

**University Athletics Committee**  
**January 26, 2016**  
*Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center*

**Members Present:** Margarita McGrath (UAC Chair), Jacob Lutz, Ryan Shifler, Harvey Creasey, Amanda Smith, John Clary, Susan Sumner, Holly Scoggins, Jennifer Hundley, Terry Swecker, Brian Strahm, Bill Lansden

**Members Absent:** John Pinkerton, Whit Babcock, Joseph Gabbard, Paul Winistorfer, Dwight Shelton, Donna Raines, Robert Bodnar, Rob Parker, Bob Denton, Joe Tront, Rachel Holloway

**Representatives:** Chris Wise for Patty Perillo

**Guests Present:** Matt Mayotte, Director SAASS  
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Associate AD of Student Development  
Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD, Compliance and Governance  
Heather LaFon, Director, 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  
Desiree Reed-Francois, Executive Associate AD/SWA  
Mike Swanhart, SAASS  
Renee Selberg-Eaton, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
Katie Wells, Pamplin College of Business  
Elaine Matuszek, University Studies  
Rosemary Goss, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

**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 November 10, 2015**

Corrections to the November 10, 2015 meeting minutes: Holly Scoggins and Joseph Gabbard attended.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 10, 2015. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Business**

**3. Student Athlete Advising**

**Susan Sumner-** Introduction of Panel

**Mike Swanhart, SAASS**

- Fall/Midyear orientation- coordinates for incoming students.
- Student-Athletes are required to meet with their campus advisor once a semester; monthly if on academic probation.
- Make sure students are on track to graduate, communicate with coaches.

**Renee Selberg-Eaton, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences- Human Nutrition, Foods, & Exercise**

- Orientation- Two days. Day 2- meet with their specific on campus advisor.
- Do not require students to meet with their advisors during the semester.
- Summer Academy required for those starting in Summer II.

### **Katie Wells, Pamplin College of Business**

- Orientation- Two days.
- Prepare schedules prior to students arriving.
- Pamplin Night each semester, all student-athletes come together and receive course recommendations from their advisors.
- Summer Academy for those coming in Summer II- scaled down version, one day.

### **Elaine Matuszek, University Studies**

- 25% of the University's entering classes are in University Studies.
- Course selection
  - Use a website to gather information and allow students to make course selections.
  - Advisors review the submissions so when they arrive for orientation they have courses on their schedules.
  - Day two of orientation students meet with advisors to finalize their schedule at the Math Emporium- two sessions.
  - Late admits are difficult because of the limited number of classes, free time and not knowing who students are when they are a late admit right before the start of the semester.
- All students are required to meet with advisor three times per semester.

### **Rosemary Goss, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences**

- Commend SAASS for all that they do.
- Do not hold an orientation because they rarely have freshman student-athletes, most come in from University Studies or other majors.
- How to best prepare young faculty on how to advise student-athletes?
  - New faculty- workshop?
- Internships required- often the first work experience for students.
- Works with student-athletes to set their schedule depending on which semester may be more demanding.

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

- Introduce new member of the Student-Athlete Development staff (Shelby Miller- Coordinator).
- New Student-Athlete Orientation- host for all incoming student-athletes.
  - Help with their transition into Virginia Tech, provide them with resources, and prepare them to be successful.
  - Guest speakers from the department and other various members of campus and a student-athlete panel.
- Spring Orientation for the first time this year- Met with the parents as well as student-athletes.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Have we lost the one-on-one approach for students as the University grows?

*Each department handles advising differently. Figuring out ways to be more efficient due to the larger class sizes and number of students. Group advising opportunities have helped.*

Is there a way to get information back on students' progress during the semester? Surveys to faculty members that have to respond if a student is in danger of failing?

*Progress reports are sent twice a semester- approximately a week and a half before the drop period and before the withdrawal deadline.*

Return rate?

*Need to get the word out to have faculty return those surveys to help SAASS.*

What happens if a student-athlete decides to change majors late?

*Meet with their SAASS advisor to determine what options are available. University-wide transitional transfer advisor does help.*

Money has not been mentioned? Are the students educated on finances, having a checking account, etc?

*Happens on day one of orientation. Junior year SAASS suggests taking the Family Financial Management class.*

Is there anything this committee can help with?

*Remind student-athletes that they have two advisors, and need to also work closely with their department academic advisor.*

#### **4. NCAA Progress to Degree Requirements**

##### **Heather LaFon, Director, Compliance**

- NCAA eligibility regulations follow a five-year graduation track; requirements per semester and also benchmarks.
- Applies to anyone on an active roster.
- 22 rosters- 599 students certified in Fall 2015.
- Must be enrolled fulltime to be certified. Check credit hours per semester, grade point average and percentage of degree and some sports have their own additional requirements.
  - Check for six hours at the end of the first semester; at the end of the academic year it's checked for 18 hours. (Hours can include winter session but not summer)
  - Football- requirement is now nine hours per term.
  - Baseball- now must always meet the percentage in Fall, as well as Spring.
- First two years- as long as the course is counting towards any degree it will meet the requirement. Year 3-5 courses have to count towards the specific degree they are in.
  - If they have added a minor or double major, those classes are extra and do not count towards graduation.
- GPA- students must maintain a 2.0 if they are an undergraduate.
- Percentage- Progress towards degree. Based upon the start of the semester its determined how much has been completed for the degree they have chosen.
- There are exceptions for senior year.
- Challenges:
  - Change of major is very hard.
  - Class schedule and course sequencing. Time demands are very high for student-athletes so finding the classes are sometimes difficult.
  - Transfer students- courses don't match up or they fall behind.
  - Planning- advisors are great to keep them on track.
- PTD waivers can be filled with the NCAA in certain circumstances, but these are rare.
- Certification and Eligibility Committee (CEC)- Formed a few years ago. Includes someone from the Registrar's office, SAASS and Athletics Compliance office. Meet to discuss timing of certification and at-risk students.

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

Great collaborative effort between SAASS, Registrar's office and Athletics.

How does "Business Undecided" work?

*Look at what major they have for their first two years, but technically they do not have to be major specific until after year two.*

#### **5. Fall 2015 Student-Athlete Academic Update**

##### **Matt Mayotte, Director SAASS**

- Academic points of pride- 53% earned a 3.0 or greater during the fall semester.
- 167 student-athletes made the Dean's list.
- Average team GPA during Fall 2015 was a 3.09
- Average team cumulative GPA was a 3.06
- 15 of 20 teams had a 3.0 or greater during the fall semester.
- Strategy sessions with SAASS are mandatory for those who are below a 2.0 GPA.

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

Men's Basketball and Women's Basketball are both under 3.0 GPA, is that because of time demands?

*Team GPA is improving and a transition in their advisor position but is improving. May also be due to taking their more demanding classes in the Fall due to high athletic demands in the Spring.*

Would it be possible to promote relevant "academic points of pride" on the daily Hokie Email (e.g. Did you Know)?

*Communications team is creating a plan to get some of this great information out.*

Class scheduling and sequencing that is not understood is that we cannot get another class time or space. Not a lot of options sometimes. Is class room space the major problem with class scheduling?

*Yes.*

## **6. Update from the NCAA Convention**

**Desiree Reed-Francois, Executive Associate AD**

**Tim Parker, Senior Associate AD for Compliance & Governance**

- NCAA Convention Video
- Autotomy- the Power 5 conferences. The authority to make rules that apply to those respective schools. Other conferences may choose to adopt any of those rules but they don't have to.
- Two Key Priorities-
  - Time Demands- how much time our student-athletes are spending on their respective sports and what is the proper/best balance? Three proposals related to this topic were tabled until the 2017 NCAA Convention. A committee was formed including members from each of the five Autonomy conferences to meet to discuss and collaborate on the time demands issue in April 2016 and beyond.
  - Global Cooperation among the Power 5
- ACC Level- Governance Committee is made up of Presidents, Faculty Athletics Representatives, Athletics Directors and Senior Women Administrators.
  - Focused on three key areas
    - Time Demands
    - Personnel Limits
    - Early Recruiting

Congratulations to Brandon Fiala, a member of the Men's Swimming and Diving team for being selected to represent the ACC at the 2017 NCAA Convention.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:55pm**