University Athletics Committee
March 23, 2016
Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Margarita McGrath (UAC Chair), Jacob Lutz, Harvey Creasey, John Clary, Susan Sumner, Holly Scoggins, Jennifer Hundley, Terry Swecker, Brian Strahm, Bob Denton, Paul Winistorfer, John Pinkerton, Joe Tront, Patty Perillo, Dwight Shelton, Savita Sharma, Ryan Shifler, Joseph Gabbard, Amanda Smith

Members Absent: Whit Babcock, Donna Raines, Bill Lansden, Rob Parker, Robert Bodnar

Guests Present: Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Associate AD Student-Athlete Development
Danny White, Assistant AD Student-Athlete Development
Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD Compliance and Governance
Desiree Reed-Francois, Executive Associate AD
Chris Helms, Senior Associate AD Administration and Sports Programs
Justin Fuente, Head Football Coach

Recorder: Tim Parker, 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 February 23, 2016**
   A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of February 23, 2016. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Business

3. **Coach Report**
   Justin Fuente, Head Football Coach
   - Background- Played football in college; quarterback; graduated in 1999. Tried out for the NFL.
     - Got into football for the love of the game but realized he was hooked as a coach because he wanted to push athletes and see them succeed.
     - First coaching job was at Illinois State- coached quarterbacks.
     - First Division I coaching job was at TCU, where he worked his way up to Offensive Coordinator.
     - First Head Coaching job was at Memphis.
   - When first arrived at Virginia Tech:
     - Identified student-athlete class attendance was not where it needed to be so expanded the class check policy for student-athletes with the help of Danielle Bartelstein, Director of Football Operations.
     - Started a mentorship program for the nine new football student-athletes who entered Virginia Tech in January. Matched them with older teammates and were given a list of 10 things to accomplish. Designed to get them familiar and interacting within the University.
     - Project Shadow for the at risk student-athletes to monitor their academics.
   - Several mantras for the team. Two are primary: "Hard. Smart. Tough." "Believe. Prepare. Play."
   - Building the program on four pillars:
     - Individual accountability.
     - Social Responsibility.
     - Academic Integrity (preparing for the next 40 years).
     - Competitive Excellence.

Questions/Comments:

What can we as members of the University community do to help you and the program?
Not sure if you can help with this but finding ways to articulate this community and how special it is to potential student-athletes is difficult.
When a student-athlete is deciding on a school, what are the things that make them pick the school and has it changed over the last few years?
Each case is different. The key to recruiting is finding out what the most important things are to each student. The academic aspect is a much bigger factor for the current recruits here than at other places I've been.
What are any surprises or impressions you have since you have been here? Good or bad.
Positive- two things stand out: Quality of current student athletes that are on the team. Hokie Nation is real and not just a term. Surprised the most- I thought Virginia was in the south and that it would be warm. ☺
How are you being received in Virginia by the High Schools?
It's been really good, went out and hit a lot of the high schools in the state and did a clinic tour of Richmond, Northern Virginia, and the "757" (Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Hampton Roads areas) to reach out to the high school coaches. Positive receptions from the schools, but there are some hills to climb.

4. **Leadership Development**
   Danny White, Assistant AD Student-Athlete Development
   - Implemented a curriculum (centered around locker room discussion) to offer to our head coaches.
     - Habitudes- Leadership development curriculum.
       - Launched current Habitudes program in 2011- Piloted with three teams for 10 weeks.
   - As many as 13 teams have requested Habitudes each academic year. 60-80 team meetings a year.
   - Has grown and created own curriculum along with Dr. Gary Bennett.
   - Leadership Culture (Leadership Institute).
     - How student-athletes can lead themselves and their teams.
     - 2016 held three sessions with guest speakers- Influence, Discipline and Strengths.
   - Global Sports Program.
     - Sport and Global Citizen Leadership. (Study Abroad courses)
       - Offered for the first time in 2012 at our facility in the Dominican Republic, Punta Cana. Summer I course.
       - Switzerland tentatively added for May 2016.
     - Sport, Policy and Society- working on developing on campus course now.

Questions/Comments:

Do you think that you would have the same group of student-athletes taking both of the Global Sports Program classes? Or with the athlete's schedules, they would have to do one or the other?
I don't think it would be same students. However if the program develops as we intend it will become the same students. Learning from different contrasts will be the best.
Are these courses for University credit?
Yes, the Dominican Republic course exists now and it is three credit hours. The Switzerland course we are hoping to have this summer is shorter and will only be one credit hour.

5. **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)**
   Danny White, Assistant AD Student-Athlete Development
   Shelby Miller, Coordinator Student-Athlete Development
   Jared Allison, SAAC President and Men's Track and Field team member
   MJ Ulrich, SAAC Member and Women's Swimming and Diving team member
   - National Levels- Division I, II and III.
     - One representative from each conference.
   - Conference Level- All schools represented.
     - ACC SAAC
       - Two meetings each year, plus conference calls.
       - Committee members from each school.
       - Vote on different issues.
   - Campus Level.

- o Team representatives- two/three representatives from each team.
- o Leadership Team- four student athletes.
- o Advisors- Danny White and Shelby Miller.
- VT SAAC Functions, Mission and Purpose.
  - o Communication between administration and student-athletes.
    - ▪ Provides a student-athlete voice, feedback, discuss concerns student-athletes have.
  - o Leadership development
    - ▪ Guest speakers, campus involvement on the academic side, leadership culture.
  - o Community outreach
    - ▪ Community service, build a sense of community, relay information to teams.
  - o Build camaraderie within the teams.
    - ▪ Hokies4Hokies, SAAC Tailgates, The Gobblers (department awards banquet).

Questions/Comments:
Virginia Tech has one of three ACC student representatives at the NCAA/Autonomy governance structure. How does that rotation work?
One-year rotation.
Is there a summary of community outreach that can be taken back to the academic side at VT to show what the student-athletes do?
Yes, Natalie Forbes coordinates that and can get a list to UAC to distribute.

6. **Student Assistance Fund (SAF)**
   Danny White, Assistant AD Student-Athlete Development
   - SAF is to assist student-athletes with meeting their financial needs that arise in conjunction with participation in intercollegiate athletics, enrollment in an academic curriculum or that recognize academic achievement as well as assisting student-athletes with special financial needs.
   - Prohibited uses: salaries; scholarships; building facilities.
   - Amount of money received from the NCAA changes each year, but is currently in the $400K range.
   - Must report how money was spent each year. NCAA designates four categories:
     - o Educational Expenses and Fees- Summer school, fifth-year aid.
     - o Health and Safety Expenses- Insurance. Largest expense for this fund at VT.
     - o Personal/Family Expenses- Clothing, travel.
     - o Institutional Academic or Program Enhancements- Academic support, awards, etc.
   - Must work within the Federal Financial Aid guidelines. NCAA rules permitting full COA athletics scholarships have changed how this fund can be used.

Questions/Comments:
Can the money be carried over if it is not used?
Yes.
In terms of full vs. partial scholarship, is there leeway on a given team or given student-athlete who you can or cannot help?
The broad use of SAF is now used more for partial or non-scholarship athletes due to the full COA scholarship covering expenses for the full scholarship athletes.
Can we find a way to fund computers for all student-athletes, not just those on full scholarship?
This is currently being evaluated by executive staff.
Is it our decision that computers can only go to full scholarship or is that an NCAA rule?
That is a Virginia Tech decision.
How many students benefit from this fund?
In 2014-2015 we spent the money on 150 student-athletes. That was before COA scholarships were permitted. The $175 check we gave this Spring for academic supplies included over 200 student-athletes.
Do other Universities have Student-Athlete Development within their Athletic Departments?
Across the conference there is at least one person who serves in that role at each school, but many have multiple staff members.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55pm