Does Hokie Football Support Minors?

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As I See It

The addage goes, “Football programs support collegiate athletes.” It’s the grandaddy which offers its cash-filled hand to the so-called minor sports. The collection of swimming, soccer, wrestling, cross country, track, golf, tennis and, even baseball, compose the group of lesser-thans at Virginia Tech.

Sports other than basketball and football, according to Tech Athletic Director Frank Moseley, would be non-existent if not for the receipts of football—an ironic report since a financial statement filed with the university’s Standard Seven Self-Study Committee this past year indicates otherwise.

The statement covers fiscal year 1974-75 and contains figures which indicate that the minors are supported not by the “football” program, but by a $6 fee included in each student’s annual tuition which is allotted to the Athletic Association by decree of the university’s Board of Visitors.

The fees, according to a separate report filed annually with the state’s Director of Budget, brought $386,542 into the association’s purse in fiscal year 1974-75. During the same year the association, according to the self-study report, spent $184,832 directly on the minor sports while pulling in $96,760 in gate receipts.

On the surface it appears that student fee support exceeds the “minor’s” cost by $91,790. However, this supposition is invalid since the student fees are not earmarked for “minor sports” and because an audit report shown to this reporter by Moseley indicated less than $3,000 were recorded as gate tickets by the declaration (deadline) date. “After this date receipts from the “minor” in fiscal year 74-75, leaving a discrepancy of nearly $97,000 between the audit and self-study report.

“Apparently you don’t have listed that part of the fee that the university has allocated,” explained Moseley of the differing figures. “That’s the only thing I can see they (unnamed athletic association personnel) have done which makes sense.”

According to Moseley, the nearly $97,000 difference in the two reports result from “someone” including a proportionate amount of fees to the individual sports’ gate receipts into the report filed with the self-study committee. Consequently it appears that the students support the bulk of the “minor” sports expense, since the discrepancy was cited to the football university body as fees paid by students.

“I don’t believe that’s true,” argued Moseley. “Without football I don’t believe students would be willing to pay a fee.”

The students for their mandatory fees get free admission into any intercollegiate athletic event at Tech. The Athletic Association saves 7,000 seats for students during home basketball games and an unlimited supply for football games. They also allow students free entrance into the other gate sports which are wrestling, football and track.

“We have never been unable to place a seat in a seat,” said Moseley. “If basketball it may have happened once or twice in the past 10 years when students have not picked up any unclaimed student seats are available to the public.

In any event, the question remains whether the lesse