

# University Athletics Committee Minutes

April 11, 2019 – 3:30 p.m.  
230 Student Services Building

<b>Members Present:</b>	Susan Sumner, Chair; Danny White (for Whit Babcock), Renee Eaton (for Holly Scoggins), Irene Leech, Susan Short, Rachel Holloway, Art Keown, Keith Goyne (for Paul Winistorfer), Jay Poole, Bruce Harper (for Robena Hughes), Brian Strahm, Debbie Greer (for Dwight Shelton), Steve Trost, Michael Nappier,
<b>Absent with Notification:</b>	Bill Lansden, Gordon Bryan, Robena Hughes, Robert Parker, Timothy Stelter
<b>Absent without Notification:</b>	Katie Boes, Connor Coward, Joseph Tront, Chris Wise (for Patty Perillo), Thomas Mills, David Case
<b>Guests Present:</b>	N/A
<b>Recorder:</b>	Anna Taylor, CALS Academic Programs Admin Assistant

Susan Sumner, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

## 1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

## 2. Subcommittee Discussions

The subcommittees got together for 10 minutes prior to giving a brief overview of where they are in preparing for the report.

- a) Equity and Diversity Subcommittee (Renee Eaton, Holly Scoggins, Joseph Tront, Steve Trost, Paul Winistorfer)

The subcommittee members discussed the importance of how inclusion and diversity topics are approached within athletics. Do students feel embodied to raise issues? What educational opportunities are offered by the Athletics Department do? If there are issues, how is this dealt with, hazing, etc? On the Athletics D&I website, none of the websites work. Danny brought a hard copy to the February meeting and will email it to the subcommittee.

- b) Academic Integrity and Student-Athlete Development Subcommittee (Rachel Holloway, Irene Leech, Susan Short, Timothy Stelter, Chris Wise)

The subcommittee reviewed usual data, majors/grades and reviewed how student athletes are assigned to practice and free time. The subcommittee suggested that a small working group be formed this summer to develop broader guidelines to ensure access to all majors. The subcommittee also suggested asking the Provost to charge the committee i.e. Danny White, Rick Sparks, and NCAA time management reports person.

- c) Budget and Facilities Subcommittee (David Case, Debbie Greer, Art Keown, Thomas Mills, Jay Poole)

Facilities: Virginia Tech has impressive facilities. Budget: Rather than give any major suggestions, the subcommittee talked about areas that need to be monitored. As tuition goes up, costs go up. As they recruit out-of-state students, costs go up. Athletics needs to be aware of tax law changes and impact on donations. Value of donations to the person who makes them? Season football tickets: attendance is dropping at many colleges for football games. If you don't have a full stadium, season tickets will be down. Stub Hub sales impact season ticket sales. ACC network, positive, the amount of revenue will probably be more than anticipated. Management and how it is run seems to be very good.

- d) Compliance Subcommittee (Katie Boes, Connor Coward, Michael Nappier, Rob Parker, Brian Strahm)

Derek presented to the subcommittee in February from the compliance side of athletics. This group reviews all the internal audit information from the university and NCAA. Review of these reports has indicated there is nothing glaring that needs to be corrected within compliance. The Registrar's Office presented in January to talk about compliance from an academic perspective. SASS reports to the Provost. This is a great model that other universities do not have.

### **Subcommittee Reports Are Due May 1.**

3. Susan Sumner read over the charge of the University Athletics Committee – there are several members whose term is ending this semester.

#### **Charge – To review and provide advice on broad policy issues relating to intercollegiate athletics.**

This is a broad task. Thoughts on how effective this is?

- The task we are charged with is important. Regardless how others may view it, it is critical that someone is looking at what athletics is doing.
- The committee has changed from 25 years ago. When things are going smoothly, there's not much for this committee to do. When things aren't going so well, this is the committee to bring things up.
- Suggested that next year, we have a set agenda – a rolling agenda of key things we want to keep in front of the committee. For example, for each month we have a designated set topic. Tutor oversight is a big deal. We're watching it, we have something in place. Continually thinking, "are we doing our best"?
- Have discussions in Google docs between meetings.
- Visit other universities and see what they are doing differently.
- We need to hear from student athletes. We used to have students who dropped in for a few minutes, it would be good to have them back.
- One hour of onboarding of new UAC members in the beginning.
- How can the agenda be created proactively?
- This year we have been task oriented.
- The committee is a benefit to athletics, a place to bring topics for feedback.
- Sometimes the committee is a user of information instead of a giver of information.
- We don't talk about it much, but we do have faculty who don't appreciate student athletes.

#### **4. Athletic Director Update – Danny White**

Danny provided information about the new basketball coach announced on Monday. Mike Young, a Radford, VA native joins the Hokies after a 17-year tenure at Wofford. He is on a five-year contract.

Danny reviewed a handout that was given to the committee members, a coversheet about the head basketball coach, a list of "Sweet 16" head coaches. Information about the \$15.2 million donation that is responsible for the new student athlete performance building that will be breaking ground this summer. This construction will take about a year and the Athletics Department will be moving near the Police Department on May 24 until the construction is finished.

Mental health workshops (three this semester) to teach all staff and coaches how to be aware of mental health and how to help the students. Over 70 athletics staff members have attended.

Spring football game April 13.

1900+/- football student athletes in the country are in the transfer portal. A student can enter the portal regardless of circumstances. We look at why a student might be in the portal. They can report that they are committed to another school, but a “commitment” does not mean they’ve met the eligibility requirements up to that point. We want students to always be academically eligible when they leave. To access the portal, the student has to go to the Compliance Office and request to be entered into the portal. At that time, we discuss as much as we can regarding their time at VT. We request exit physicals to be done within 48 hours for ongoing insurance legislation. The scholarship is upheld during that semester. SAASS, Sports Med, and Sports Psych continue to support the student-athlete during their time on campus.