FROM THE EDITOR

April showers bring end of term assessments, spring sports issues, grant deadlines, certification of coaches, search committee and departmental meetings, conferences with student-athletes facing eligibility issues and a flood of other matters. The waters of responsibilities continue to rise. So much for my timeliness with the April issue. Nonetheless, here it is. We all do the best we can when we can. As Steven Covey has suggested, begin all tasks with the end in mind and do first things first. Our first concern as FARs will always be student-athlete well-being. We also face issues regarding academic integrity and institutional oversight of athletics. These are our priorities as FARs.

In this issue, you will find comments from FARA president Alan Hauser, FARA executive committee updates, reminders and upcoming events.

As always, we invite your comments and concerns. FARA is your voice and collectively we represent more than 1000 NCAA member institutions. When FARA speaks collectively, people listen. If you receive this newsletter, you belong to FARA. FARA has no fee, and you need not submit a registration form. Thanks and have a successful conclusion to the quarter or semester.

By the way, did you notice the new FARA byline? The FARA executive committee discussed the need for a “brand”. When someone asks, “What is FARA?” we can now respond succinctly and appropriately,

The official faculty voice ensuring balance between academics and athletics for the benefit of student-athletes at more than 1,000 NCAA colleges and universities.
Excerpts from the Recent FARA Executive Committee Meeting

Alan Hauser, FARA President
Appalachian State University
April 2, 2008

I hope all of you are having an excellent and rewarding spring term, even as the calendar tells us that the academic year is moving rapidly to its conclusion.

Your FARA Executive Committee met March 26-29 to plan programs and initiatives for the upcoming year. Let me describe several of these for you.

The November 2008 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium will have as its theme “Enhancing the Student-Athlete Experience.” It is the student-athlete who is at the core of all we do in intercollegiate athletics, and this year the focus will be on understanding the academic and athletics experience of the student-athlete, and expanding the ability of FARs to be helpful to them. Student-athletes have long been important to us in our consideration of particular pieces of NCAA legislation during our annual November meetings. This year in November, we also want to learn from them in detail about their life as student-athletes, their needs, their successes, constraints placed upon them, their ability to be actively engaged in the academic and co-curricular life of the student body and what they see to be important matters needing to be addressed. We will be bringing two student-athletes per division to the legislative review sessions this year, and we plan to use these students, as well as others, to help us understand better the experience of our student-athletes. In addition to general programs about student-athletes aimed at the combined three divisions, there will also be sessions developed for the programs of each separate division. You will soon receive information on how you may register for the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium, which will be held this year in San Diego November 13 through 15 (what better destination city can you find in November?). Beat the rush, and get your plans firmed up now.

No doubt many of you have heard of the Division II Institute, a select program in which one FAR from each conference in Division II is invited to participate in a several-day series of sessions designed to increase their skills and knowledge as they perform their duties as FARs. This program is not designed for rookie FARs, but rather for those who have had enough time to learn the basics of the position and could profit from intensive discussions and training. The idea is that over a period of time each conference will build up a group of several trained FARs who can serve as resource persons for their conference. This program has met with high success in Division II, and the FARA Executive Committee is now considering developing similar institutes for Divisions I and III. While this cannot be developed overnight, the Executive Committee plans to work diligently to bring these programs into existence. Please stay tuned for updates as planning continues.

The Executive Committee also finalized its statement of FARA’s, and individual FAR’s, focus and purpose, which reads:

*The official faculty voice ensuring balance between academics and athletics for the benefit of student athletes at over 1000 NCAA colleges and universities.*

We hope you will find this an apt statement of what FARA and FAR’s are all about.

The Nominations Committee, which I chair, will soon begin preparing a list of nominees for positions coming vacant on FARA’s Executive Committee. If you are interested, we encourage you to run for one of these vacant positions.

A current roster of Executive Committee members, as well as the ending date of the term of each, follows my comments. Please note that there will also be an election for each of the three divisional vice presidents, and for the president-elect of FARA. Dennis Leighton, secretary-treasurer of FARA, will soon be
sending out a more detailed notice about the elections. If you would like to make a nomination, please contact Dennis, FARA president-elect Roger Caves, or me. Please contact your nominee first to be sure he/she is willing to run for FARA office.

These are several highlights from a 26 point agenda the Executive Committee discussed at its meeting. As you can see, the Executive Committee is working diligently on your behalf. However, it is crucial that we receive input from each of you, so please contact members of the Executive Committee and share your ideas or questions with them.

Best wishes for a successful completion of the 2007-2008 academic year.

2007–08 FARA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Hauser</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Appalachian State University</td>
<td>11/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Caves</td>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>San Diego State University</td>
<td>11/08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Adair</td>
<td>Division I Vice President</td>
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<td>Robert Ziegenfus</td>
<td>Division II Vice President</td>
<td>Kutztown University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandy Slabik</td>
<td>Division III Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Leighton</td>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>University of New England</td>
<td>11/09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jean Perry</td>
<td>Division I FBS Representative</td>
<td>University of Nevada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhonda Hatcher</td>
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<td>Kim Capriotti</td>
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<td>Patrick Devine</td>
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<td>Joseph Catanese</td>
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<td>Brenda Cates</td>
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<td>Ralph Bertrand</td>
<td>Division III Representative</td>
<td>Colorado College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effel Harper</td>
<td>Division III Representative</td>
<td>University of Mary Hardin-Baylor</td>
<td>11/09</td>
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Reminders and Upcoming Events

- Go to [www.NCAA.org](http://www.ncaa.org) to register for daily NCAA updates.

- NCAA regional rules seminars will take place in Boston this month and in San Antonio in June. The FARA session will feature a new program, “The Engaged FAR: The Institution, Conference, NCAA and FARA.” We look forward to your comments on the FAR session as the FARA Executive Committee strives to serve the membership based on the input of FARs.

- The N4A (National Association of Academic Advisors of Athletics – [www.nfoua.org](http://www.nfoua.org)) meets June 6-9 in Kansas City. NACADA (National Academic Advisors Association) meets October 1-4 in Chicago. FARA has been collaborating with these associations in an effort to enhance the overall collegiate experiences for student-athletes.

- The national SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee) meeting will be held in Indianapolis. FARA president Alan Hauser and president-elect Roger Caves will attend.

- The 2008 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium will be November 13-15 at the Westin Horton Plaza in San Diego. Mark your calendars now! The meeting will be going “green” this year and all materials for the meeting will be available online only. Please visit the FARA Web site ([www.farawebsite.org](http://www.farawebsite.org)) and see future editions of FARA Voice for updates and further information.

- The 2009 NCAA Convention will be held January 14-17 at the Gaylord in Washington, D.C. Please note the following: The Scholarly Colloquium on College Sports will precede the Convention, not the FARA meeting as written in the March issue of FARA Voice. Scott Kretchmer is the contact for the colloquium ([rsk@psyu.edu](mailto:rsk@psyu.edu)).
A few questions . . . .

Have you seen the Champion? The NCAA’s new quarterly provides updates, features, and insights highlighting the student athlete experience and collegiate athletics. Give some thought to submitting an article. We would like to see FARA or an FAR represented in this quarterly.

Have you visited www.farawebsite.org recently? Why not make weekly visits to the site? We would appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Have you a general or particular concern or comment? The Voice serves as your forum for presenting your concerns or comments related to FARA, the role of the FAR, the NCAA, student athlete well-being, and other issues and topics of interest to the membership. We look forward to hearing from you. Mail to jcatanese@anselm.edu.

FARA and SAAC

Working with your campus SAAC is an efficient and effective means of connecting with student athletes. Through your visibility and interactions, your credibility will be enhanced as student athletes see that you listen to and support them as the face the day-to-day challenge of balancing academics and athletics. You are a valuable resource for your campus SAAC. In an effort to collaborate with the national SAAC, FARA will have SAAC representatives at all sessions of the fall meeting and symposium.

Professional Development for FARs

- The FARA Executive Committee’s Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Development is exploring ways of creating institutes in Divisions I and II similar to the Division II FARA Fellows Institute. Rhonda Hatcher chairs this group. Steering committees are being set up. We still need FARs from Division III to assist with this project. Please contact a Division III representative if you can assist.

- A brochure designed to introduce new presidents to FARA and the role of the FAR nears completion and should be available soon. It will be posted on the website. The Web site will in time feature professional development and best practices sections. Your contributions are most welcome. We have been continuing the theme of “Engaging Faculty,” begun at last year’s annual meeting and symposium, as too often we move from the theme without finishing the discussion or completing a project. This theme will be included in the 2008 FARA meeting and symposium.

- The nominating committee of the Executive Committee will create a slate of candidates for the ’08 election held at the fall meeting. To nominate someone, contact your division representative. Individuals can self-nominate with five endorsements.

- Divisional legislative review committees have been established and will begin work in late summer attending to proposed legislation for the ’09 NCAA Convention. When you have reviewed proposed legislation, we invite your comments.
The Collegiate Sport Research Institute was held recently in Memphis. If an FAR presented or attended, we invite your summaries or comments.

We will all receive a complimentary copy of the initial issue of the Journal on Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics. This journal is partially funded by the NCAA.

SCORE/GOALS HIGHLIGHTS
Annie Kearns
NCAA Research Department

This is the second in an ongoing series dedicated to reporting findings from the Study of College Outcomes and Recent Experiences (SCORE) and the Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in college (GOALS) study. Responses from both SCORE and GOALS indicate that despite the strain on student-athletes’ time, they are making a concerted effort to be actively engaged in the academic experience. In addition to traditional classroom activities, over 40 percent of current student-athletes indicate that they either already have participated or plan to participate in collaborative research with a faculty member; three-fourths report they will complete an internship or practicum experience, and almost one-half will complete a senior thesis. They also report a high level of engagement within the classroom. Over 70 percent of current student-athletes report that they participate actively in class ‘always’ or ‘often’, and 87 percent report they come to class prepared ‘always’ or ‘most of the time’. This level of engagement is reflected in their perceptions of their efforts. When asked how they feel about the efforts they have put forth in their classes, 85 percent responded that they feel positive about their efforts.

Data from GOALS show that there is a moderate relationship between various measures of engagement (e.g., coming to class prepared and discussing course content with faculty and others outside of class) and reporting positive feelings about the overall academic experience. One measure of engagement, however, participation in class, had a strong relationship with student-athletes reporting a positive relationship with faculty and a positive feeling about the overall academic experience. As the table below shows, student-athletes who responded that they actively participate in class also reported at much greater rates feeling positively about their overall academic experiences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participate Actively in Class</th>
<th>How do you feel about your overall college academic experience?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent Feeling Positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>57%</td>
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DATES TO REMEMBER

May 18-23, 2008  NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar  Boston
June 1-6, 2008   NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar  San Antonio
November 13-15, 2008  FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium  San Diego
January 14-17, 2009  NCAA Convention  Washington, DC
November 12 – 14, 2009  FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium  St. Louis
November 11-13, 2010  FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium  Baltimore
Registration will be available online beginning in July. The registration fee for the meeting will be $225, which will include all registration materials, entry to all sessions, awards dinner, three additional meals, a welcome gift and a special gift for Saturday attendees. Tentative sessions will include:

- Keynote address by Dr. Myles Brand
- Presentation of the 2008 Walter Byers Scholarship Award winners
- Panel of academic advisors from the N4A discussing how to enhance the student-athlete experience
- Panel of SAAC members discussing time demands, the 20-hour rule, and the FAR/SAAC relationship
- Review of NCAA legislation
- Perception of the student-athlete by faculty
- Faculty communication with coaches
- And much more!

For updates on the meeting, please see upcoming issues of the FARA Voice and visit www.farawebsite.org often!

Tell Us How We Are Doing!  We would love to hear from you regarding the FARA Voice. If you have any comments, questions, or ideas for future articles, please direct them to Karen Cooper at FARA@ncaa.org.

http://www.farawebsite.org

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