Present: Stephanie Ballein, Rhonda Mah, Mary Ferrari, Mark Munzinger, Betty Dore

**Stephanie Ballein:** We are very excited to be starting with the spring sports – baseball and softball. The Big South Tournament will be held at Radford University in May, 2012, the week after RU’s graduation.

Fifty seven/fifty eight percent of student athletes are at or above 3.0 GPA. This is very exciting. We have started a new program with student athletes to work on their academics by providing tutoring, etc. This is built into their schedule with practice, strength training, travel, etc. This becomes another class. Helps with time management issues as well. Using tutors from LARC as well as our own tutors with the athletic program. Some tutors just work with study skills while others from LARC are content oriented.

Talked with SORTS. The rule is that if a student has below a 1.25 after their first semester, they are out. This is a drain on resources. They have to go to summer school to get their GPA up to a 2.0. Really very few student athletes who fall into that category. SORTS may not take them.

LARC – when student athletes are in the new program, it is mandatory for them to attend sessions at LARC. If they miss, they must pay $8 per hour.

**Mary Ferrari:** Really do not get the kid who just doesn’t have the study skills or the intelligence to succeed. It is usually connected to their study skills, life styles, not attending classes, etc.

**Stephanie Ballein:** There is now a Bridge Program. MBB and WBB athletes are required to come in the summer before they are registered to begin to get that much head start. They come in and get those two classes and gain confidence, find out what it means to live in a dorm, get to know college life. They usually do much better in the fall when they begin.

Michelle Jenkins has taken over the SORTS program.

**Rhonda Mah:** Has sent out letters to the International Student Athletes. Has not had much feedback at this time. Getting ready to do the 2011 1042S that reports scholarships and taxes they pay. They have to file tax reports.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012, 8:00 AM. PLACE TBA.**