University Athletic Committee  
April 27, 2006  
Merryman Auditorium


Members Absent: Susan Anderson, Coleman Collins, David Ford, Larry Killough, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Jerry Niles, Dixie Watts Reaves, Jesse Richardson, LaChelle Waller, Jim Weaver Whitney White.

Representatives: Greg Reaves for Dixie Watts Reaves

Guest Present: Shauna Cobb, Director of Compliance, Bill Campion, Rec Sports, Chris Helms, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Tom Gabbard, Associate Athletic Director, Bert Locklin, Assistant Director of Compliance, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Director of Athletics SWA, Tim Parker, Assistant Athletic Director Compliance,

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The agenda was accepted as proposed. The minutes of March 23, 2006 were approved.

Announcements

The Task Force to Review the Implementation of the CAP has reported back to the President and the report was accepted and expected to be implemented as university policy.

Business

Student-Athlete Academic Performance (Chris Helms)
Handout
Chris Helms went over the handout.
The committee reviewed the academic performance of all of the student athletes. Performance seems to continue to improve. The committee was pleased with the progressive increase in graduation rates along with increases in average GPAs.

Improving Fan Behavior (Zenobia Hikes)
Vice President for Student Affairs, Zenobia Hikes, stated that as of July 1, 15 departments will come under the Office of Student Affairs. Student Affairs see a lot of issues that grow out of athletic events and alcohol abuse etc. VP Hikes stated that she believes that a Fan Behavior Task Force (to examine the behavior of fans attending athletic events) should be created and that it should be operated under the auspices of the UAC. VP Hikes quoted some rough statistics as a foundation for the need for examining athletic event behavior including the fact that of all judicial cases, 50% involve alcohol. As an institution, an estimated 58% of our students engage in binge drinking while the national average is 42%. VT is comparable with other Virginia institutions that are around 54%. VT had 42 medical transports between July and February. Violations related to Lane Stadium totaled 106 and 48 people were removed from the athletic event. The president has charged an
Alcohol Abuse Prevention Committee to examine the alcohol abuse patterns across the campus. The charge is three fold. First, it will look at where VT is now, do some fact finding, gather some information on campus about what our numbers look like; what the statistics show and then from there start to look at best practices around the country. Once some of the best practices are determined, then a task force from that committee will be charged to come back to the committee and presenting for the university recommendations and a plan of action. VP Hikes also noted that although sometimes the students are blamed for being the rowdy fan, in many cases it turns out to be a non-student who is actually misbehaving. Expected outcomes from a task force on fan behavior are some ideas around marketing. How do we change the culture and climate such that people are not drinking to excess and/or misbehaving at athletic events?

A lively discussion ensued. A number of suggestions were made and details discussed. The committee was very much in favor of getting the Fan Behavior Task Force started and several volunteered to participate in the task force. Chairman Tront informed the UAC that he had sent a proposal to charter the task force to the Provost and was awaiting a reply.

**Reports**

**Hokie Club (Lu Merritt)**

Handout

Lu went over the handouts. July 05 through March 06 giving is up $2.2 million from a year ago. Scholarship giving is up $1.1 million and capital projects are up almost $1 million. Athletic Initiative Fund is up almost $200K. We are currently raising funds for a club house for the River Course and almost have that complete. The ACC development directors meet and share results and Virginia Tech came in second in overall fund raising.

**Facilities Plans and Accomplishments (Tom Gabbard)**

We are in our final push to request inspections for the west side expansion of Lane Stadium and a certificate of occupancy by June 1. Site work on the west side exterior was taken away from Turner in January and work was started this week by a different contractor. We plan on being ready for opening day. Tom discussed details of the site plan and the finishing touches for the stadium. He also acknowledged the problems seen in the past when large crowds attempt to enter the stadium. He indicated that several remedies were being put in place including the addition of a new gate on the east side.

Office Renovation: When we relocate offices into the new west side stadium we will renovate the spaces left. Air conditioning will be upgraded. Every coach will have an office and there will be more student areas as well as large meeting rooms. Work being this summer and going into late fall.

Cassell Coliseum: North and South concourses will be given a face lift like the east and west concourses. Bids due in May 2 and work plan to start after graduation and finished by first Basketball game. Renovations will include updated restroom facilities, electrical systems, etc.

We are in our finally stage of the preplanning for a new basketball practice facility for the men and women to share. We want to add to the legislation for a new Field House. Soccer has all its new seating in place now. There will be a new landscaped entrance.

Parking for football. Parking services will be paving Lot 9; use to be 500 spaces and will now go to 375 spaces. Lot 19 will become the new ADA lot as the old lot is being built upon. Lot 19 people have been moved to the Media Lot with a reduction from 350 spaces to 265 spaces. The CNC lot will be used for game workers.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM.