
**THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

Minutes of the Athletics Committee

The Athletics Committee met on April 20, 2023, in Ballroom B of the Festival and Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 2:47 p.m. by John Lynch, Chair.

Present:

Lynch, John, Chair
Bell, Dickie
Major, Lara
Tompkins Johnson, Deborah
White, Jack

Others:

Bourne, Jeffrey, Director of Athletics
Clements, Cassidy, Assistant A.D., Student-Athlete Leadership
Gorton, Eric, University Media Relations Coordinator
Knight, Jack, University Counsel
LaPorta, Stephen, Assistant A.D. for Compliance
Li, Kongrong “KR”, Head Diving Coach
Lowry, Jared, Athletics Development Officer
Pass, Anthony, Associate A.D. for Integrated Health & Sports Performance
Phillips, Jennifer, Senior Associate A.D. for Student-Athlete Development/SWA
Ryan, Felicity, SAAC Representative
Soenksen, Roger, Faculty Athletics Representative
Warner, Kevin, Assistant A.D. for Communications
White, Kevin, Associate A.D. for Sports Programs

Mr. Lynch called for a motion to approve the minutes. It was moved by Deborah Tompkins Johnson and seconded by Jack White approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023, meeting of the Athletics Committee.

NCAA, Sun Belt Conference Sports Update

Jeff Bourne, Director of Athletics, recognized Kongrong “KR” Li, Head Women’s Diving Coach, for his CCSA Diving Coach of the Year honor and related team accomplishments from this past season. Mr. Bourne also recognized, Head Women’s Volleyball Coach, Lauren Steinbrecher, for her Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year and VaSID Coach of the Year honors and highlighted including regular season champions of the Sun Belt Conference; the first SBC championship in JMU history for any sport. Mr. Bourne then provided the Committee with an overall Sports Update. JMU teams have compiled a 196-95-9 cumulative record for a .668 winning percentage. Men’s Basketball Head Coach, Mark Byington, was named VaSID State Coach of the Year. Combined with women’s basketball, JMU tied for its most total basketball

wins in program history with 48. Women's basketball claimed the league's regular season title and tournament championship, finishing 26-8 overall and 13-5 in the conference. Kiki Jefferson was named conference Player of the Year and Tournament MVP. The second "full capacity" season in the Atlantic Union Bank Center and first year in the Sun Belt resulted in positive attendance numbers as men's basketball averaged 4,306 fans per game, good for third in the league. The women averaged 2,216 fans per game, which also ranked third in the Sun Belt. Swimming and diving went 5-3 in dual meets and narrowly finished second in its first CCSA Championship meet. KR Li was named CCSA Diving Coach of the Year and Maddie Yager named both Female Diver of the Championship and Diver of the Year. Men's golf has had third- and fourth-place tournament showings during the spring season. Women's golf's reeled off three wins in the spring at the Oyster Shuck Match Play, the Golfweek/AGT Intercollegiate and the ECU Ironwood Invitational. JMU was the top seed heading into the Sun Belt Championship in April and finished eighth. Women's tennis sits at 12-7 to start its spring season, including 8-1 and second place in the Sun Belt. Men's Tennis holds a 12-9 record, including 3-5 in the Sun Belt. The Dukes were the No. 7 seed for the Sun Belt Championship. Softball sits at 23-13 overall and is fifth in league play at 8-7. Lacrosse sits at 14-1 and earned at least a share of the regular season title in the AAC. Shelley Klaes picked up her 200th win as JMU head coach with a February win over UConn. Baseball is 20-15; the Dukes are 10-0 in midweek non-conference games and currently 11th in the Sun Belt at 5-8. Indoor track and field placed seventh at its first Sun Belt Championship. JMU went on to finish as runner up at the ECAC Indoor Championships. JMU SAAC President Felicity Ryan served as chair of the Sun Belt SAAC mental health subcommittee. Lauren Sander was named the Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association Athletic Trainer of the Year. She works most closely with volleyball and oversees the Dukes Let's Talk program, supporting mental health for student-athletes. Finally, JMU debuted the Duenkel Athletics Complex at Sentara Park in September and officially dedicated the named facility in March. The expansion added game day locker rooms, concessions and improved sports medicine space. In March, JMU debuted an expanded Veterans Memorial Park softball stadium with seating up to 1,500 in addition to improved lighting, expanded press box and new wall padding. With no comments from Committee members, Mr. Bourne concluded his update.

Title IX Participation Report

Jennifer Phillips, Senior Associate A.D., Student-Athlete Development/SWA, provided a summary of the recent Title IX review conducted with each of the female sport programs to review all areas of Title IX at JMU. Ms. Phillips reported that overall, that the JMU Athletics program should be commended with its efforts to fully comply with Title IX requirements. She recognized that the coaches continue to do a great job managing their respective rosters and despite financial challenges, make accommodations where they are able. In Academic Year 2022-2023, Ms. Phillips reported that JMU met the requirements of Title IX Compliance Test 1, regarding providing proportional participation opportunities for males and females with respect to their overall enrollment in the University, and that the Department should continue to follow its current Roster Management Plan and monitor enrollment rates. It was recommended that that JMU Athletics create a plan for the Fueling Zone in Memorial Hall and that an additional Strength and Conditioning coach should be hired once the renovated Convo is reopened. Further,

it was encouraged that discussions relating to a new outdoor Tennis facility and additional renovations to the existing Field Hockey complex should continue. Ms. Phillips shared additional recommendations and findings from the review, relating to locker rooms, practice and competitive facilities, sports information and marketing/promotions, and sports nutrition. Overall, the consultant was impressed with the operations at JMU and how we have transitioned to the FBS level. Following questions from the Committee, Ms. Phillips concluded her update.

Student-Athlete Leadership Program (Dukes LEAD)/SAAC Update

Cassidy Clements, Assistant A.D., Student-Athlete Leadership Program, provided an overview of Student-Athlete Leadership Program (Duke LEAD) and highlighted the key areas of focus: Career Readiness, Civic and Community Engagement, Human Development, and Leadership Development. Ms. Clements noted that Dukes LEAD continues focus on Community Service and the need to connect with those in the surrounding community. Further, JMU Athletics has set an aspirational goal to be in the top five among community services initiatives within the Sun Belt Conference. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) President, Felicity Ryan (Women's Diving), then provided a SAAC update which detailed the committee's priorities and sponsored initiatives. She reflected on her time as SAAC President, her experiences growing and learning behind the scenes and collaborating with Sun Belt Conference peers, and emphasized that efforts will continue to help advocate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in College Athletics. Redshirt Sophomore, Demitri Turner, of Men's Soccer, will serve as the new SAAC President; his platform goals include campus and community involvement, peer support and education, and Student-Athlete voice-driving experiences. Following a brief discussion and questions from Committee Members, the updated concluded.

NCAA Waiver Update

Jeff Bourne, Director of Athletics, provided a brief update on the status of JMU's petition to the NCAA to reclassify from FCS to FBS football in one-year, opposed to the standard two-years. Mr. Bourne shared that this is a bureaucratic process, which includes review by various committees within the NCAA and also by the NCAA's Board of Directors. JMU expects to receive a final decision by the end of April.

Development Update

Jared Lowry, Athletics Development Officer, provided a fundraising update through March 31, 2023. Overall, the Duke Club is pleased with current numbers. The total number of Duke Club donors is 4,250, up 900+ donors from last year, with an aspirational goal of reaching 5,000 donors by the end of the Fiscal Year. The Annual Fund is up \$489,000 from last year, while overall fundraising is up \$867,000 from last year. Mr. Lowry shared that the Duke Club has currently met 67% of its annual fundraising goal of \$4.3M for this fiscal year. Sport Specific Giving continues to increase as Duke Club Development Officers are working with their teams to send out email solicitations this fall. Capital projects are in the planning stages and in turn, so we expect to see that number continue to grow over the course of the Fiscal Year. Mr. Lowry reminded Committee Members that re-parking and reseating for Football will occur this Spring, following the May 15 priority deadline. Following questions from Committee Members, Mr. Lowry concluded his update.

There being no further business, Mr. Lynch us then called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Lara Major and seconded Jack White. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lynch, Chair

Donna L. Harper, Secretary to the Board