

University Athletics Committee

November 8, 2017

Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center

Members Present: Joseph Gabbard, Kevin Gehr, Rachel Halloway, Robena Hughes, Irene Leech, Kristine Loscalzo, Matt Mayotte, Thomas Mills, Carly Northup (for Bill Lansden), Robert Owen, Holly Scoggins, Timothy Stelter, Susan Sumner, Joe Tront, Steve Trost, Danny White, Paul Winistorfer, Chris Wise

Members Absent: Whit Babcock, Gordan Bryan, Jennifer Hundley, Bill Lansden, Robert Parker, Patty Perillo, John Pinkerton, Jay Poole, Dwight Shelton, Terry Swecker

Guests Present: John Ballein, Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Brett Griesemer, Will Hozey, Angie Littlejohn, Savita Sharma, Mary Anne Steinberg, Danny White

Recorder: Megan Griesemer, Assistant Director Compliance

Holly Scoggins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda, and was passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 10, 2017

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017. The motion was passed unanimously.

Business

3. Athletics Update and Q&A

John Ballein (filling in for Whit Babcock, currently attending NCAA baseball committee meeting)

- Frank Beamer on College Football Playoff Committee
 - Selects who is in the playoff
 - Also selects New Year's six bowls
- Busy weeks upcoming
 - 16 days left in FB season
 - Bowl selection by early December
 - 15 home events during the next 17 days

Questions/Comments:

- How does the administrative staff divide event coverage?
 - Executive staff has sport oversight as well as assistant sport supervisors that help cover

- Good communication, good people that work together to support the teams
- Is the ticket exchange plan going to be used?
 - Have received feedback about Hokie share program website
 - Have looked at new website to make this process easier
- Faculty/Staff Discounts?
 - Is everyone aware that there is a free parking pass option?
 - Need to be a donor at any level
 - Can improve communication about this opportunity
 - Will look into other benefits in the future
 - Used to have a discount for tickets
 - Prioritization of seating or some other system
- Levels of donation for tickets
 - Minimum requested donation
 - Ranking based on cumulative giving and loyalty to supporting Virginia Tech Athletics

4. Review from October 10th Meeting

Danny White

- Internal and Centralized Recruiting
 - Important to get UAC feedback regularly
- Disclaimer about publicizing a prospect's visit to campus
 - This is an NCAA violation

Questions/Comments:

- Would it be helpful to have a bullpen of faculty members to meet with prospects?
 - Was discussed at most recent recruiting committee meeting

5. GSR Update (Graduation Success Rate)

Matt Mayotte

- Publicized today, 11/8/17
 - Release on Hokiesports.com
- Good information to compare within the Power 5
- Adopted in 2003 by Presidents and Athletic Directors to reflect graduation rates while taking into account mobility (transfers, pro, etc) of student-athletes

Questions/Comments:

- What is contributor to have high GSR
 - Situations/considerations that contribute to athletes transferring
 - Coaching changes, playing time, family, etc

6. Concussion Management and Current Research

Brett Griesemer, Director, Sports Medicine

- Concussion: Hot Topic
 - Significant health issues
 - Media coverage
 - Clinically difficult to diagnose
 - Companies trying to make money

- What is a concussion?
 - Physiological process by an impact to the head
 - Complex and unpredictable
- Virginia Tech Sports Medicine Concussion Management Policy
 - Reviewed annually and submitted to ACC/NCAA
 - Thorough monitoring by sports medicine staff and physicians
 - Baseline Testing
 - Process of post injury management
 - Work through testing until symptom free
 - Then progress gradually
- Clinical difficulties
 - Testing is subjective
 - No objective measurement
- Virginia Tech Concussion Research
 - Leading edge of research since 2003
 - Sensors measuring head impact in different sports
 - Blood draw, functional imaging, etc
 - 1 of 6 elite schools
 - Blood biomarker collection

Questions/Comments:

- Should memos flow through the Dean's office?
 - SAASS can make the final decision
- Are there HIPAA implications?
 - Athletes sign a waiver
 - Could have a blanket letter that doesn't specify the injury?
- When a faculty member receives a notification like this are they obligated to accommodate this?
 - Most of our faculty are willing to work with the student in these situations.
 - With documentation, associate dean can facilitate the communication
 - No obligation, however, most situations typically work out
- Are some of the athletes in the study for multiple years?
 - Some athletes stay in the study for multiple years
- If someone has a concussion are they more likely to have a second concussion?
 - In athletics, yes, and most likely the same for other situations
- In soccer any movement for headband or helmets?
 - Dr Duma will present more on this
 - No conclusive evidence to support this

7. Report from ACC Meeting

Dr. Joe Tront, Faculty

- Role as FAR
 - Academic well-being for the student-athletes
- Faculty advisor to the President on issues related to Athletics
- Represent Virginia Tech to the NCAA and ACC
- Serve as delegate to all NCAA meetings and conventions as well as any appointments to NCAA councils, cabinets and committees

- Be informed of all institutional investigations and alleged violations
- Be informed of infractions and violations
- Administer NCAA coaches' examination
- Serve on UAC
- Exit interviews and time demands reports
- Be visible to student-athletes
- Be knowledgeable of processes between athletics, registrar, admissions, and financial aid
- External oversight for Associate Athletics Director of Compliance
- Waivers and appeals
- Assist in nominations of all academic honors for student-athletes

Questions/Comments:

- Should there be an Assistant FAR?
 - Some schools do have 2, however it leads to confusion, because they don't always agree
- Do you present UAC reports?
 - That is Holly's job, however Dr. Tront is present

8. Discussion/Activity regarding Amateurism

Joe Tront

- SWOT analysis on amateurism
- discussion over landscape of NCAA
- To be continued . . .

Meeting Adjourned at 5:08 pm.