

University Athletics Committee

March 11, 2021

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Zoom

Present: Danny White (for Whit Babcock), Tom Burbey, Bob Denton, Patrick Finley, Trish Hammer (for Ron Fricker), Heather Gumbert, Rachel Holloway, Art Keown, Joseph Kozak, Joe Marcy, Ken Miller, Jay Poole, Bridget Ryan-Berman, Becki Smith, Zach Speizer, Kenneth Stiles, Ester Talamazzi, Joseph Tront, Brad Wurthman

Absent: Katie Boes, Allison Bowersock, Tom Crow, Mike Madigan, Michael Nappier, Susan Short, Chris Wise (for Frank Shushok)

Guests: Sarah Armstrong

Rachel Holloway (acting chair) called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of February 11, 2021.

Rachel Holloway noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

3. Athletic Director Update – Danny White, Senior Associate Athletic Director

- The Performance Center opens on Monday, March 15, for now – to-go meals only.
- Secured subscriptions to the CALM app, made available to all student athletes and employees in the Athletics Department. Danny extended availability to this committee.
- Shared screen – “Finish Strong” Recommit! Repurpose the message
- Spring rankings are up slightly since last print out, information is accurate for about 12 hours, so check the dates
- Since there are so many sporting events going on this spring, this link is shared to access games: [Composite Schedule - Virginia Tech Athletics \(hokiesports.com\)](http://www.hokiesports.com)
- Discussion about recruiting, NCAA legislation about recruiting, and state and campus regulations. If the NCAA extended the dead period, it would be applicable to all universities by sport. If there is a dead period, it evens the playing field.

4. NCAA Update – Joe Tront, President’s Appointed Faculty Representative to NCAA

- For sport camps, some states, like Maryland, has a quarantine requirement. We may have less recruits from Maryland.
- New commissioner of ACC has new ideas on administration of the conference. He may meet face to face and possibly meet in May.
- Had a small cancellation because of COVID. Thinks we are handling things right.

- Athletes Bill of Rights - Looking to put in place a federal Bill of Rights for Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL). We want to have a federal standard that we work through that applies to all schools. That way we won't have a patchwork with different states doing different things.
- NCAA post grad scholarship and three ACC post graduate scholarships for each gender. VT has nominees for each category.
- Art Keown mentioned that last fall there was a proposal to allow student athletes to turn pro after their first year. This is yet to be determined.

5. Financial Update – Brad Wurthman, Senior Associate Athletic Director, External Operations

Highlights of discussion:

- Expect to have over 19,000 donors for this drive year, an increase over last year and highest in history.
- Season ticket renewal rate of approximately 85%.
- External Operations team earned the “Star of the Year” Award, nominated by primary ticketing/fundraising technology partner and selected out of approximately 350 international clients.

6. Committee Member Comments/Updates

Rachel Holloway asked Ken Stiles to give an overview of his concern and at the next meeting Whit Babcock can discuss.

Ken Stiles shared his concern of Virginia Tech (VT Athletics) supporting a company (Nike) who uses enslaved people of color if we believe in social justice.

The committee discussed and determined that it is not in this committee's purview. Based on our charge, this isn't something we can move forward as a governance issue. This is a huge topic of importance and there are many companies involved, not just Nike.

7. Announcements

Meeting dates for 2021:

All meetings will be from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and will be conducted via Zoom

- Thursday, April 8, 2021
- Tentative: Thursday, May 13, 2021

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m.