
Members Absent: Candi Clemenz, Larry Killough, Lu Merritt, Jerry Niles, Dixie Watts Reaves, Jesse Richardson, Larry Taylor, Mallory Soldner, Norrine Bailey Spencer.

Representatives: Bill Campion for Zenobia Hikes, Greg Reaves for Dixie Reaves

Guest Present: Chris Helms, Coordinator, Student Athlete Academic Support Services, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletic Director, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletic Director

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletic Department

Joe Tront, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The minutes of April 21, 2005 were approved. The agenda was accepted as proposed.

Business

Committee Charge (Joe Tront)
Handout
The UAC was formed July 1, 1988. Joe Tront read the President’s charge to the committee.

General Charge: To review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics.

Specific Committee responsibilities include:

A. Provide advice to the Athletic Director on such matters as financial aid for student athletes, residential life for student athletes, program balance between revenue and non-revenue sports, recruiting, admissions, NCAA compliance, and general intercollegiate athletic budgetary and operational matters.

B. Provide advice to the Provost on matters related to academic progress of athletes, the admission policy for athletes, academic advising of athletes, and relations with academic departments and faculty in general.

C. Participate in the search process for the selection of the Athletic Director. The Committee will also participate in periodic evaluations of the Athletic Director in coordination with the University official to whom the Athletic Director reports.
Future Meeting Schedule
Future meeting dates for this year are October 19, November 10, and December 8. Joe Tront also asked committee members to please let the chairman know if you have any agenda items for future meetings.

Announcements: (Joe Tront)
Congratulations to Chris Helms for the success of the Summit on “Student Athletic Success” held in May 2005.

Three standing subcommittees are functioning as follows:

Gender Equity:
Will examine the practices within Athletics and make any suggestions as appropriate back to the UAC Committee members so far are Art Keown (chair), Dixie Reaves and Sharon McCloskey as ex officio. We invite anyone else who would like to work on this committee to notify Joe Tront.

Rules Compliance Oversight and Advisory:
This committee will conduct an audit to evaluate the athletics compliance office against NCAA and ACC rules and regulations that govern athletics. This audit is in addition to the internal audit program conducted each year. The annual report of this subcommittee will be forwarded to the President after approval by the UAC. Frank Gwazdauskas (chair), Larry Killough, Cathy Lally, Steve McMullin, Dixie Reaves and Tim Parker as ex-officio. Anyone willing to serve on this subcommittee should contact Joe Tront.

Academic Athletic Alliance:
This subcommittee, “Huddle with the Hokies”, was tasked with putting together mechanisms that will bring academics and athletics closer together so that faculty and students can see the positive collaboration. The subcommittee has starting a colloquium series which will run in conjunction with athletic events. Committee members include Rosemary Goss and Jon Jaudon as ex-officio. We are again looking for more members.

Questions for the Athletic Director (Jim Weaver)

Q. Do you think we are entering an age with an arm’s race on coaches’ salaries? How do you manage a budget and manage keeping good people? Please give us an overview.

To a degree it is an arms race. Institutionally you have to do the best you can do with the resources you have. A major movement right now is with the Knight Commission that’s in touch with the Presidential group of division 1A institutions. You will see some things in the latter half of this academic year that will try to slow down the arms race. The worse thing in my opinion that has happened to Athletic Departments is a few institutions have unlimited resources and they have just taken the salaries and benefits of coaches to a level that is hard for institutions that have to budget and rely on fund raisers to meet their standards. We have already tried to do the best we can at any given moment of time for all our employees with the resources we have. Our people ask for what they need.

Q. Are all coaches under a contract and do the contracts say how long they are?
All coaches have contracts. Most of the Olympic coaches have one year contracts. We have a few Olympic sport coaches that have multiple year contracts. Basketball has longer contracts somewhere around 5 years. Coach Beamer’s contract is a 5 year rolling contract (every December 31 he has 4 years left on the contract and on January 1 he has 5 years left). The worse thing about contract negotiations is the agents that we have to deal with on behalf of the coaches.

Q. Could you give us some details on the completion of the West Side?

The west side expansion project is still a very fluid project that is impossible to put a completion date on. We will operate the game against Georgia Tech and Marshall like we did Ohio U. We have a temporary occupancy permit and it allows for people who have a game day function to occupy new sections. We started to develop contingency plans when we learned in late July that the stadium would not be ready for the first home game. We identified 24 game day functions that we needed to house in the new portion of the stadium to operate a game. We had to change one thing in the original plan; it was to subdivide one big box on the top floor (seventh floor operational boxes) into two sections to provide an instant replay location.

Q. How many camera’s are available for instant replay?

It depends on the network covering the game. We have more cameras if ABC is here or ESPN than if Jefferson Pilot. Some games that do not have television will use the video feed for the score board and game delay. ABC and ESPN have a minimum of 6 to 8 and maximum of 10 to 12 cameras.

Getting back to the West Side
There is a very good chance that we will not occupy the west side of the stadium for the luxury suite and the indoor clubs for all of this year. If there is occupancy, the earliest it could happen in my opinion is the game against Boston College. The offices that are located in the west will probably not be ready till next summer. Turner Construction has not met the first deadline during this build.

Q. Will Spring Road stay open?

Spring Street should stay open now as all the high cranes are out of there and not needed any more.

Q. How much grief did you take from the people who own the sky boxes?

I have not had the first complaint from the Hokie Nation regarding the west side not being finished in time for the suite, club room and box seat holders to occupy for the games this year. We have met weekly since the last week of July on three categories, the public relations, the construction and the financial impact. We have tried to communicate as honestly and to the best of our ability and I have not had the first e-mail or call of a complaint from an indoor suite holder or indoor club patron.

Q. Kick-off time for the Marshall Game.
All of our kick-off times are set by television. In the event that there is no television we have always opted to have a 1:00 kick. But yesterday, we decided that the best time for the Marshall game if there is not television is 3:30 p.m because of the seating arrangement we have for the suite and club room ticket holders who are advanced in age. Kicking off a little later will make it a little better for them being outdoors. Normally we get notified 12 days in advance of kick-off if television is picking up our game.

Q. The lights on the east side are no problem?

We felt it was very important to go ahead and purchase new lighting as the west side were already down and had to go back up. The west side has been burned in and the east side will be ready for the Marshall game. One side of these lights has the capacity to give more light than all four light poles that we used to have.

Q. Incident with a student back in the spring, can you tell the group what the dispensation was for the student with the BB gun?

The case was dropped and never came to me.

The Comprehensive Action Plan was developed during Dr Torgersen’s leadership in February 1997 in response to some issues that were happening with student-athletes back in the mid 1990’s. The Comprehensive Action Plan guides the Athletic Department through every type of situation that occurs and the different types of penalty options are listed for every type of offense. It has enabled us to deal consistently across our department with young people and has established a set of exceptions for our student athletes. They know what the Comprehensive Action Plan is because it is published in the student-athlete handbook that is given to each of them at the beginning of the fall semester.

Team Schedules 05-06 as related to Missed Class Time (Jon Jaudon)
Handout
Jon went over the report to the committee and questions regarding missed class time for athletes were discussed.

International Academic Collaboration (IAC) of the ACC (Joe Tront)
Handout
Joe Tront announced that the ACC has put out a request for a proposal to produce what is called the “International Academic Collaboration” to develop a summer study abroad programs for 2006. If this group has any ideas of collaboration within the group or with some of our ACC partners, Tront indicated that he would be happy to help coordinate. The IAC/ACC will provide up to $40,000 grant to support the first two years of operations of a new summer study abroad program. They are looking for studies to involve South/Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, or Eastern Europe countries that would require a two year commitment to establish this program and two institutions from the ACC to collaborate to build the program other than UNC Chapel Hill as they wish not to be included. If we do generate a proposal from Virginia Tech, this Committee might sanction the proposal and encourage the ACC to provide sponsorship to Virginia Tech and it collaborator. Please contact John Dooley, Virginia Tech IAC/ACC representative. The money that will fund this is coming from the ACC Championship Football Game. David Ford announced that there is also a program inviting participation in undergraduate research proceeds coming from the ACC Championship Football Game. The program will be hosted by Clemson this spring and University of Virginia will host next spring.
It is a two or three day conference and undergraduate students will be invited to come and present papers. Some will be poster sessions.

**Reports**

**Grad Rates and Academic Results of 2003-2004** (Chris Helms)

Handout

At the beginning of each semester Chris Helms gives a report on the academic success of our student-athletes from the previous semester. The NCAA has been tracking the graduation rates of student-athletes since the late 1980’s, when it first required that institutions submit this information annually. The grad rates for student-athletes are factored on students that start as freshman on athletic scholarship. They are tracked over six years to see if they graduate from their original institution as a positive number and if they do not it is a negative number.

The NCAA two years ago enacted an academic reform package that includes two new measures. Academic Progress Rate (APR) and Graduation Success Rate (GSR). The APR intent is to give each school an idea how their current student-athletes are performing academically. The GSR will some day replace Grad Rates (This information is actually produced by the Federal Government). The GSR will be different in that you will be able to add some students that the Grad Rates do not include (students that receive aid for the first time after their freshman year.) It will subtract students that the NCAA/IPEDS Grad Rate includes (students that leave your institution in good academic standing.). The IPEDS Grad Rate is a federal program that will continue after the APR and GSR is used. The APR is to be submitted next week to the NCAA on the 04-05 academic year.

The committee discussed the academic progress of athletes as indicated by graduation rates. The 74% rate in 2005 is the highest that Virginia Tech has ever posted and in the past four years Virginia Tech has posted its best three rates. The NCAA has been doing this for 15 years. The Athletic Department holds as our goal to graduate our student-athletes at a rate that is commensurate with or higher than the general student body population. As you can see we have met that goal this year. The numbers are small for student-athletes so the success or failure of one student-athlete can really affect the outcome. The APR will allow for former student-athletes who come back to graduate outside the six year window to positively influence their GSR. We have been working to get our people to come back to get their degree’s after they leave.

The Academic Support staff has increased. Additions include a systems administrator and a learning specialist. The function of the learning specialist is to coordinate assistance for students that have learning disabilities and those who have demonstrated a need for special needs assistance.

In response to whether the support teams were included in the academic report Chris indicated that the Cheerleaders, Hokie birds, student managers, and student trainers are part of the athletic department and thus receive his office’ support.

We have three seniors graduating that are in the Men’s Basketball program but are not reflected on the Grad Rates because they did not have a scholarship or were not here their freshman year.
VT/ACC Colloquium Series (Rosemary Goss)
Reported that “Huddle with the Hokies” will present a morning program with poet Nikki Giovanni at 9:00 a m in the Skelton Conference Center before this week’s game with Georgia Tech. The committee hopes to secure Homer Hickam for the Miami game. The committee last year decided that they would like to get Del Curry to come and talk in the spring before a basketball game and Bill Snizek, core advisor, will join him in the presentation.

The Maryland Virginia Tech Veterinary School will host a similar event before the Maryland game. Dr Daniel Perez will talk about Asian influenza. It will be held in their new Alumni Center at 4:30 before the game.

Game day will be in the Alumni Mall with the camera background the Arch to Torgersson Hall. It will start at 10:30.

Joe Tront adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.