

MINUTES
VIRGINIA TECH ATHLETIC COMMITTEE
Friday April 17, 1992

The meeting was convened at 1:37 PM. Present were Bennet Cassell, Will Furrer, Kelli Craven, Linda Bucy, Bill Chickering, Tony Dziepak, John Ficenech, Elyzabeth Holford, Suzanne Murrmann, Vince Cilimberg, Joe Thomas, Mace Coleman, Jeff Bourne, Steve Horton, Dave Braine, Cornel Morton, Jack Williams, Jerry Via, Gene Seago, and Larry Killough. Minutes from the March 18 meeting were approved as read.

Jeff Bourne reported that the capital campaign was progressing nicely. However, scholarship support is in difficulty. While funds have been added to capital endowment for scholarship support, increases in tuition and decreases in interest income have limited scholarship support. It was necessary to draw down on scholarship endowment last year. Five year projections, without added income, show deficits. In addition, women's equity issues could add further strain to scholarship support problems. The Athletic Department has allocated scholarship support on an "in state" basis in all sports except football, men's and women's basketball.

Cornel Morton of the Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Department was a guest of the committee. He spoke on gender equity and the legal requirements of Title IX, advocating the principle that we should pursue equity because it's fair, not just because it is legally required. At Virginia Tech, women constitute about 48% of the undergraduate student body. Ratio of programs/scholarships for men and women should be scrutinized. Funds for recruiting and operations must also be checked. Cornel recommended that we a) evaluate where we are in support of women's athletics, b) take immediate steps to correct big problems, and c) consult with athletes concerning their perception of inequity issues. In Cornel's view, football and men's basketball will be considered when evaluating equitable treatment of women in varsity athletics. Group discussion led to consensus that equity issues will be a focal point in the immediate future. The issue is too large to expect to address it in a short time period and involves decisions beyond the responsibility of the University Committee on Athletics. However, the committee can provide leadership and input into the process.

Jerry Via presented the committee with a sheet of guidelines for faculty advisors to use when advising student athletes. Student athletes must make satisfactory progress toward a degree in order to maintain eligibility for intercollegiate athletic competition. Jerry reported that 12 student athletes had an excess of free electives and would need to attend summer school to maintain eligibility. Faculty advisors could assist in avoiding such problems. It was moved that the committee recommend to the Provost's office that the sheet of guidelines be distributed to faculty advisors for student athletes. Several in the committee

felt that the Provost's office was a more appropriate source of such guidelines that the Athletic Committee or Jerry Via's office. Motion passed.

Dave Braine gave the athletic director's report. Highlights since the previous meeting include the first Student Athlete Honors Luncheon, attended by many of the 146 student athletes who had made the AD's Honor Roll in the past year. Baseball season included ups and downs, but had recently defeated the University of Virginia. Dave reported that the Metro Conference all sports title could come to Tech on the strength of spring sports. He predicted no change in Metro Conference membership for the coming year. Men's basketball had a good recruiting year with 8 new signees. Dave asked that his response to the report of the subcommittee on women's programs be delayed until the September meeting.

The committee agreed to schedule the first meeting for the 1992-93 academic year for Wednesday, September 9, 1992 at 11:30 AM in the Bowman Room. A luncheon meeting is planned. Finally, the committee bid farewell to Tony Dziepak, Kelli Craven, and Will Furrer, with deepest appreciation for their contributions to the deliberations of the committee during the year. These students were attending their last meeting of the group prior to graduation.