bowl. All the rest of the money goes into the pot and gets distributed evenly. We will generate roughly 15 million for the conference going to the BCS. We will get $1.6 million of it from the conference and the conference will keep the rest. The first two years we will get $6.25 million in revenue sharing from the ACC. The third year we will get a full share and last year it was $9.5 million dollars. Last year we received $4 million from the Big East. We expect to spend about $2.3 million to go to the bowl this year. The ACC distributes it revenue sharing in June. Details of the revenue sharing will be included in the budget review in a later UAC meeting.

We received 230 more tickets yesterday for the Sugar Bowl. There is still a demand.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.