

University Athletics Committee
March 17, 2022 – Virtual Meeting Highlights
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Present: Danny White (for Whit Babcock), Tom Burbey, Travis Burns, Walker Culver, Robert Denton, Kimberly Smith (for Rachel Holloway), Jennifer Irish, Maria Keener, Sarah Jane Lynch, Debbie Greer (for Ken Miller), Bridget Ryan-Berman, Susan Short, Kevin Carlson (for Robert Sumichrast), Anna Taylor, Joseph Tront

Absent: Allison Bowersock, Patrick Finley, Heather Gumbert, Joe Marcy, Jay Poole, Robin Queen, Terry Rakes, Frank Shushok, Becki Smith, Zach Speizer, Eric Stanley, Ken Stiles, Brad Wurthman

Guest: Sarah Armstrong

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 February 10, 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. Academic Update – SAASS Communications – Sarah Armstrong, Director, Student Athlete Academic Support Services (see attached slide deck)

- Navigate is used as a tool for informal communication with faculty about student athletes.
- Navigate is also used to run progress reports to share with the coaches.
- Some faculty still contact the SAASS office by phone, email, and/or Navigate.

4. Faculty Athletics Representative Update – Jen Irish, Virginia Tech FAR

NCAA

- Division I Transformation Committee working on Division I bylaws; not known yet how this committee will prioritize and tackle changes.
- Two items related to new NCAA constitution that require attention/review:
 - UAC committee make up review to ensure alignment with new constitution: New NCAA Constitution (effective 1 Aug 2022) states: “If an institution has a non-governing athletics board or council or an athletics advisory board, administration, faculty members and student-athletes shall constitute at least a majority of the board.” Our current composition appears to align with new NCAA constitution, as well as University Council constitution. Susan Short and Anna Taylor will review make-up UAC committee membership with Jen to confirm compliance.

- There's a need to develop a process for student concerns/complaints to align with new constitution. The new Constitution states "The president or chancellor of each member institution shall appoint and support the Faculty Athletics Representative as the principal point of contact to whom student-athletes can report any action, activity or behavior by anyone associated with athletics programs inconsistent with this Constitution's principle of student-athlete health and well-being. In this role, the Faculty Athletics Representative is a reporting contact for student-athletes independent of the institution's athletic department, but not a legal advocate for student-athletes. The Faculty Athletics Representative, in this capacity, shall report directly to the member institution's president or chancellor." ACC FARs gathering input and may develop some common language. Will ask for UAC input on VT-specific process.
- Recently released a Transfer Portal training video as required viewing for all student-athletes intending to enter Portal.
- Number of legislative proposals under consideration, including one related to a shift in men's soccer playing season from a fall season to an academic year season.

ACC

- Three outstanding VT student-athletes received ACC Postgraduate Scholarships
- ACC-wide Transfer portal analysis available

University

Introduced proposed topics for missed class policy - subcommittee will review.

5. Athletic Competition Schedule Oversight/Athletic Travel Letters – Jen Irish, UAC Subcommittee, Co-Chair (provided PowerPoint)

Three areas for the subcommittee to review are:

- 1) Absences associated with university-sanctioned events.
- 2) Faculty and student expectations for make-up work associated with university-sanctioned events absences.
- 3) Unexcused absences.

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:

- a. Weekly senior staff meeting agenda and discussions
- b. Athletic Director's honor celebration scheduled for March 21
- c. Mental Health Awareness Month – May
- d. Winter championships and spring competitions
- e. High Fives

- f. Head Coaches Meeting
- g. Concur – a tool that allows coaches to make travel arrangements without staff involvement

7. Announcements/Adjournment

The group wrapped up the meeting 4:50 p.m.

MEETING DATES FOR 2022:

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

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Thursday, May 5, 2022