

University Athletics Committee
February 17, 2015
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Terry Swecker, Whit Babcock, Bijan Peters, Savita Sharma, Ryan Shifler, Paul Winistorfer, Tom Burbey, Joe Tront, Bryce Chalkley, John Clary, David Knight, Art Keown (Chair), Bob Denton, Susan Sumner, Jacob Lutz (via conference call)

Members Absent: Brian Strahm, Susan Short, Rick Ferraro, Deborah Greer, Katherine Lafon, Lu Merritt, Margarita McGrath, Patty Perillo, Donna Raines, Susanna Rinehart, Dwight Shelton

Guests Present: Tom Gabbard, Athletic Administration
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Athletic Administration
Chris Helms, Athletic Administration
Tim Parker, Athletic Administration
Desiree Reed-Francois, Athletic Administration
Lisa Rudd, Athletic Administration

Recorder: Shelby Smith, Athletic Administrative Assistant

Art Keown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, and was passed by unanimous vote.

2. Approval of minutes from November 18, 2014

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, and was passed by unanimous vote.

3. Business:

a. Update from the NCAA Convention – Whit Babcock, Joe Tront, Tim Parker (a broader review will be covered at March meeting)

- i. Autonomy proposal – Increase maximum scholarship to Cost of Attendance (COA). This will result in additional payments to full-scholarship student-athletes to cover the difference between the current amount and federally-specified COA.
- ii. The NCAA Student Assistance Fund.
- iii. Amateurism awards and benefits (loss of value insurance loan).
- iv. Concussion safety proposal – submit a new safety protocol –decisions regarding re-entry to a competition will rest with medical professionals, not coaches.
- v. Scholarship renewal – student athletes could not be disqualified from their athletic scholarship for performance reasons.

Whit discussed his view of the proposals that were approved:

- vi. There are some situations where the cost of attendance proposal will be a huge recruiting tool for some schools.
- vii. Loss of value insurance – will only apply to about 1% of our athletes.
- viii. Concussion safety – making sure every athlete department is certified on how to handle concussion protocols. VT was one of three schools who won a \$30 million grant for concussion research.
- ix. Scholarship renewal – in old model the scholarship could end because of performance. New model will not allow the scholarship to be removed because of performance. A lot of the student-athletes at the NCAA Convention spoke against this new model.
- x. Resolution – listed future issues to address, including: student-athlete time demands, enhanced benefits to student-athletes and their families, career exploration, insurance products, rules enforcement, and transfer eligibility.

b. Questions:

- i. *Where will the funding come from to cover the cost of attendance increase? We have to generate it. How we will do it this year – Hokie Club fundraising will generate some, we will use operating funds for the rest. The new cost of attendance funding will begin August 2015. We will honor every scholarship for every sport, not just revenue-generating sports. If it's a partial scholarship the student-athlete will get that percentage of the COA "gap" in additional funding.*
- ii. *Is there a possibility that student fees would increase to cover the cost of attendance increase? It has been discussed, but everyone is trying to avoid that. VT has the lowest student fees in the state, but we do not want to increase student fees at this time. Some schools may drop Olympic sports to help cover the cost, but we will not do that.*
- iii. *How will the students receive the money? We are looking at different ways to administer the funding: possibly multiple payments throughout the semester. It will be grouped in with room/board payments.*
- iv. *Is there a plan to educate alumni and those off campus regarding this scholarship increase (up to COA)? There is some information on the HokieSports website, and there will be more information to come. Part of the issue is this is still evolving so we don't have all the answers yet. We will keep everyone updated after the BOV meeting in April. Suggestion to reach out to Tom Tillar in the Alumni Association for support.*

4. SAASS Fall Grade Report – Matt Mayotte

- a. Handed out a report regarding team GPAs. Broken down by sport, number of student-athletes. Benchmark: 3.0 GPA - ~ 51% of our student-athletes met that requirement.
- b. We have ~ 50 student-athletes out of 500+ athletes that are "at risk" students w/ 2.0 – 2.9 GPA. We are working now to implement our plan to work directly with those individuals.
- c. All 3.0 GPA athletes are invited to the AD Honors Breakfast each spring.

5. Subcommittee Assignments

- a.** We now have four subcommittees: (will need final reports at April meeting)
 - i. Academic Integrity and Student-Athlete Development
 - ii. Compliance
 - iii. Equity and Diversity
 - iv. Budget and Facilities
- b.** Art passed around a signup sheet to volunteer for subcommittees.
- c.** Art will give last year's reports to the chairs of each subcommittee.
- d.** Divided into groups to discuss process for moving forward with the reports.
- e.** Reference members for each subcommittee are as follows:
 - i. Matt Mayotte and Reyna Gilbert-Lowry
 - ii. Tim Parker and Derek Gwinn
 - iii. Bridget Brugger McSorley and Pam Linkous
 - iv. Lisa Rudd and Tom Gabbard
- f.** Whit would like to see what majors across campus are not accessible to student athletes because of practice and/or game commitments.
- g.** Labs are a huge issue for a lot of majors – maybe the Academic Integrity Subcommittee could take a look at this issue.
- h.** Subcommittees gathered into groups to choose a chair for each and start discussions.

6. Next Meeting: March 25 at 3:30 pm

Adjourned at 5:12 pm