

**MINUTES OF THE  
STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

April 3-4, 2009

Those in attendance:

Boston College-Cristina Almendral, Michael Hogan, Carly Pariseau (Advisory Team)  
Clemson University-Tyler Morey, Rachel Regone  
Duke University-Eric Ness, Addison Nuding  
Florida State University-Melanie Cabassol  
Georgia Institute of Technology-D'Andre Bell, Shaday Woolcock  
University of Maryland-Jessica Unger  
University of North Carolina-Megan Owens  
North Carolina State University-Jana Angel, Sarah Merritt, Donn Ward (FAR), Demar Bonnemare (Advisory Team)  
University of Virginia-Jerome Meynsse  
Virginia Tech-Sarah Ameen, Tim Miller  
Wake Forest University-Liza Casella, Ashley Homitz (Chair)  
Atlantic Coast Conference-Shane Lyons, Eric Wood

Those not attendance: Miami-Meredith Hatic, Brittany Viola, Theresa Wenzel (SWA)

Attending portions of the meeting: Jeff Elliott (Associate Commissioner), Shane Lyons (Associate Commissioner), Davis Whitfield (Associate Commissioner), Kris Pierce (Assistant Director)

[Note: While certain items in the agenda may have been acted on at various times throughout the meeting, all final actions within a given topic are combined in these minutes and listed in order of the agenda for convenience of reference. These minutes reflect only actions (formal votes or "sense of meeting") that occurred.]

1. Welcome and Introduction. Ashley Homitz, Chair, welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 11:15 am. Ashley led the group through an icebreaker and then introduced Mr. Jeff Elliott, ACC Chief Financial Officer, to address the impact of the economy on intercollegiate athletics.
2. Impact of the Economy on Intercollegiate Athletics in the ACC. Jeff Elliott shared cost containment notes coming out of the ACC Presidents meeting to address these economic times. The three major areas addressed by the President's were; real dollar savings, the perception of expenses and the strengthening of values. The Conference Office has already enacted a few cost saving items including a cut in the 2009-10 operating budget with several items still under consideration. Many of our member schools have already experienced position/salary freezes among other reductions in team travel party size, transportation and facility construction and renovations.
3. Approve Minutes of the January 28, 2009 Call Minutes. The minutes were approved with updates to names on the participation roster.
4. Conference Wide Community Service. Allison Houseal, ACC National SAAC Representative, submitted this agenda item for discussion by the Conference SAAC. The group unanimously agreed

that we should participate in a conference wide initiative during one week of the 2009-10 academic year but more discussion is needed. The group needs to determine if we should partner with the same organization in our respective cities (i.e. Habitat) or leave it to each school to determine which organization they will serve. One suggestion was to participate in a conference wide initiative to support the troops, possibly identifying one contest in each sport where we can show our appreciation. Jana Angel, NC State, and Melanie Cabassol, Florida State, will draft the proposal over the summer for the Conference SAAC to consider during the September 2009 conference all.

5. Leadership Speaker-Mr. Guy Troupe. Eric Wood introduced Mr. Guy Troupe from Troupe 21 & Associates. A former NCAA football student-athlete and national office intern, Mr. Troupe began his career in athletics administration working with the NCAA Enforcement division before going on to accept a position with the NFL as the Director of Player Programs and eventually starting his own company. Mr. Troupe led the group in a discussion on leadership and the role each member plays on their teams, campus & conference SAAC's and the role of the conference SAAC within the ACC structure. For anyone interested in Mr. Troupe's services, feel free to contact him at 214/749-7833 or via e-mail at [troupe21@troupe21.com](mailto:troupe21@troupe21.com).
6. National SAAC Update. No report from the National SAAC at this time. Eric Wood is accepting nominations to replace Allison Houseal on the NCAA SAAC with her term expiring at the conclusion of this academic year. Meetings for the national SAAC take place in November, January at the convention and one meeting in July. National SAAC reps may serve one year past their eligibility. Eric Wood will forward 3 nominees for the national SAAC to consider.
7. Championships Experience. Mr. Davis Whitfield and his staff joined the group to lead a discussion on winter sport post championships evaluations, survey etiquette and the ACC complimentary game admissions policy for baseball. Overall, the championships office is receiving really good feedback related to facilities, hospitality, atmosphere and coverage on ACC Select. Mr. Whitfield also shared the response rate from each championship and we are hoping to continue to spread the word about the feedback survey to increase the number of respondents. Student-athletes should be receiving the survey link from the Senior Woman Administrator and/or the coaching staff. The championships staff also stressed survey etiquette for those student-athletes who participated in the survey process. Again, while the majority of the respondents took the opportunity seriously, there were a few students who submitted inappropriate comments. Please speak with your SAAC about this opportunity to share your opinions with the Conference Office using mature language or there is a possibility that it will go away. With regards to the complimentary admissions policy, Mr. Whitfield informed the group that the policy for baseball has been around for several years and that nothing has changed for this 2008-09 academic year. Some coaches use the tickets for their personal guests, which ultimately reduces the amount of tickets for guests of student-athletes. However, it is still common practice for teammates to share their allotment with each other but students should continue to check with their compliance office before providing their tickets to a teammate.
8. Sportsmanship Award Update. The ACC SAAC received 17 nominations from 11 of the 12 institutions. Each nominee will be recognized with a certificate on campus as their institution's male and female, or team, sportsmanship winner of the year as voted on by their campus SAAC's. The ACC SAAC Sportsmanship Subcommittee (5 members) narrowed down the nominees and

presented the finalists to the entire group for feedback. The subcommittee met via conference call following the in-person meeting and voted on the overall winners based on that feedback. These 3 winners (Male, Female and Team) will receive an engraved plaque following a press release June 2009 and ultimately forwarded on to the NCAA for consideration of the NCAA Sportsmanship award by June 16<sup>th</sup>.

9. SAAC in ACCtion Feature.

- a. Eric Wood surveyed the group on whether or not to continue the SAAC in ACCtion article submissions for the 2009-10 academic year.

It was MOVED to:

*“Continue with the SAAC in ACCtion article submissions for the 2009-10 academic year, identifying a current or recent SAAC member who has secured an internship or full-time position in a profession other than playing sports.”* (APPROVED-Unanimously);

- b. Website Ideas – Eric Wood will consider creating an ACC SAAC Facebook Account

10. Meeting/Conference Call Dates.

- a. Eric Wood included tentative meeting dates for the 2009-10 academic year. Please share that document with your campus advisor for their planning purposes. Mr. Wood will follow up with the campus advisors after the ACC Spring meetings in the event our conference cost containment initiatives result in the reduction of 1 or both of the in-person meetings. Eric Wood shared a “Responsibilities & Expectations” document that will be included in next year’s SAAC handbook. Mr. Wood also proposed an amendment to the membership criteria – requesting Conference SAAC members agree to serve a two year term with a requirement to attend at least 2 of the 4 in-person meetings.

It was MOVED to:

*“Require ACC SAAC members to serve a two year term with a requirement to attend at least 2 of the 4 in-person meetings.”* (APPROVED-Unanimously)

- b. Officer Rotation – Supplement 7 reflects the three year officer rotation for the Conference SAAC. Miami will serve as chair, Virginia Tech will serve as Vice-Chair, and Virginia will serve as the recording secretary for the 2009-10 academic year. Each of these institutions will identify the representative they feel should fill the position for the year.

11. Other Business. With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.