

University Athletics Committee

April 21, 2015

Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

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

Members Absent: Bryce Chalkley, Katherine Lafon, Patty Perillo, Donna Raines, Savita Sharma, Dwight Shelton

Guests Present: Sharon Kurek, Internal Audit
FROM ATHLETICS:
Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Chris Helms, Sharon McCloskey, Tim Parker, Desiree Reed-Francois, Lisa Rudd

Recorder: Shelby Smith, Athletics Administrative Assistant

Art Keown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31 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 March 25, 2015

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

3. Sharon Kurek – Director, University Internal Audit

Summarized the wide-ranging review conducted at the request of President Sands.

- Policies, procedures, and practices surrounding the student-athlete experience were examined.
- The review pulled 10 years of student-athlete academic data, through the Fall 2014 semester.
- Three years of university-wide aggregate course data were also reviewed.
- Reviewed the SAASS screening process for tutors; received great feedback from student-athletes.
- Found “no indication of systemic academic integrity concerns related to student-athletes.”
- Found the “control environment reasonably effective at preventing or detecting academic and administrative malfeasance; management had proactively identified some of these concerns and had initiated actions meant to tighten the control environment or otherwise improve operations.”
- Found that “Virginia Tech has created a culture that supports the academic success of its student-athletes with robust services and programs.”
- “Experienced a high level of cooperation and commitment to sustained student-athlete academic success and integrity.”
- Recommended broadening UAC membership to facilitate more effective academic oversight.
- Recommended periodic review/evaluation and reappointment of the Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR) every 4-5 years.

4. Chris Helms – Senior Associate AD

Discussed academic reform and the most recent Academic Progress Rate (APR) Institutional Report.

- Reviewed APR and GSR (Graduation Success Rate) improvements.
- Reviewed enhancements to NCAA Division I eligibility standards.
- There are limited incentives for high-performing schools; not much more than listing in USA Today.
- Disincentives include three phases of penalties: 1) practice limitations, 2) competition reduction, 3) coaching suspensions, financial aid reductions, and/or restricted NCAA membership.

- 5. Report from the Compliance Subcommittee (Terry Swecker)**
 - How can this subcommittee bring more value to the UAC? Suggested inviting an Internal Audit staff member to appear each year to inform the UAC of their findings and recommendations.
 - Compliance involves managing risk; in their interactions with the community, members of this subcommittee can perhaps assist in the identification of potential risks.

- 6. Report from the Equity and Diversity Subcommittee (Paul Winistorfer)**
 - The subcommittee is awaiting additional survey information from student-athletes.
 - LGBTQ issues – Athletics will conduct multiple events in 2015-16.

- 7. Report from the Budget and Facilities Subcommittee (John Clary)**
 - Investigated whether consolidating all required audits in these areas into one audit was feasible; determined that this is not possible due to timing of the audits.
 - Found the athletics department is a sound financial organization.
 - The department's facilities plan is pursuing the goals of equity and sustainability for all sports and student-athletes.

- 8. Report from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Missed Class Time and Scheduling (Tom Burbey)**
 - Current VT Scheduling Policy restricts the number of days student-athletes miss for competition to a maximum of nine days per semester. The counting of these "days," however is extremely imprecise, and the numbers are self-reported in advance.
 - Time missed related to home contests is not considered under the current policy.
 - Reviewed the purpose of the subcommittee: to gather accurate data regarding the number of classes missed due to competition – home and away – and develop meaningful maximums to guide scheduling within the broader context of student-athlete time demands.
 - Athletics compliance staff working with IT staff to combine the necessary data to accurately determine how often each student-athlete misses each of his/her classes.
 - Pilot study will examine data for Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, and will include the sports of men's basketball, women's track, women's volleyball, and men's golf.

- 9. Report from the Academic Integrity and Student-Athlete Development Subcommittee (Margarita McGrath)**
 - Investigated ratio between advisors and athletes and found VT low vs. peer universities.
 - Looked at scheduling conflicts and what majors have the most issues.
 - Noted that 28% of student athletes are majoring in Communications.
 - Suggested that faculty meet the recruits as they come to campus.
 - Suggested the development of a Code of Conduct for on-line testing.
 - New initiatives: Pylons of Promise; LAP Program (program for student-athletes below 2.0 GPA); LEAP Program (10-week student-athlete internships); Career Survey.

- 10. Whit Babcock – Athletics Director**
 - Jake Lutz asked about the Cost of Attendance (COA) figures listed for Virginia Tech in an article published in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Babcock confirmed that the article contained inaccurate information related to inclusion of computer cost within the freshman COA. He also confirmed that a computer is issued to every full-scholarship student-athlete for his/her use.

- 11. Next Meeting: TBD, September 2015**

Adjourned at 5:17 pm