

University Athletic Committee
September 23, 2014
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Lu Merritt, Joe Tront, Jacob Lutz, John Clary, Paul Winistorfer, Tom Burbey, Bob Denton, Art Keown (Chair), David Knight, Katherine Lafon, Margarita McGrath, Brian Strahm, Terry Swecker, Susanna Rinehart, Susan Short, Donna Raines, Bryce Chalkley, Bijan Peters

Members Absent: Whit Babcock, Joseph Edens, Rick Ferraro

Representatives: Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton

Guests Present: Matt Mayotte, SAASS
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Student-Athlete Development
Sharon McCloskey, Athletic Administration
Tom Gabbard, Athletic Administration
Lisa Rudd, Athletic Administration
Tim Parker, Athletic Administration
Chris Helms, Athletic Administration
Ned Skinner, Director of Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving

Recorder: Darla Chudzik, Athletics

Art Keown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Agenda

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

2. Introduction of Members and Guests

Attendees introduced themselves, and then Art Keown explained the meeting format. Art also explained that the Committee will devote time at the next meeting to current NCAA issues. Since NCAA self-studies are no longer required, Art is working on revising the subcommittees to better reflect what work is needed.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2014

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 23, 2014. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Business

A. Indoor Practice Facility Update

Tom Gabbard, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Facilities and Operations, presented an update on the Indoor Practice Facility. Mr. Gabbard showed a video of how the facility is being/will be constructed. The facility will be used by all sports, not just football. When finished, there will still be an outdoor practice field of a full 100 yards.

Completion date for the new facility is July 2015; construction will consist of Hokie Stone, wrought iron and one-way glass to avoid sun glare. The pylons at War Memorial will be represented on the building, and there will be stadium lights inside.

There are two viewing decks inside the facility – one has video cameras mounted, and one is a coaches' deck. The walls will be padded all the way around, and will feature graphics representing all sports. The lower level will open for inside/outside access.

Answers to questions asked:

- a. The facility will be 85 feet tall inside, so will allow punting
- b. The field is extra wide, with a full 100 yards plus two 10-yard end zones
- c. So far, \$18.2 million has been raised; "soft" costs will take the total cost to \$21.3 million

B. Coach's Perspective – Swimming and Diving

Ned Skinner, Director of Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving, spoke about his program. The Swimming and Diving student-athletes are great representatives of both Athletics and the University. The men's program won the ACC Championship last year, scoring in 60 of 64 possible scoring events; student-athlete Collin Higgins broke the ACC record in the 200 backstroke. The team has placed in the top 20 at the NCAA Championships for the past 3 years.

The staff consists of 6 full time coaches and 60 athletes. There are usually 3 or 4 athletes who participate in the Dominican Republic service trip each year, and there are more All-ACC Academic members on our team in the past three years than in any other ACC school. The women's team has a team 3.4 GPA, and the men's team has a 3.0 GPA; 1/3 of the men's team are engineering majors.

The men's team has 9.9 available scholarships, and the women's team has 14. There are 10 practices per week, of which 7 are at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center facility.

The Diving program is exceptional, with head coach Ron Piemonte winning the 2014 ACC Female Diving Coach of the Year award. Student-athlete Kaylea Arnett has been the ACC Female Diver of the Year for three years.

Answers to questions asked:

- a. Fifty percent of recruits come from Virginia, which is one of the top 5 states in the sport
- b. Eighty percent of the current team lives within a 600-mile radius of campus
- c. The team gets good support, with seating for 1,000 at the CAC and a thriving club team
- d. With enhanced budget, team could have a paid sixth coach and a full time athletic trainer
- e. The team is committed to community service, helping with an October breast cancer event, the Montgomery County Christmas store, and the Relay for Life
- f. Other than flying to Notre Dame, the team's transportation needs are being well met

C. Office of Student-Athlete Development

Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Associate Athletic Director of Student-Athlete Development, presented an update on Student-Athlete Development and their focus on enhancement of personal and professional development. There have been numerous programs presented to our student-

athletes in the past year, with speakers on overcoming addiction, social networking, LGBTQ advocacy, academics and financial literacy.

There were 347 student-athletes on the Athletic Director's honor roll last year, and 158 from various support groups. Devin Carter, wrestler, was named the ACC Scholar Athlete of the Year, and both women's soccer and men's golf received academic achievement awards from the NCAA.

Student-athletes spent more than 1,000 hours on community outreach last year, impacting more than 16,000 individuals. We had 370 student-athletes participate in community outreach programs. Programs included student-athletes working with the Corps of Cadets to teach the community about living with good character; baseball's "Shave for the Brave" annual event; National Girls in Sports Day, where the speaker was Jazmine Reeves from women's soccer (and now a professional soccer player); the Special Olympics; and various children's hospitals.

Two athletes from each team meet twice a month as the Student Athlete Advisory Council, working on leadership development and building men and women of good character. The service trip to the Dominican Republic this past year was the third such trip; student-athletes lead sports camps and educational sessions for about 80 underprivileged youth.

Upon completion of their final playing season, student-athletes are surveyed and 18% of them have job offers waiting when they graduate. There are "Pro" days held to teach the student-athletes the importance of "going pro" in something other than athletics.

Answers to questions asked:

- a. Job offer rates are surveyed after playing seasons, and not at graduation; Reyna will get information from other ACC schools about their own job offer rates, and will get updates on how many student-athletes go to graduate school instead of into jobs.
- b. Students fall into three categories: those who already have a plan for after graduation; those who know what they want but not how to get there; and those who have no idea what they want.
- c. The department tries to reach new student-athletes each year, and looks to the UAC members to help encourage the students who need it to engage with Student-Athlete Development.

5. Announcements

Art asked the committee members to bring their thoughts or ideas for this year's committee work to him.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.