Dear Members of FARA,

It was good to see many of you in Baltimore at the FARA Fall Annual Meeting and Symposium. In my opinion, this was one of the best meetings we have had, and it has set a standard the Executive Committee will work hard to maintain in planning next November’s meeting. Copies of various presentations and other items from the meeting will be available on the FARA Web site.

Let me extend a word of thanks to Dennis Leighton for the excellent job he did this past year as president of FARA. Many of the initiatives I will mention briefly in this letter were either begun or moved to the forefront by Dennis while he was president. Since I firmly believe that being the immediate past president of FARA should not become an invitation to occupy a lawn chair and consume libations, Dennis is hereby placed on notice that he will be a very active immediate past president. Of course, Dennis has prepared the way for this by being elected secretary-treasurer of FARA.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Nashville at the NCAA Annual Convention in January. FARA will have two sessions on Saturday, January 12, the first from 10:30 - noon, and the second from 1 - 2 p.m. In the earlier session, Mike Miranda will open the session by presenting the interesting findings of a study looking at the academic performance of student athletes “in season” and “out of season.” This will be followed by the discussion of a succinct, crisp statement of the role of FARs and the role of FARA. This statement was developed by the FARA Executive Committee as part of the process of discussing ways to get the voice of FARs out to the media on important issues in intercollegiate athletics. In the one hour session after lunch, we will have the ever popular best practices panel, with ideas and suggestions from our three divisional vice presidents. They will respond to issues raised on the 3x5 cards submitted during the meeting in Baltimore, as well as to questions raised from the floor. We also will have a presentation demonstrating the new FARA Web site.

I hope each of you has had the opportunity to visit the new FARA Web site. It contains a wealth of information and suggestions helpful to you in your work as FAR. As secretary-treasurer of FARA, Dennis Leighton is now monitoring and supervising the Web site. I would be remiss, however, if I did not say two words of thanks. All these recent developments would not be possible if Vicki Hightower of Elon University had not for years developed and updated the Web site for FARA. Thank you, Vicki, for your years of service to FARA in providing the Web site from Elon University. We also need to thank Bob Ziegenfus, Division II vice president, for taking the lead in the development of the new Web site.
In order that this letter not become too long, let me simply list a number of projects that are being pursued by FARA. Various members of the FARA Executive Committee will be addressing them in more detail in future issues of FARA Voice.

- A response to the work of the Oversight Committee which is charged with the implementation of the NCAA’s Presidential Task Force Report. President-Elect Roger Caves will take the initiative in soliciting input from members of FARA and then preparing a response.

- A brochure regarding the role and duties of FARs, which will be sent to presidents at all NCAA institutions. Rhonda Hatcher, chair of the ad hoc Professional Development Committee of the Executive Committee, will take the lead in implementing this. Many thanks to former FARA president Lorrie Clemo, who took the initiative in developing this idea and preparing the brochure.

- The projects developed by N4A and NACADA to assist FARs and their institutions in implementing ways to improve their APRs. Thanks to Ruth Darling and Mark Meleney for reporting on these projects at the Division I breakout sessions in Baltimore. We will keep you informed of these projects as they develop, and FARA will cooperate with the N4A and with NACADA in enhancing these projects.

- Divisional Legislative Review Reports. These are now available on the FARA Web site.

- The possibility of developing institutes in Divisions I and III based on the institute successfully developed and conducted in Division II. The ad hoc Professional Development Committee will be working on this.

I look forward to working with all of you this coming year as together we address important matters that lie before us in intercollegiate athletics. I will do all that I can during my year as president of FARA to build on the work of Dennis, Lorrie, and previous presidents, as well as the work of the Executive Committee, to ensure that all FARs have an active and successful role to play in enhancing the academic and athletic development of our student athletes.

Please let me hear from you with your suggestions or concerns.

Alan J. Hauser
FARA President

FARA SUPPORTS ACADEMIC REFORM INITIATIVES

INDIANAPOLIS --- The Executive Committee of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association voted earlier this month at their convention in Baltimore to unanimously support Division I academic reform.

In making the announcement, FARA President Dennis Leighton, FAR at the University of New England, encouraged Division I faculty athletics representatives to take the lead at their institutions in supporting policies that measure the Academic Progress Rate and the Graduation Success Rate of student athletes.

“Some coaches and athletics administrators have voiced criticism of these academic reforms,” said Leighton, in spite of the positive impacts the reforms have had on academic performance.

Leighton says the NCAA academic reform agenda of bringing in student athletes who are better prepared for college level work and moving them on towards a meaningful, worthwhile degree is needed, fair and balanced both from the individual and institutional perspective.

“The guiding philosophy of academic reform is to improve the academic success of student athletes and not to penalize institutions. With the demands placed upon student-athletes, institutions must provide the support necessary for these young people to succeed academically,” he said.

He cited the APR and GSR as “fair and equitable ways to measure an institution’s outcomes in the academic progress of student athletes.”
A recent partnership between the National Athletic Academic Advisors Association and NCAA provides FARs with campus-based instruction on the APR and GSR to help FARs lead academic reform efforts at their institutions.

In making the announcement, FARA joined the Division I Board of Directors in voicing support for the NCAA’s academic reform initiatives.

**SCHOLARLY COLLOQUIUM ON COLLEGE SPORTS**

Many of you are aware that we will be conducting the first annual NCAA Scholarly Colloquium on College Sports this January in conjunction with the National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The program begins on **Thursday morning January 10 and concludes Friday at noon**. You recently received a FARA e-mail about room availability, and we hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to arrive early to hear top researchers on intercollegiate sport and to engage in dialogue about the importance of better understanding this phenomenon.

The theme for the colloquium poses a question: “College Sports: A Legitimate Focus for Scholarly Inquiry?” We have four keynote speakers who have written extensively on intercollegiate sport. They include Jay Coakley a sport sociologist emeritus from Colorado; Mary Jo Kane another sociologist by training who has worked on athletic reforms at the University of Minnesota; Bob Simon, a sport ethicist from Hamilton College; and John Thelin, a researcher in higher education from the University of Kentucky. Each one has a long and distinguished career in sport-related research, and each one promises to provide provocative comments about whether or not and in what ways college sport should be a focus of our research efforts.

The colloquium project and a related refereed journal (an official announcement should be made shortly) are spinoffs of efforts at athletic reform in higher education, efforts that gained momentum after Myles Brand assumed the leadership role in the NCAA. This first colloquium will be probing a basic question: In order to preserve the good, eliminate the bad, and improve that which needs improving in intercollegiate sports, what do we need to know? What kind of additional research is needed, and where is it likely to lead us?

As academics who are associated with intercollegiate athletics, we should all have a stake in answers to these questions—whether we come from Division I, Division II, or Division III institutions. I am hopeful that many of us will add to this research in the years ahead. Toward that end, the Colloquium Board composed of 17 members will be issuing a call for papers next year and indicating procedures for submitting articles to the journal when it is officially announced later this fall. In short, the Colloquium and journal should provide new avenues by which we can combine our academic training with our oversight and leadership roles in intercollegiate athletics.

To register, visit [www.ncaaconvention.com](http://www.ncaaconvention.com) and click on the “2008 NCAA Scholarly Colloquium on College Sports” link. If you are attending this Colloquium only, there is no registration fee. All questions regarding registration may be directed to Angie Grant at agrant@ncaa.org.

I look forward to seeing you in Tennessee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this year’s program or any suggestions for our activities in future years.

**Best regards,**
Scott Kretchmar, FAR
Rsk1@psu.edu
Thanks to all of you in attendance and to the work of the Executive Committee. The annual meeting and symposium proved to be one of the most successful in the history of FARA.

Dr. Jack DeGoia, President of Georgetown University, opened the session with an address on the state of college athletics. His presentation will be posted on the farawebsite.org. You will find Dr. DeGoia’s perspective enlightening and applicable to the academic athletic environment of any campus.

Dr. Ted Leland, former director of athletics at Stanford University, and currently serving at the University of the Pacific, followed Dr. DeGoia. In his presentation, Dr. Leland described two models of the academic athletic relationship; the education model and the entertainment model. The challenge, Dr. Leland said, is to find the proper blending of the two so as to have the latter complement the former. Both Dr. DeGoia and Dr. Leland addressed the role of FAR’s in maintaining the balance between academics and athletics. Read their comments and respond. We would like to hear what you have to say.

Each division addressed relevant and significant matters at the division level. So many in attendance contributed greatly to the discussions, making for an engaged conversation on the topic of “Engaging Faculty.” The Division II “best practices” for engaging faculty will also be posted on the Web site. I will have hard copies at the convention.

Your thoughts or suggestions for next year’s meeting and symposium are welcome. E-mail me at jcatanese@anselm.edu.

NCAA CONVENTION

Among the sessions of interest to FAR’s are:

- NCAA Scholarly Colloquium on College Sports (see the attached article in this issue).
- Division I FAR meeting on Saturday from 9 – 11:15 a.m.
- The Student Athlete Perspective of the College Experience on Saturday, from 9 – 10:30 a.m.
- The FAR General Session from 10:30 a.m. - noon on Saturday.
- FAR Best Practices from 1 – 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Enjoy the convention in Nashville.
PRESIDENT – Alan Hauser, Appalachian State University
PRESIDENT-ELECT – Roger Caves, San Diego State University
DIVISION I VICE PRESIDENT – Tom Adair, Texas A&M University
DIVISION II VICE PRESIDENT – Robert Ziegenfus, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
DIVISION III VICE PRESIDENT – Sandy Slabik, Neumann College
DIVISION I FBS REPRESENTATIVE – Jean Perry, University of Nevada
DIVISION I FBS REPRESENTATIVE – Rhonda Hatcher, Texas Christian University
DIVISION I FCS REPRESENTATIVE – Kim Capriotti, Jacksonville University
DIVISION I NO FOOTBALL REPRESENTATIVE – Patrick Devine, Kennesaw State University
DIVISION II REPRESENTATIVE – Joseph Catanesi, Saint Anselm College
DIVISION II REPRESENTATIVE – Brenda Cates, Mount Olive College
DIVISION III REPRESENTATIVE – Ralph Bertrand, Colorado College
DIVISION III REPRESENTATIVE – Effel Harper, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
PAST PRESIDENT/SECRETARY-TREASURER – Dennis Leighton, University of New England

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-6, 2008</td>
<td>NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar</td>
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<td>January 14-17, 2009</td>
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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.