

University Athletics Committee
February 10, 2022 – Virtual Meeting Highlights
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Present: Danny White (for Whit Babcock), Tom Burbey, Kevin Carlson, Robert Denton, Heather Gumbert, Rachel Holloway, Maria Keener, Sarah Jane Lynch, Ken Miller, Jay Poole, Robin Queen, Bridget Ryan-Berman, Susan Short, Chris Wise (for Frank Shushok), Becki Smith, Ken Stiles, Kevin Carlson (for Robert Sumichrast), Anna Taylor, Joseph Tront

Absent: Allison Bowersock, Travis Burns, Walker Culver, Patrick Finley, Jennifer Irish, Joe Marcy, Terry Rakes, Zach Speizer, Eric Stanley, Brad Wurthman

Guests: Sarah Armstrong, Brent Pry, Rick Sparks

Susan Short called the meeting to order at 3:30 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 January 20, 2022

Anna Taylor 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. Coaches Corner – Brent Pry, Head Coach, Football

Coach Pry shared comments related to a number of the program's priorities. These included focusing recruitment efforts on establishing effective relationships with high school coaches and personnel. He believes he has hired the right people on the football staff that share his commitment to student-athlete well-being. He believes it is his responsible to help players reach their fullest potential on and off of the playing field. He is committed to doing things the right way in the program. Coach Pry choose to be at Virginia Tech because he feels strongly about the university's community, strong academics, and history of successful athletics.

4. Transfer Process/Transcript Evaluations (update), Rick Sparks, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and University Registrar

Rick shared that during the last ten years, transfer student numbers have doubled at the university. To keep up with transfer evaluations, the Registrar's Office has transitioned one internal position and added two new positions. The Office should be fully staffed by March 1. These additional staff members will serve all transfer students. Transferology.com is a web tool that all students can use to help determine how previous coursework that has been completed will potentially transfer. Rick clearly understands the impact/challenges created for coaches and student-athletes in the transfer portal. His office continues to develop processes and explores new technologies that increase timely evaluations for all university students.

5. Academic Update – GSR – Sarah Armstrong, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services (see attached slide deck)

6. Athletic Director Update – Danny White, Senior Associate Athletic Director, Student-Athlete Services/University Affairs reported on behalf of Whit Babcock (see attached)

Danny provided updates regarding:

- Weekly senior staff meeting agenda and discussions
- Invited the committee to the Athletic Director’s honor celebration scheduled for March 21st. This event will recognize members of the 2021 Virginia Tech All-Academic Team, 2021 Scholar-Athletes, 2021-2022 Virginia Tech/ACC Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year, and recipients of the 2022 Skelton Award for Academic Excellence in Athletics. To register for the event, go to:
https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4SDNdJPZzxZYlw2
- Jerry Gaines will be in town this weekend to speak with some of the teams. Jerry is the first African American student scholarship athlete at Virginia Tech.
- INFLCR local exchange app is a platform for NIL. Virginia Tech does not facilitate any deals, but track them. INFLCR is not a “matchmaker,” but it allows companies to interact with students.
- Extended a thank you to Lauren Naldo, Staff Counselor, and the VT Sport Psychology team for the gifts sent to the VT Police Department honoring the life of Geof Allen.

7. Faculty Athletics Representative Updates – Jen Irish, Virginia Tech FAR

Jen was unable to attend this month’s UAC meeting because she was participating in the ACC meeting. Her written report is provided below.

FAR February 2022 Update

NCAA Convention:

- In January, new NCAA Constitution passed with 80% of vote
- Division I Transformation Committee working on Division I bylaws; not known yet how this committee will prioritize and tackle changes.
- NCAA considering dropping standardized testing as initial eligibility requirement, with strong support from ACC schools. One concern is the potentially negative impact on recruiting at universities requiring standardized testing for university admission. VT has waived standardized tests during COVID-19, but VT has not made this a permanent practice.

ACC:

- Nominated three outstanding VT student-athletes for ACC’s Postgraduate Scholarship (nomination outcome pending)
- The ACC Winter Meeting is happening now (Feb 9-11). The ACC FAR agenda includes briefings and discussions on Division I transformation committee, the transfer portal, academic performance of graduate transfers, ACC policy regarding NCAA coaches recruiting exam.

Virginia Legislation:

- NIL legislation expected to pass, aligns with this past summer's executive order.
- Other legislative topics:
- Legalization of betting on Virginia university sports - VT sees as problematic
- Consideration of out-of-state student-athletes as in-state students - VT sees largely as beneficial

Internal: Upcoming opportunity for UAC input on attendance/absence guidance for student-athletes. Existing student-athlete attendance guidance developed in 1990s is outdated.

8. Action Items

Susan asked for faculty volunteers to serve on a sub-committee to review and provide recommendations regarding the Athletic Competition Schedule Oversight/Athletic Travel Policy. The policy has not been reviewed/revised since 2014. Tom Burbey, Heather Gumbert, and Robin Queen agreed to serve in this capacity. The sub-committee will be co-chaired by Jen Irish and Derek Gwinn. Sarah Armstrong and Danny White will be available to provide requested information to the group. UAC hopes to receive a report during either the April or May scheduled meeting.

9. Adjournment

The group wrapped up the meeting 5:00 p.m.


MEETING DATES FOR 2022:

All meetings will be held from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Thursday, May 5, 2022



NCAA Graduation Success Rate

February 10, 2022

University Athletics Committee

Background on the GSR

- Graduation metric developed by NCAA presidents; introduced in 2002
- Each cohort captures student-athletes who entered the institution that year on athletics aid, and graduated within a 6-year timeframe
- GSR calculation is different from the federal rate in three ways:
 - It includes students who transfer into the institution
 - It includes students whose first term of enrollment is in the spring term
 - It does not penalize colleges for students who leave in good academic standing
- Data portal opens in March, with all data due by June 1
 - Public release in December; searchable database on NCAA.com
- Data is available by sport, gender, race, and an institutional average

EXAMPLE CALCULATION

FEDERAL RATE

NCAA GSR

FIRST-YEAR PARTICIPANTS



12 / 20

12 / 16

TRANSFERS IN TO TEAM



N/A

4 / 6

OVERALL: Federal Rate = $\text{Green} / (\text{Green} + \text{Grey} + \text{Red})$
GSR = $\text{Green} / (\text{Green} + \text{Red})$

12 / 20
(60%)

16 / 22
(73%)



Graduates



Likely transfers
(departed in good academic standing)



Likely non-graduates
(departed in poor academic standing)

from @NCAA Twitter Account 2020.11.17

Virginia Tech Overall GSR - 90%

2014-2015 Cohort

Virginia Tech Athletic Teams

Men's Sports	GSR	Women's Sports	GSR
Baseball	100	Basketball	82
Basketball	77	CC/Track	94
CC/Track	94	Golf	100
Football	80	Lacrosse	97
Golf	100	Soccer	92
Soccer	90	Softball	100
Swimming	89	Swimming	93
Tennis	83	Tennis	100
Wrestling	100	Volleyball	92

ACC Institutions

Public ACC Institutions	GSR	Private ACC Institutions	GSR
Clemson	95	Duke	99
Virginia	95	Notre Dame	97
Louisville	91	Wake Forest	96
Pitt	91	Syracuse	96
Virginia Tech	90	Boston College	95
Georgia Tech	90	Miami	91
NC State	89		
North Carolina	88		
Florida State	83		

Taylor, Anna

From: Jen Irish <jirish@vt.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 7, 2022 12:23 PM
To: Short, Susan
Cc: Taylor, Anna
Subject: Re: February 10th UAC Meeting Agenda

Hi Susan,
Here's the written FAR update for this week's meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Best,
Jen

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I promote healthy work-life balance. Please read and respond at a time that works for you.

Jennifer L. Irish

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On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 1:45 PM Jen Irish <jirish@vt.edu> wrote:

Hi Susan,

As you note, I'll send you a written summary before the meeting. The ACC Winter meeting conflicts with our meeting time, so I won't be able to call in. If you haven't yet scheduled Rick Sparks and we can wait another month, perhaps we

can focus on transfers and the transfer portal during that discussion. I can present the ACC's transfer portal analysis as part of the discussion.

Best,
Jen

I promote healthy work-life balance. Please read and respond at a time that works for you.

Jennifer L. Irish

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On Thu, Feb 3, 2022 at 11:16 AM Short, Susan <sshort@vt.edu> wrote:

Hello friends. I hope all is well. Attached is a draft agenda for our February 10th virtual only gathering. Please take a look and provide updates/revisions as needed. My notes indicate that Jen will submit a written report and that I am to contact Rick Sparks to invite him to provide an update regarding the transcript evaluation/transfer process. Please provide feedback at your earliest convenience. I would like to distribute the agenda with a meeting reminder by no later than end of day on Monday – February 7th. Thanks so much for your assistance. Stay warm, safe, and dry! Go Hokies!

Susan

Susan E. Short, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for Engagement

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Be committed. Be well.

