

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2022
Virtual Meeting Only

Members Present: Erin Carleton, Alexander Efird, Heather Gumbert, Rachel Holloway, Leanna House, Jen Irish, Chris Wise for Frances Keene, Phil Miskovic, Jayden Payoute, Jim Petrine, Robin Queen, Liesel Ritchie, Robin Russell, Bridget Ryan-Berman, Susan Short, Ken Stiles, David Tegarden

Absent with notification: Whit Babcock, Ken Miller, Becki Smith, Brad Wurthman

Absent: Travis Burns, John Galbraith, Allison Bowersock

Guests: Sarah Armstrong, Danny White

Susan Short called the meeting to order at 3:35 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 October 13, 2022

Susan Short 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. Discussion Topic – Maximum Allowable Absences for Student-Athlete Competition and Travel (Virginia Tech Athletics “Scheduling Policy and Procedures)

– Jen Irish, Faculty Athletics Representative, provided an overview and recommendation developed by the University Athletics Committee subcommittee. Members included Jen Irish (AY22, 23), Derek Gwinn (AY22, 23), Tom Burbey (AY22), John Galbraith (AY23), Heather Gumbert (AY22), and Robin Queen (AY22, 23). The subcommittee recommended that *“the maximum percent of allowable absences for student-athlete competition and related travel is 17% in any given semester. For example: 7 class periods for a 3-cr MWF class, 5 class periods for a 3-cr TR class.”* Following a robust discussion, the recommendation was approved by a majority of UAC members in attendance.

4. Student-Athlete Perspectives

– Erin Carleton and Jayden Payoute, both medical retirements from their respective sport, provided perspectives related to representing Virginia Tech as student athletes. They both have felt supported throughout their time at Virginia Tech especially related to faculty understanding of complex demands and schedules. They reminded the group that stereotyping of athletes exists and that athletes should not be singled out for specific examples. Both encouraged the university to continue work in breaking the stigma of mental health and to continue to supportive and understanding of mental health issues. Committee members asked a variety of questions including whether or

not amenities were still available to them once medically retired from their sports. Both indicated that their contracts were honored (in relationship to scholarship support) and both have utilized amenities even more since they retired.

5. **Athletic Director Update** – As a result of meeting time constraints, Danny White provided a quick update. He shared that Andy Bitter had published information related to Alan Tisdale’s six game suspension for a self-reported NCAA violation (betting).
6. Susan announced to the group that the next UAC meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, December 8th. The virtual link will be provided in the near future. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

2022-23 University Athletics Committee Meeting Schedule

Thursday, **December 8th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **January 19th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **February 9th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **March 16th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (In-person, location: TBD)

Thursday, **April 13th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **May 4th, – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (In-person, location: TBD)