



VirginiaTech

College of Natural Resources
and Environment

Department of Forest Resources and
Environmental Conservation (0324)

228 Cheatham Hall
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
540-231-5461 Fax: 540-231-3330
email: jseiler@vt.edu

August 9, 2013

Dr. Sherwood Wilson
Vice President for Administrative Services
248 Burruss Hall (0182)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Wilson:

On August 7 the Arboretum Committee met with Jason Soileau, Assistant Vice President, Office of University Planning. At this meeting, which was held adjacent to Stadium Woods, he briefed us on site options for the proposed Indoor Athletic Practice Facility. Our discussion in particular examined the potential impacts these options would have on the Stadium Woods ecosystem.

Two site options were presented that place the planned facility on the existing outdoor practice fields adjacent to Stadium Woods. The Arboretum Committee finds **both of these outdoor practice field site options acceptable** as neither of them approach even the drip line of the Stadium Woods. The plan labeled as "option 2" was our top choice as this allowed the possibility of some future tree planting, landscaping and slightly less new impervious surface along the western, middle portion of Stadium Woods (near the southeastern corner of the proposed facility). However, we did not strongly separate the two options and recognize the Athletic Department needs may be better suited to option 1.

Our favorable opinion of the outdoor practice field location is based on the building footprint shown to us which was dated 08/05/13. A new evaluation by the Arboretum Committee would be needed should the plans, as they develop further, require the facility footprint to move in any direction and in particular towards Stadium Woods. We are also assuming with our endorsement that any staging and construction activity required during the construction project would not be within the dripline of Stadium Woods.

The Arboretum Committee would like to thank the Office of University Planning and the Athletic Department for working openly in this process. We recognize in particular the compromise that the Athletic Department is making.

Sincerely,

John R. Seiler
Chair, Arboretum Committee

cc: Jason Soileau

Invent the Future