

**University Athletic Committee**  
**November 21, 2008**  
**Bowman Room, Jamerson Athletic Center**

**Members Present:** Eileen Van Aken, Hap Bonham, Kristen Callan, Richard Cothren, Richard Ferraro, David Ford, Rosemary Goss, Kenny Jarels, Mike Kelly, Larry Killough, John Maher, Margarita McGrath, Scott Pleasant, Stephen Prisley, Meghan Weyrens-Kuhn, Glenn Reynolds, Jim Weaver,.

**Members Absent:** Eric Davis, Mike Dame, Sam Easterling, Leon Geyer, Mary Ann Lewis, Lu Merritt, Ken Stanton

**Representatives:** Branden Carroll for Charisse Ghattas, Melinda West for Dwight Shelton.

**Guest Present:** Reyna Gilbert, Assistant Athletic Director for Student Life, Natalie Hart, Director of NCAA Initiatives & Diversity Management, Chris Helms, Associate Athletics Director, Olympic Sports, Colin Howlett, Acting Director for SAASS, Jon Jaudon, Associate Athletics Director, Administration, Sharon McCloskey, Senior Associate Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator, Danny White, Director of Student Life

**Recorder:** Joyce Wynn, Athletics

Rosemary Goss, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. The agenda was accepted as presented. Minutes for the October 23, 2008 meeting were approved (motion was proposed, seconded and approved).

**BUSINESS**

**Resolution**

- Rosemary Goss distributed a resolution in honor of Dr. David R. Ford upon his retirement.
  - Whereas David R. Ford served Virginia Tech as Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education since 1998, and
  - Whereas David R. Ford has provided strong and steady academic and administrative leadership throughout his tenure, and
  - Whereas his university responsibilities included serving on the University Athletics Committee, and
  - Whereas David R. Ford was more than a member, but an active participant on the UAC, and
  - Whereas David R. Ford served as chair of the Academic Integrity Subcommittee of the NCAA Certification review, and
  - Whereas David R. Ford has given leadership to the Student Athlete Academic Support Services for many years, and
  - Whereas he has provided effective leadership on behalf of Virginia Tech's student-athletes, and
  - Whereas David R. Ford has made known his intentions to retire from Virginia Tech on December 31, 2008,
  - Therefore, be it resolved, that the University Athletics Committee extends its gratitude for the many hours of service and excellent leadership on behalf of the student-athletes of Virginia Tech, and
  - Be it further resolved, that the UAC extends its most sincere warm wishes for many rewarding years of retirement.

## **Perspective on Student Life (Reyna Gilbert and Danny White)**

(Handout)

- Reyna graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2001. During her collegiate career, she was a four-year letter winner on the Women's Gymnastics Team and was named MVP during her senior year. Gilbert also received her Masters degree in Sport and Exercise Psychology with a minor in Counseling from Ball State University in 2004. Originally from Orlando, Florida
- Danny White earned his bachelors degree in finance in 2001 from the University of South Carolina and received his Masters degree in education in 2008 from Virginia Tech. He was a member of South Carolina's Men's Swim Team; serving as team captain his senior year.
- History of Virginia Tech Student Life Office.
  - 1994-present
  - 2006 Division I-A Athletic Directors Association CHAMPS Program of Excellence – programs that receive this award are known to have established student welfare as the cornerstone of their athletics program
  - Organize services around themes
- Opportunities
  - Encourage the development of leadership skills (SAAC program for leadership development)
  - Enable student-athletes to make meaningful contributions to their communities (Hokies with Heart)
  - Assist student-athletes with NCAA, ACC, and other scholarship/award nominations
- Knowledge
  - Increase awareness of available resources particularly for freshmen student athletes
  - Provide opportunities for growth – want to ensure student athletes success and turn into well-rounded individuals
  - Serve as resource for coaches during their recruiting process – coaches often put student life staff on itinerary.
- Intangibles
  - Meet the changing needs of student-athletes –e.g., drop-in tutoring sessions for English.
  - Assist student-athletes in building self-esteem – help build student-athletes up in a positive way – example is orientation for student-athletes.
  - Position athletes well to meet diverse requirements of future employers – mock interviews, resume workshops, etc. – the purpose is for athletes to build their resumes over their time at VT, in addition to participating in athletics.
- Experience
  - Making the most out of the VT student-athlete experience
    - Personal development: healthy living resources, drug and alcohol seminar, female athlete success forum, etc.
    - Professional development
  - Assist in development of well-rounded individuals – addressing issues that come to the attention of this office such as problems with a specific course.
- Success
  - Assist student-athletes in using athletics as a preparation for success in life (life skills)
  - Promote ownership by the student-athletes of their academic, athletic, personal, and social responsibilities.

Question: Any new programs/initiatives?

Answer: I would like to look at a four-year plan for student-athletes, from selecting a major through looking at internships and scholarships through job searches.

Question: Do you bring in outside speakers to inspire student-athletes?

Answer: We brought in outside speakers for the female athlete forum, and are planning to bring in Josh Davis who was a former Olympic swimmer and collegiate swimmer.

### **Committees Update and Discussion**

- Governance and Rules Compliance (reporting in January)
  - Sam and Scott met with people in registrar's office regarding eligibility
  - Committee will have report for January meeting.
- Academic Integrity
  - Richard: this committee will report in April (tutoring, success skills, etc.)
- Equity and Inclusion
  - Eileen: this committee will also report in April/May.

### **Questions for Athletic Director**

- Construction is proceeding with basketball practice facility – have you noticed that the crane is flying the University of Tennessee flag?
  - No have not. Comment: this is an orange/white checked flag for airplanes.
- Noticed last meeting's minutes a remark about SAASS Director interviews – how is that going?
  - We have completed the interview process and are waiting for the decision to be made.
- Am part of Hokies on Fire – have you looked into the Cameron Crazies or other similar initiatives at other universities where we create a student atmosphere to enhance the fan experience in Cassell Coliseum? (looking at calling ourselves the “Cassell Guard”).
  - We have not looked at a particular name – but we have been looking at how to enhance student attendance and interest at games.
- Could you elaborate on this morning's paper – the football locker room situation?
  - That is our next project. It will probably go to the Board of Visitors in March. This will be built out to the east of Jamerson –into the parking lot and what is currently an alleyway.
  - Our football locker room situation is not good compared to others in our league and BCS conferences. Had identified this as a need in summer 2007 with Bob Broydan who handles most of the debt servicing for capital projects on campus.
  - Management is approaching this as a design-build concept.
  - We've tried to enhance all of our facilities. When we get this facility constructed, it will enhance the locker room for three of our Olympic sports.
  - The Athletic Fund ( Lu Merritt) has been raising money for the past 6-8 months.
  - We would break ground sometime after approval by the Board of Visitors.
- Glenn Reynolds gave an update about the construction on the River Course Clubhouse project and the Aquatic Center in Christiansburg (which will support VT swimming).
- I know a lot of people are nervous about the Bud Foster situation – is there anything you can tell us about this?
  - I was quoted in the paper accurately this morning – if Bud Foster gets offered the Clemson job, he deserves it and should take it.
  - If he is able to get a head coaching job at a school like Cincinnati (perceived as a somewhat lower level than here) or a MAC school – he may do that. VT can always bring him back when Coach Beamer retires. There's really nothing concrete to report.
  - We don't have the kind of money to pay a defensive coordinator like what Texas is doing with their defensive coordinator. (They are paying him 450k this year and then 900k the next year).

Rosemary Goss adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.