

**University Athletics Committee**  
**February 23, 2016**  
*Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center*

- Members Present:** Margarita McGrath (UAC Chair), Jacob Lutz, Harvey Creasey, Amanda Smith, John Clary, Susan Sumner, Holly Scoggins, Jennifer Hundley, Terry Swecker, Brian Strahm, Bob Denton, Paul Winistorfer, Whit Babcock, Rob Parker, Robert Bodnar, John Pinkerton, Joe Tront
- Members Absent:** Joseph Gabbard, Donna Raines, Bill Lansden
- Representatives:** Chris Wise for Patty Perillo  
Debbie Greer for Dwight Shelton  
James Orr for Rachel Holloway  
David Allen for Ryan Shifler
- Guests Present:** Matt Mayotte, Director SAASS  
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Associate AD of Student Development  
Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD, Compliance and Governance  
Derek Gwinn, Assistant AD, Compliance  
Lisa Rudd, Senior Associate AD, Finance and Administration  
Chris Helms, Senior Associate AD, Administration and Sports Programs  
Tom Gabbard, Senior Associate AD, Facilities and Operations  
Tim Moore, SAASS
- Recorder:** Alison Whittaker, Athletics

Margarita McGrath, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

**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 January 26, 2016**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 26, 2016. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Business**

**3. Inclusive VT Initiative**

**Derek Gwinn, Assistant AD Compliance**

- Program created by Dr. Sands and the Executive Staff to help advance diversity and inclusion on the Virginia Tech campus.
- Each department has a representative that was charged with creating 3 initiatives to help advance diversity and inclusion within their department.
- Diversity Scholar on campus- Claudia Howell.
  - Project was to work with Athletics to promote diversity and inclusion in athletics.
    - Brought a speaker to campus to discuss LGBTQ- Hudson Taylor, Athlete Ally.
    - Created 3 surveys to send out to athletes, coaches and staff to gage the climate.
    - Multi-media campaign to address Alcohol Abuse. Working with Hokie Vision to create videos to distribute and use during sporting events.

**Questions/Comments:**

Is this focused internally within the athletic department only or across the University?

*Hudson Taylor's speech was open to the entire University. The multi-media campaign is meant to be seen by everyone. The surveys are internal.*

The alcohol awareness campaign, is that also campus wide?

*We are still in the early stages but it will be used for everyone. Student-athletes will be used to deliver the message.*

Any thoughts about how to address the current low attendance to diversity events?

*Hoping the surveys will be indicative of the climate. If there it is an issue of students being afraid to attend these meetings we will work to address. Regardless, we will continue to be persistent and consistent in delivering the message.*

Is there a way survey former student-athletes, especially those who have left athletics but are still students on campus?

*The current plan is just to meet with and survey the current student-athletes. Open to discuss reaching out to former student-athletes.*

Is athletics leadership attending these events?

*Yes, several staff members attended- approximately 10 to date.*

#### **4. Student-Athlete Academic Awards (ACC & NCAA)**

**Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Associate AD of Student Development**

- All-ACC Academic Teams
  - Broken up into Fall, Winter and Spring Sports.
  - Men's and Women's Basketball and Football have separate awards.
  - Committee selects the winners.
- ACC Scholar- Athlete of the Year
  - Broken up into Fall, Winter and Spring Sports.
- ACC Weaver James-Corrigan Postgraduate Scholarship
  - \$5,000 scholarship for student-athletes who are pursuing a post-graduate degree.
- ACC Honor Roll
  - 248 of our student-athletes were recognized last year.
  - Internal Awards.
    - Athletic Director's Honor Roll.
    - Skelton Award for Academic Excellence in Athletics.
- ACC Male and Female Scholar Athlete of the Year Award
- NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship
  - Broken up into Fall, Winter and Spring Sports.
  - \$7,500 scholarship.
- Ethnic Minority and Women's Enhancement Postgraduate Scholarship for Careers in Athletics
  - Students in last year of NCAA eligibility aiming to pursue a career in athletics administration.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

In a given year about how much in scholarship awards do our students receive?

*2014-2015 approximately \$22,000-\$25,000.*

*We have additional funding to support former student-athletes who wish to return and complete their degrees.*

#### **5. Annual Facilities Progress Report**

**Tom Gabbard, Senior Associate AD, Facilities and Operations**

- Three types of projects.
  - Capital Projects. (excess of \$2million)
    - Always go before the Board of Visitors for approval.
  - Non Capital Projects. (less than \$2million)
  - Maintenance Reserve Projects.
- Capital Projects:
  - Rector Field House (includes softball hitting facility)- planning, up for BOV approval in March.
  - English Field- planning.
  - Tennis Center- planning, to begin late summer 2016.
- Non-Capital Projects:
  - Cassell Coliseum- Courtside seats, ADA and Press Area- completed.
  - Lane Stadium- North and South indoor clubs- completed.
  - Soccer and Lacrosse practice turf-field and entrance- completed.
  - Banners for Thompson Field and Softball Field- completed.

- Golf Team Offices and Simulator- contracted, will be completed this summer.
- Interior Graphics for Hahn-Hurst- completed.
- Merryman, Jamerson and Cassell interior and hallways- contracted, currently under construction.
- Student-Athlete Academic Support Services- completed.
- Bowman Room- planning.
- Student Athlete Development- planning.

**Questions/Comments:**

What's the construction timeline for Rector Field House and new softball hitting facility?

*Anywhere from 12-13 months.*

Where do our facilities stand compared to the rest of the ACC?

*Very comparable, better in some areas and weaker in others. Football facilities are exceptional, primarily due to the new Practice Facility.*

**6. Update from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee examining Missed Classes and Scheduling**

**Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD, Compliance and Governance**

- Formed last year to look at student's missed classes and opportunities from a fresh prospective.
- Issues:
  - Scheduling of Contests.
  - Number of classes missed as a result of these schedules.
- Working with campus IT to examine class schedules, home schedules and team travel itineraries to gather data on missed classes and opportunities.
- Goals from the data gathering.
  - Determine how many classes are actually being missed due to competition.
  - Review the connection of missed classes to academic performance.
  - Establish guidelines, including maximum missed classes and opportunities.

**Questions/Comments:**

Academic schedule conflicts are often more about practice than about actual contests. Student-athletes have to get exceptions because of time demands. Labs and studio classes often take large chunks of time and many times athletes cannot take those classes. This may impact some student-athletes choice of major.

*Each student athlete's schedule has time blocked out so they can practice. This is something we can look into as a subset of this committee's work.*

Are we looking at NCAA guidelines or criteria for missed courses?

*NCAA gives a lot of discretion to the individual institutions in this area.*

**7. Questions for Whit Babcock Athletics Director**

Update on Coach Fuente?

*Exceeding expectations and how he understands the culture and has fit in. Renewed energy. Coach is very impressed with the caliber of students we have on the team and their character.*

Anything you can do about the basketball scheduling?

*We finished last in the ACC in basketball the last 4 years so we typically get the last place scheduling.*

Do we have the longer winter break than most schools? Many games were empty due to students being gone.

*It is a month long. Most ACC schools return a week earlier than VT.*

Current Major Initiatives: 1. Improving facilities. 2. Developing and modernizing the Hokie Club. Finding other ways to generate fundraising for scholarships, the original purpose of the Hokie Club. Going back to philanthropy. 3. Staffing- working on improving staff in areas that directly address student-athlete driven needs.

Any other big facilities projects on the horizon?

*Bowman room renovation to modernize it and make it a dining facility for students that will help with nutrition. Also used for meeting space and gathering together. Using food and nutrition to bring us all together. Foresee future reassessment of Cassell Coliseum.*

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:48pm**