

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2022
Lane Stadium, Fifth Floor (Media)
Virtual Access Provided

Members Present: Whit Babcock, Erin Carleton, Alexander Efird, John Galbraith, Heather Gumbert, Rachel Holloway, Leanna House, Jen Irish, David Crofts for Ken Miller, Phil Miskovic, Jim Petrine, Liesel Ritchie, Bridget Ryan-Berman, Susan Short, Becki Smith, David Tegarden, Joe Tront, Brad Wurthman

Absent: Travis Burns, Allison Bowersock, Frances Keene, Jayden Payoute, Robin Russell, Robin Queen, Ken Stiles

Guests: Sarah Armstrong, Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Craig Weaver, Danny White, Natalie Wimmer

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 September 15, 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. Guest Presentation: Student-Athlete Development – Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, senior associate athletics director for Inclusive Excellence and Alumni Engagement, and Natalie Wimmer, assistant athletic director, student-athlete development, provided an overview of their roles and programming initiatives. These include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, responsibilities as senior woman administrator, student conduct, and personal student-athlete development (slide deck attached). Reyna specifically addressed priorities established by the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) as well as Policy 1035 which addressed student-athlete conduct. Student-athletes are subject to random drug testing.

4. Faculty Athletics Representative Update - Jen Irish, university FAR, presented information from the Missed Class Policy subcommittee (materials attached). A recommendation and clarification of approval process will be presented to UAC members during the November 10th UAC meeting.

Missed class subcommittee:

- Charge: Review and update Virginia Tech's missed class policy for student-athletes for UAC review and approval.

- Members: John Galbraith, Derek Gwinn, Jen Irish, Robin Queen.

An additional conversation focused on process/approvals for “excused absences.”

5. Athletic Director Update –Whit Babcock and provided updates on the following topics:

- Legal impacts related to cost of attendance, transfer portal, 3rd party agents, and legalized gambling
- A new NCAA constitution will exist
- Financial pressures continue to be amplified (in the past, \$11M existed to support scholarships. Today that number is \$20M.)
- A number of impacts create strains on-campus (e.g., transfer numbers, mental health systems, fan behavior).
- Current athletic budget is \$110M
- Athletics continue to add significant value to Virginia Tech and southwest Virginia (10 years ago an economic study indicated a \$70M return to the region; contribute significantly to the number of underrepresented students).
- Still focused on moving the needle from a *Challenger Brand* to a *Championship Brand*

6. Susan reminded the group that we will meet virtually on Thursday, November 10th for our next UAC gathering. 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, **November 10th – 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.** (Virtual Only)

Thursday, **December 8th – 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** (In-person, location: TBD)

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)