

University Athletics Committee

March 25, 2015

3:30 PM

Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Whit Babcock, Tom Burbey, John Clary, Bob Denton, Rick Ferraro, Art Keown (Chair), David Knight, Jacob Lutz, Matt Mayotte, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Bijan Peters, Donna Raines, Savita Sharma, Ryan Shifler, Susan Short, Brian Strahm, Susan Sumner, Terry Swecker, Joe Tront, Paul Winistorfer.

Members Absent: Bryce Chalkley, Deborah Greer, Chris Helms, Katherine Lafon, Sharon McCloskey, Patty Perillo, Desiree Reed-Francois, Susanna Rinehart, Dwight Shelton

Guests Present: Tim Parker, Athletic Administration
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Athletic Administration
Tom Gabbard, Athletic Administration
Lisa Rudd, Athletic Administration

Recorder: Shelby Smith, Athletic Administrative Assistant

Art Keown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 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 February 17, 2015

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

3. Carol Robertson – Head Coach Women’s Golf

Southwest Virginia is a very special place for her – grew up in Tazewell, VA. She played professionally for a short time after college. She comes from a golfing family. Carol’s brother, Garland Green, played for Coach Hardwick and the VT Men’s Golf Team. Carol heard VT was starting up a women’s golf program, she applied, interviewed, was offered the job. She left ODU as an assistant coach to accept the head coach position at VT. We have two girls on team to date. Team will start competition Sept. 20, 2015 at the Furman Tournament. We have three freshmen and one junior college transfer joining the team in the fall.

Fundraising is going quite well – it’s a great way to meet area prospective sponsors and donors.

Questions:

How do you follow the girls during play?

I send my assistant coach with the freshmen and I follow the older girls.

How did you recruit the girl from Florida?

Saw her in a media guide and she was interested in VT. She has really good grades and SAT scoring.

Are there any states that are "hot spots" for recruiting?

Yes, schools in warmer areas like Florida and the Carolinas – everything in the south.

How many scholarships do you have?

Six (all ACC teams have six). We're working toward endowments and funding opportunities – the department has been very supportive.

Are there any walk-ons?

It is very hard for a walk-on to make the team at this level.

4. Tom Gabbard – Facilities Updates

- i. Indoor Practice Facility – On track to have the facility ready for use by early fall.
- ii. We'll be updating interiors of several buildings in the near future – starting with the football areas in Merryman/Jamerson and Olympic Sports area on the first floor of Cassell.
- iii. Also adding ADA seating and new press area in Cassell (~\$200K), possibly adding VIP seating on the floor.
- iv. Add lighted pylons in front of Merryman entrance way.
- v. We'll take a portion of Cassell and make a locker room area for Men's and Women's Golf that will include a golf simulator.
- vi. Rector Field House renovations – permanent track installation, add seating, triple size of restrooms, add hitting facility to side. Still looking at feasibility study on this project.
- vii. Cost estimates will be available when designs are complete.

Questions/Comments:

It was proposed last year for the Rector/Softball area be next on the list for renovations, has that changed?

The cost is the determining factor for what project gets done first. That funding will be brought up at the next BOV meeting.

Will the indoor practice facility be available for other teams to use?

Yes, lacrosse could be played in there during inclement weather. No seating is available but attendees would be allowed to come in and watch.

Where does all the funding come from for these projects?

Donors, fundraising.

If the renovation projects have not been communicated to the VT Alumni, please keep Tom Tillar informed so he can pass along this information to the Alumni to help with fundraising opportunities.

5. Whit Babcock – Athletics Director

- i. Most of the designs you are seeing today are conceptual at this point
- ii. Title IX is determining some of the direction of the projects.
- iii. Hahn-Hurst Practice Facility is a tremendous facility and is working well.
- iv. New full athletic scholarship (covering cost of attendance) – estimated increase of \$2500-2800, but in reality it will be \$3200-\$3600. This will add ~ \$950,000 to our scholarship bill, which will make our scholarship cost close to \$12.7 million per year. It's

not “pay for play.” Multiple communication plans are being used – and will be used – to educate coaches, student-athletes, donors, fans, ticket holders, constituents. Document just approved for coaches to use for in the recruiting process. The Pylons of Promise website is up-and-running.

- v. The additional cost of attendance “gap” money – have not yet determined the manner in which that money will be distributed. Athletics is working with VT Financial Aid Office and Bursar’s Office. BOV directive may come into play.
- vi. Our departmental budget is ~ \$73 million. We generate all but \$7-8 million, which comes from the university through student athletics fees. We also give back to campus through licensing revenue (75% goes to university), gift fees, and administrative fees (~ \$22 million). VT has the lowest student athletics fee in the state, and one of the lowest student athletics fees in Division I.

6. Miscellaneous

- i. *Does Athletics have a way of educating international students on what our sports are all about, how they work, and what actually happens during a game? We can look into partnering with the Cranwell Center help develop a program to educate international students.*

7. Next Meeting: April 21 at 3:30 pm

Adjourned at 5:05 pm