

University Athletic Committee
October 16, 2012
3:30 PM
Bowman Room, Cassell Coliseum

Members Present: Fred Benfield, Richard Benson, Kirsten Blue, Kelsey Brunton, Richard Ferraro, Robena Hughes, Art Keown, Larry Killough, Margarita McGrath, Lu Merritt, Bijan Peters, Glenn Reynolds, Stephen Schoenholtz, Holly Scoggins, Don Shoemaker, Susan Short, Terry Swecker, Jim Weaver.

Members Absent: Jacqueline Nottingham, Susanna Rinehart, Joe Tront.

Representatives: Debbie Green for Dwight Shelton, Vicke Langford for Bevelee Watford

Guest Present: **Sarah Armstrong**, Associate Director of Student Athlete Academic Support Services, **Karol Kahoun**, Women's Tennis Student-Athlete, **Devin Carter**, Men's Wrestling Student-Athlete, **Jon Jaudon**, Associate A. D., Administration, **Pam Linkous**, Human Resources & NCAA Initiative for Athletics, **Sharon McCloskey**, Senior Associate Athletic Director/Senior Women's Administrator, **Lisa Rudd**, Associate Director for Athletic Financial Affairs, **Jim Thompson**, Head Men's Tennis Coach, **Danny White**, Director of Student-Athlete Affairs.

Recorder: Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Art Keown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

The agenda was accepted as presented (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

Minutes for the September 2012 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

BUSINESS

Coach's Perspective – Men's Tennis – Jim Thompson

- Virginia Tech head coach Jim Thompson has known nothing but success during his coaching career. Thompson is in his 15th year at Tech and has led the Hokies to the NCAA Tournament 10 times. In his first season, Thompson's Hokies advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen for the first time in school history.
- Thompson, the 2010 Atlantic Region Coach of the Year, has received several regional and national honors during his tenure. Thompson has served on the ITA Rules Committee and has been a member of the ITA Operating Committee and currently serves as the Chairman of the ITA Atlantic Region.
- Thompson joined the Hokies after spending four years as the director of tennis and head coach for both the men's and women's programs at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.
- Before entering coaching, Thompson competed successfully and earned ATP points on the professional circuit.
- Thompson held the number one position on the Davidson College men's tennis team and won the Southern Conference Indoor Championships.
- Thompson hails from Marion, VA, is married and has three children.
 - I had a really good role model in my step father. He drove me to Roanoke for lessons and paid for tournaments. He gave me the opportunity.
 - I went to Davidson and my coach, Jeff Frank, there was great role model. He played an instrumental part in me wanting to become a coach.
 - In 1999 advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen and many NCAA Tournaments since.

- We try and attract student athletes that want a professional career as well as to get an education.
- Core principles that I think are important for our team and important for life.
 - Always tell the truth.
 - Work and compete hard and never give up.
 - Have respect for yourself, for your opponent, and for the sport.
- We have one of the highest GPA's of men's sports at Virginia Tech
- We have a lot of international players. We have 2 seniors, 0 juniors, 3 sophomores and 4 freshmen. They come from 5 different countries, America, Brazil, Croatia, Denmark and Italy. There is a lot of cultural learning going on as well as academic learning.
- Why are you recruiting so many international student-athletes? My answer is that I am looking for the best players no matter where they are from. In the USA you do not hear too much about local tennis but in Europe you turn on the news and it is a huge sport around the world. The best player in Virginia is still playing out of our top 6. We have recruited the best player in the mid-atlantic region and he played 7 his first 2 years. We had twins that were in the top 100 nationally and never made our lineup. Once you realize the small group we are recruiting that can actually help our program then it becomes really difficult to attract them to Blacksburg and to our University.
- The ACC is one of the best conferences in the country, second to SEC. We have 2 teams in the top 10 on the men's side and 6 teams in the top 50. Virginia and Duke are the strongest at the moment.
- Facilities - we have great facilities.
- SAASS for academic support is amazing.
- Olympic weight room just opened is another thing that is just amazing to show our recruits of the commitment that we have in the whole development not just tennis but academically and in the weight room.
- Our Tennis facilities are excellent. We have 6 indoor and 6 outdoor courts. We have indoor scoreboards and just recently put outdoor scoreboards that are fantastic.
- Question – Where do you go to recruit international players? Do they play high school tournaments in the states or do you have to go abroad? Jim - We have been abroad once or twice in the 15 years I have been here. There are several big tournaments in December that a lot of international players come to.
- Question – A lot of your trips are pretty long how do you make sure there is time to study? Jim – Our longest tournament “All American Championships” it has a pre-qualifier, qualifying and then the main draw. We had three young men go this year. Two went through pre-qualifying and qualifying. The one that lost we bought a plane ticket immediately for him to come home. We always try and stay somewhere that has internet. They seem to do a good job upfront handling their business with their professors.

Summer Abroad Program – Jon Jaudon, Danny White

- Jon – We have a couple of student-athlete here today that were part of this inaugural year of the program. Two years ago Danny and I presented to this group our leadership program, Habitudes, within the athletic department. It remains the backbone of our leadership initiative within our athletic department. Danny having a conversation with John Dooley about the athletic department's leadership program and this curriculum idea was born.
 - A leadership course on campus that had a study abroad component.
 - This summer a group of 10 student athletes went to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic as part of the university 3954 course with the help of the department of psychology. A formal educational opportunity with service learning component.
- Key aspects of service learning.
 - organized experiences that meet real needs.
 1. Aids & HIV education to children was coordinated with the Peace Corp and Deportes Para La Vida.
 2. Sport camps were also led by our contingent
 - Students were given real opportunity for leadership roles.

1. Devin Carter – We discussed before leaving improving ourselves, our character, how we present ourselves. The group was to help on this trip by giving positive reinforcement for these concerns. Mine was public speaking and talking to strangers. We developed core values to display and teach.
 2. Karol Kahoun, - We meet on campus every day for a week. We had to read a couple of books. We went over leaderships values. We set a goal for ourselves what we wanted to improve on. We were to apply the principles that we had been studying and hopefully understood. We attended class every day for 2 hours. The first two days the Deportes Par La Vida taught about Aids and HIV and connected that with sports and the last 3 days we connected sports and leadership principles. First confidence, second choice, and third sense of community. We wrote in our personal journal every night about our day, thinking through the principles what we had learned and where we can improve the application of those principles. The whole experience is something that will last forever, not like studying for a test and then it is over. We will never forget the experiences.
- Danny – We wanted critical reflection to lead to a true cultural experience.
 - Jon- I want to take this opportunity to publically acknowledge all the work that Danny has done over the last 12 months. To tell Danny how proud I am of his taking the time to cross cultural bounties on campus to engage a lot of different people to make this project acceptable. One of the materials that were sent to you by Art included the: Connecting the Pedagogy of UNIV3954 to the Division of Undergraduate Education Plan for 2012-2016.
 - To increase the number and variety of out-of-classroom learning experiences available to students.
 - The plan points to seven behaviors that students are to exercise during their undergraduate experience.
 1. Connect to the university
 2. Build self-awareness and self-efficacy
 3. Identify a sense of purpose
 4. Participate in cross-cultural experiences
 5. Engage in learning
 6. Strengthen social integration
 7. Enhance critical and reflective thinking

This course met all of those seven desired outcomes.

Dr. Wubah asked that we pursue this on a more permanent and sustainable basis so that we can impact students in perpetuity.

Four things came out of that meeting with Dr. Wubah

- To identify permanent funding
- To find permanent academic home for a Summer I course offering
- To pursue open enrollment
- To identify informative and summative assessment

We are close to a permanent home for our course.

We have a pretty good idea on the funding.

Open enrollment, we are moving in that direction

Danny is working on the assessment with Ray VanDyke.

- Question – Are you going to grow the number of students? Jon – 15 to 18 is max. They have other universities that are working on other projects. We took up half maybe 65% of their entire facility with just our 10.
- Question – How did we fund it? Jon – We funded it from a couple different sources. Student-Athletes were eligible for athletic grant in aid in the summer. I also took advantage of some NCAA money that was at our disposal to further educate our student-athletes in opportunities such as this. Then some had to come out of pocket.
- Question – How much did it cost per student? Jon- It was about \$1800 per student.

- Question – Jon you mentioned open enrollment in the future. Does that mean that it will go beyond student-athletes? How would open enrollment work when you have only 15 slots? Jon – we would have to limit the number of student-athletes that have access to it.
- Other student groups go, Engineers without Borders, there are other opportunities for students to go to the Dominion Republic to the same site.
- Jon – The Corp of Cadets, we partner with them on a number of community service activities.
- Question – Are there other schools that do something similar to this that you know of? Jon – Not a study abroad. Drake University in Iowa took some of their football team to Africa to work with issues related to clean water. I do not know if that is an ongoing endeavor. To combine the academic component with the service learning in a co-curricular activity is very unique.
- The uniqueness here is that it is for the student-athletes. There are a lot of other study abroad opportunities, dozens that are open to the campus at large. I would urge you to keep it for the athletes. It is unique and quite special otherwise, you would have to change the whole agenda of program, it sounds like, in terms of sports orientation.
- Question – How many credits – Jon – Three credits.
- Question – What department was it offered in this year? Where did they get credit? Sarah – UNIV. Danny – We want to get into an area that SAASS can properly advise our student-athletes in their freshman or sophomore years to anticipate when and how it would work for them.
- The course would fit into the curriculum, liberal education. I assume that a college would work with that. Started out in the psychology department with Dr. Galler the main instructor. Then upon further discussion things changed and that is why it ended up in UNIV this past summer.
- Suggestion – Athletic focus but open enrollment, we do have 31 club teams and could get people that are interested in sports. But it would not be a varsity only program.
- The thoughtful reflective way that you present this information, the depth of your commitment and your concern for athletics, I appreciated listening to that and the student as well but the question is how are the student athletes selected? Were more than 10 students interested? Did you have to narrow down the group? Danny – There was some natural attrition. But it is important to remember that we termed this year as the pilot year. There were some unfolding events as we were trying to find an academic home. It made it hard for some people to commit to it. Some of us in the department are teaching the Habitudes and that is a natural way to connect student athletes and engage their interest. To make sure we had the same guidelines in terms of qualifications we used GPA, student conduct issues. But this last year was organic as we were trying to get it going. We lost some people due to lack of time. Maybe this year identify fifteen, we may have to come with a stricter policy on selecting those fifteen.
- We had 2 football players, 2 volleyball, 1 cross country, 1 wrestler, 1 women's tennis, 1 women's soccer, 1 women's swimmer and 1 men's soccer. Majors – business, psychology, sociology primarily.

Questions for Athletic Director - Jim Weaver

- Question – Has there been any more information on Notre Dame when they might play FB here? How that scheduling is going to be done? Jim – It is my understanding that Notre Dame will participate next academic year in all sports but football. The football arrangement is for them to play 5 ACC schools per year. There is hope that will begin in the 2014-15 academic year. They will go in cycles of 3 years so that Notre Dame will play everybody in the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2014, 2015 or 2016. They will start the second cycle in 2017, go through 2019. Michael Kelly the associate commissioner for football operations will be the person who will work closely with the Athletic Director at Notre Dame to schedule those contests. There will be three contests in one year at Notre Dame and two on present ACC campuses and the next year there will be three contests on present ACC campuses and two at Notre Dame.
- The last year and half every institution in our conference have been focusing on nine home games. That was reversed two weeks ago to stay at eight conference games four at home and four on the road. I am

happy to tell you today that we have our situation under control. We have reactivated our contract with East Carolina and we have added five games to it. We will start in 2013 and play East Carolina every year until 2020. We will play at East Carolina in the odd years and play at Virginia Tech in the even years.

- Question – The athletic marketing department did a great job advertising for the Orange Effect, White Effect, and Military Appreciation. Recently I have noticed a trend in advertising Basketball, I know Basketball season is starting. I have not seen any of the other sports advertised as much as Basketball. I did not know if it is in hopes of selling more student tickets. I just wanted to see if there was a reason for that or if you knew of one? - Jim – I think you are right on target. We are trying to push both Men’s and Women’s Basketball as well as the ticket situation. But I don’t think there is any intent to not market our other programs. We are almost at the end of Women’s and Men’s Soccer schedule. I can tell you at we are cautiously optimistic that our Women’s Soccer program will be selected for the NCAA Tournament again and we hope to host the first round. Also you should know that Virginia Tech will be the host institution for the Atlantic Coast Conference Cross Country Championships on October 27, 2012.
- Students have come up to me and asked if our marketing team has given up on football since we have lost 2 in a row. I work closely with students through the student government. I do not feel that that is the case but it has been brought up because just prior to Orange Effect they were counting down and had amazing graphics on the web site, Facebook page; twitter account, etc.. And then again for White Effect and each of the games and then coming off two losses and not having anything posted whatsoever on the website about Maroon Effect was concerning. – Jim – I can’t really answer why. I can tell you that since it was Homecoming there were a lot of things connected there and marketed in conjunction with Homecoming. I will talk to the Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs.
- Jon – We have a creative marketing opportunity that we are going to be rolling out tomorrow. This is new even to Jim so I apologize for that. We will hold wrestling practice on the drill field tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 to 5:00 and everyone is invited. Coach Dresser has worked with the marketing department and I have worked with campus to get permission to do so. Marketing will be there to hand out posters, schedule cards and try to get students signed up to our Twitter account so they can get notifications. We have an incredible home schedule this year as we start out with Ohio State. Both of us will be ranked in the top 10.

Art dismissed the committee at 4:55 p.m.