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

Minutes of the Athletics Committee

The Athletics Committee met on April 18, 2024, in Ballroom B of the Festival and Student Center. The meeting was called to order at 2:48 p.m. by John Lynch, Chair.

Present:

Lynch, John, Chair
Bell, Dickie
Major, Lara
Smith, Steve
White, Jack

Others:

Ayamel, Julio, Student-Athlete
Bell, Marcus, Coordinator for Student-Athlete Leadership Development
Bourne, Jeffrey, Director of Athletics
Carter-Hoyt, Malika, VP, Diversity Equity & Inclusion
Clements, Cassidy, Assistant A.D. for Student-Athlete Leadership
Gorton, Eric, University Media Relations Coordinator
Hall, Hollie, Dean of Students
Knight, Jack, University Counsel
LaPorta, Stephen, Assistant A.D. for Compliance
Melton, Shane, DNR
Polglase, Geoffrey, Deputy Director of Athletics
Phillips, Jennifer, Senior Associate A.D. for Student-Athlete Development/SWA
Renkin, Scooter, Assistant A.D. for Development
Soenksen, Roger, Faculty Athletics Representative
Warner, Kevin, Associate A.D. for Communications and Strategic Initiatives
White, Kevin, Associate A.D. for Sports Programs

Mr. Lynch then called for a motion to approve the minutes. It was moved by Dickie Bell and seconded by Lara Major to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2024, meeting of the Athletics Committee.

Sports Update

Jeff Bourne, Director of Athletics provided an Athletics update. JMU teams have compiled a 187-112-13 cumulative record for a .620 winning percentage. At the completion of Winter sports, JMU stood in first place in the standings for The Bubas Cup, which is awarded by the Sun Belt to the best overall institution for competitive success, as measured by Sun Belt-

sponsored sports. Unofficially, JMU had perhaps its best year ever compiling wins against top-five, nationally-ranked programs. Men's Soccer defeated both No. 1 UCF and No. 3 Georgetown. Men's Basketball defeated No. 4 Michigan State on the road to open its season. In the spring, Lacrosse topped No. 3 UNC and Baseball downed No. 3 Arkansas. Men's Basketball posted the best season in program history at 32-4 overall and went 15-3 in the Sun Belt, and as the No. 2 seed, JMU captured the Sun Belt Championship, including 91-71 finals win over Arkansas State, to advance to its first NCAA Tournament since 2013. Women's Basketball compiled a record of 23-12 overall and 13-5 in the Sun Belt and advanced to the final of the Sun Belt Championship, eventually falling in overtime to Marshall. Swimming and Diving went 4-3 in dual meets and then went on to capture the 2024 Sun Belt Championship. This was the program's sixth conference title in its last seven tries. In final Sun Belt awards, Madison Cottrell and Alexa Holloway were named Swimming Performer of the Year and Diving Performer of the Year, respectively while Dane Pedersen was named Coach of the Year. Indoor Track and Field placed 10th at the Sun Belt Championship and the Dukes went on to finish as runner up at the ECAC Indoor Championships. Director of Track and Field and Cross Country, Delethea Quarles, was selected as part of Team USA coaching staff for the 2024 Paris Olympics as the jumps/multis coach. Men's Tennis went 7-13 during the regular season and Women's Tennis sits at 8-11 heading into the Sun Belt Championship. Softball opened its season with a 26-16 record and Baseball has a 21-15 record. Lacrosse sits at 10-4 and is ranked 16th nationally. In alum news, Neal Shipley (Men's Golf '22) made his first career appearance in The Master's, finishing in a tie for 53rd in the 89-player field at the 88th Master's. He earned the Silver Cup as the best finishing amateur during the event and was the only amateur to make the cut. JMU announced Preston Spradlin as its new Men's Basketball coach in late March of 2024. In JMU's annual Townebank Royal Rivalry with Old Dominion, JMU currently holds a 10.5-2.5 lead through March 18, 2024. There has been good and ongoing work within the Sun Belt Conference DEI Consortium; DEI at JMU is leading in this way and setting an example for other Sun Belt institutions by forming the consortium. Mr. Bourne concluded the Sports Update by asking and answering any questions related to the topic.

Title IX Participation Report

Jennifer Phillips, Senior Associate A.D. for Student-Athlete Development/SWA, explained that we have exceeded the 1% buffer in participation favoring the men by 1.5%. Unfortunately, the track and field program did not meet their roster management numbers which has led to the difference. We have shared with all of our coaches the importance of meeting their roster management numbers to ensure we match our participation numbers to the institution enrollment that is reviewed on a three-year average. In addition, our financial aid percentage exceeds the 1% difference to participation due to not fully awarding out scholarships within our track program. Due to not limiting how scholarships are distributed by programs, this meets the justification of nondiscriminatory reasons allowed. Jennifer Phillips then concluded the Title IX presentation by asking for and answering all questions on the matter.

Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) Update

Stephen LaPorta, Associate A.D. for Governance and Compliance reported that in the TN & VA antitrust suit against the NCAA court ruling, the following was decided; The recruiting restrictions (offers/inducements) suppresses price competition by limiting the student-athletes negotiation leverage and, as a result, knowledge of value which does not allow for institutional involvement. There are VA Law updates in process effective July 1, 2024 that include; protections for the institution and employees from penalties or lawsuits, allowance for student-athlete compensation from the institution, however will require the creation of institutional policies regarding compensation. NCAA proposal will be voted on April 18, 2024 and looks to allow institutional involvement but not student-athlete compensation. Stephen LaPorta then concluded the presentation on NIL by asking for and answering any questions on the topic.

SAAC Leadership Update

Cassidy Clements, Assistant A.D., Student-Athlete Leadership Program and Ayamel Julio, Student-Athlete and SAAC Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair, SAAC will add a council for revamping the Conference SAAC Awards process and place a greater focus on the Community impact Award as opposed to the Community Service Initiative in the 2024-2025 academic year. The JMU SAAC initiatives completed were Breast Cancer Awareness Month, NCAA Diversity and Inclusion Social Media Campaign, Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Read Across America during the academic year. JMU SAAC also plans to reorganize Executive Leadership to make a more effective governing body that includes Co-Presidents, an SBC Representative, a Public Relations Chair, a Community Service Chair, a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Chair, and a Wellness & Development Chair. One formal meeting will be held per month that includes one team building activity. Membership will no longer be open to all student-athletes, however membership will include two representatives per sport with voting rights and one trainee without voting rights. SAAC will promote a team led selection process for future team representatives. Cassidy Clements and Ayamel Julio concluded the presentation by asking for any feedback and answering any questions.

Development Update

Scooter Renkin, Associate Athletics Director for Development, shared the results of Giving Day, 2024 as of March 29, 2024. With the Annual Fund consisting of two funds; The Proud and True Gifts and Duke Club Seat Contribution, donations have reached the 55% mark. The Annual Fund has reached \$2.6M in donations from 5,900 donors while goals remain at \$4.8M in funds and 6,000 donors. Overall, donor numbers have increased to date by 1,700 and the Total Athletic fundraising has reached \$3.9M. Looking forward, the Duke Club Renewal Season is already well underway and will continue its campaign launch of 110%. Upcoming Duke Club events include the Duke Club Golf Classic this week and the JMU Coaches Caravan in May. Scooter Renkin concluded the presentation by asking and answering any questions.

Led by John Lynch, each Board of Visitors Committee Member concluded with remarks of gratitude and thanks toward Mr. Bourne for his impressive career, attained goals and forward-thinking ability. Mr. Bourne concluded the Athletics Committee meeting by thanking the Board Committee Members and visitors for their time and continued support of Athletics during his tenure and asking the Committee members for feedback concerning future agenda items they would like to be considered.

There being no further business, John Lynch, Chair, then called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Jack White and seconded Dickie Bell. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lynch, Chair

Donna L. Harper, Secretary to the Board