FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue, FARA President Roger Caves and President-Elect Michael Miranda discuss their visit with NCAA officials at the NCAA national office. Also, Dr. Bernard Franklin, NCAA Executive Vice President for Membership and Student-Athlete Affairs, reviews NCAA diversity and gender initiatives and poses three questions for FARs. Dan Fulks, FAR at Transylvania University, discusses the recent FAR survey. Matt Baysinger of the University of Kansas and chair of the Division I national SAAC addresses the relationship between SAAC groups and FARs.

In addition, please note the informational points that follow.

New FARA Brochure, “What College Presidents Need to Know About FARs”
This brochure has been sent to all college and university presidents of NCAA member institutions. The brochure’s mailing to and perusal by the presidents provides an opportunity for a conversation between the FAR and the president. If you have not seen the brochure, contact the president of your institution.

NCAA Regional Rules Seminars
This year’s seminars will be held in Atlanta in May (on-site registration is still available) and in Anaheim in June. The seminars provide opportunities for FARs to gain valuable information about NCAA rules and regulations. The seminars are a most worthwhile experience for all FARs, especially new FARs.

Professional Development
The Division II FAR Fellows Institute will be held in October in Indianapolis. The call for nominations has been sent to conferences. The institute provides an outstanding opportunity for FARs to develop effective strategies for enhancing the role of the FAR on campus and in the conference. Division I and Division III continue to hold discussions related to developing FAR institutes.

Executive Committee Update
The FARA executive committee met recently to address matters of concern to the association and to plan the Annual Meeting and Symposium to be held in St. Louis. Association-wide programs and panels are being planned as well as division-specific activities. More specific information will appear in upcoming issues of the Voice.

Legislative Review Committees (LRC)
Each division has established an LRC to discuss forthcoming legislation at the fall meeting. Each division will hold LRC review sessions at the fall meeting. LRC committee members will be announced in upcoming issues of the Voice.
FARA Executive Committee: 2009 Elections
The nominations committee will create a slate of candidates for the 2009 elections. FARs may self nominate with five statements of support by fellow FARs. Go to www.farawebsite.org for current executive committee members and their terms of office and procedures for nominations. (See Article 6 of the FARA constitution)

Scholarly Colloquium
The annual Scholarly Colloquium will again be held in conjunction with the 2010 NCAA Convention to be held in Atlanta. For information about the Colloquium, contact Scott Kretchmar, FAR at Pennsylvania State University. (Email: rsk1@psu.edu) Scott also serves as editor of The Journal of Intercollegiate Sport.

As always, we welcome your comments, concerns and suggestions.

Joe Catanese
Editor

NOTES FROM THE FARA PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT

We had the pleasure of meeting with top NCAA officials in Indianapolis to discuss issues of importance to FARA and to hear of NCAA issues that should be of importance to FARs at all levels. We were happy to sit down with Dr. Brand and discuss a number of issues. Dr. Brand was concerned with the economic situations faced by athletic departments around the country. A key concern is what happens to programs and student-athletes when bad budgets hit our campuses. We have all seen photographs of big student-athlete academic centers being built around the country. Unfortunately, the situation could be like that of university libraries – the building gets built but the resources are not there to buy books and journals for the libraries. If academic centers are built, there must be resources put into them to further the student-athlete experience. In addition, we were able to learn that the recommendations of the Basketball Academic Enhancement Group were not final recommendations as some groups have suggested.

We were also able to meet with key divisional governance staff – Beth DeBauche, Mike Racy, Terri Steeb and Dan Dutcher. We discussed creating Division I and Division III FAR Faculty Fellows Institutes that are similar to the one currently operating at the Division II level. Budget issues are a concern, particularly at the Division I level, but we will continue to pursue this initiative. We have had a conference call to discuss the Division I process and will convene a call to discuss possibilities with the Division III liaisons. We have also offered the governance staff the opportunity to write a short piece for the FARA Voice on issues affecting the respective divisions.

Discussions with the NCAA research department centered on the NCAA surveys that are administered by FARs. All of you have probably received your survey packets from the NCAA for the current Substance Use Survey. Next year’s survey will be the latest iteration of the GOALS survey which examines the student-athlete experience across a broad range of criteria. We also discussed a process being developed to help campuses identify at-risk student-athletes. This issue will be discussed in a later issue of the Voice.

Another meeting was held with Damon Schoening regarding our FARA programming for the next NCAA Convention in Atlanta. As you might remember, two of our panels competed against each other in Washington, D.C. Fortunately, the panels had over 400 attendees – a fact that pleased the NCAA staff. We also had two sessions on Saturday, attended primarily by FARs. For the next NCAA Convention, we have proposed having two general convention-wide education sessions back-to-back on Thursday morning and then have a general FARA meeting (business, orientation, etc.) on Thursday afternoon. We will continue to develop FARA-sponsored programming for the Convention.

Our last meeting was with Dr. Bernard Franklin, executive vice president of membership and student-athlete affairs at the NCAA. During our meeting, Dr. Franklin discussed a current review of all NCAA programs in the areas of diversity and gender equity. A purpose of the review is to determine if current programs are effective, need to change, need to be deleted or new programs need to be created. We have offered Dr. Franklin the opportunity to present the results (draft report due in August) with us at the 2009 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium in St. Louis. We have also sent out queries on this issue to our three listservs to give him some feedback from FARs.

Roger Caves, FARA President
Michael Miranda, FARA President-Elect
The NCAA has a long history of promoting diversity among its membership. However, the lack of opportunities for women and ethnic minorities continues to be an issue within the Association. While many recognize the importance of diversity and actively seek to expand their applicant pools to include greater representation of women and minority professionals, the overall result has been less than satisfactory. Few women and minorities serve as athletics directors, faculty representatives or in other high-level athletics administrative positions.

In 2008, President Brand called for an audit of the Association’s diversity initiatives to evaluate and assess their success and make recommendations where appropriate to strengthen those programs, create new programs, or in some instances, discontinue or redesign programs. An internal committee that includes relevant stakeholders has been assembled to oversee the review process. This review comes at a time when all three divisions are grappling with the issue of how to increase and sustain diversity within their respective governance structures. The findings and ensuing recommendations will illuminate opportunities for further growth in this area, and inform the decision-making process within the governance structure.

1. The Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) is an important and integral part of the college athletics community. Is there a place for the NCAA to become more engaged with FARA on issues of diversity?
2. Would FARA like to be engaged in the diversity and gender initiatives review process (e.g., serving as a focus group)?
3. What diversity initiatives have been successful on your campuses.

Dr. Bernard Franklin  
NCAA Executive Vice President for Membership and Student-Athlete Affairs

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**IN MEMORIUM**

Former FARA President Don VanderJagt, who was the FAR at Grand Valley State University, passed away on March 10, 2009 after a long illness. He was 71. Don taught mathematics at GVSU for 42 years and served as chairman of the department for 25. He mentored many students and new faculty. Don graduated from Hope College in 1959, received his master’s in mathematics from Florida State University and his doctorate in mathematics from Western Michigan University. Mr. VanderJagt is survived by his wife, Barb, four children and several grandchildren. Don will especially be remembered for his warm smile and wonderful laugh. He will be missed tremendously by all who knew him.
THE FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE: A SURVEY OF THE MEMBERSHIP

OK, here’s the deal. The 2007 FARA membership survey report has finally been made available and is now posted on the FARA Web site (http://www.farawebsite.org/). The report provides an interesting and, hopefully, useful statistical photo of who we are, what we do, the environment in which we serve, what we value and how we feel about all of these. In short, we are aging (an understatement), over-educated (another understatement), underpaid (yet another), entirely too male and entirely too white, but well fulfilled and intrinsically rewarded. The study replicates and updates the report under the same title conducted by FARA in 2002.

Some data reveal significant differences among the divisions, while other data indicate remarkable similarities across divisions. Far too few of us attend the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium in the fall, and many of us are not as empowered as we should be on our respective campuses. So, please take a close look at the report and take what you want from the data. We sincerely hope you find it useful and we welcome your feedback.

Dan Fulks
FAR, Transylvania University

MOVING FORWARD

I’ve heard it said that it takes a village to raise a child. As student-athletes, we are beyond our years of childhood, but that does not mean that we are done maturing. In the realm of collegiate sports, it takes a community to foster a student-athlete. Within athletics, it is important that we have relationships with our teammates, coaches, and administrators. Many of these relationships already have strong foundations. On the academic side, it is also important to have good relationships with our classmates, academic advisors, and professors. As a student-athlete, however, these relationships are often more difficult to grow. When it comes to constructing a strong community between student-athletes and faculty, it is absolutely imperative that the SAAC and FAR on each respective campus have a close relationship.

In November of 2008, I had the opportunity to attend the FARA symposium in San Diego, California. At the symposium, it was truly special to be able to interact with FAR’s from all over the country. Last year, the focus was on promoting the student-athlete. While it is always a joy to be promoted and celebrated (it really is!), I think it is also very important that we begin moving forward – together. Oftentimes, the Division I SAAC and FARA have similar sentiments and thoughts when it comes to legislative proposals as they pertain to academic performance. The more comfortable we become working on our campus levels, the more we will be able to work together on a conference and national level.

The time has come that we need to focus on improving the relationship between student-athletes and FAR’s at every campus. Now that we have settled into the new NCAA governance structure, we have come to realize that our collective voice is more important than ever before. This voice can only be relevant and accurate, however, if it comes from our student-athletes and faculty on the campus level. It is our responsibility to be the microphone for student-athletes and faculty alike to relay their thoughts and concerns in the NCAA governance structure. Communication is not a one-way road. The more that SAAC and FARA work together, the more we will have the opportunity to amplify communications in our schools, conferences, and on the National level.

When it all comes back to brass tacks, the NCAA is about supplying educational opportunities to student-athletes. These educational opportunities would not be possible without the faculty. The voice of student-athletes and faculty should ring loud and true in the NCAA governance structure. Communication will be the key as we work in our future endeavors together. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if you have any questions. I hope to have the opportunity to work with you all sometime very soon. Thank you for all that you do in creating a community where student-athletes can thrive. The National SAAC looks forward to working together with FARA.

Cheers,
Matt Baysinger
Chair, NCAA Division I National SAAC
University of Kansas
As faculty athletic representative, being asked to assist the NCAA in collecting information that clarifies trends and behavior among student-athletes is not uncommon. As faculty, we well know that any instrument that is used to harvest information from human subjects must first go through the Institutional Review Board (IRB) committee before any other aspect of the project can unfold. Putting through a study often requires majority agreement of IRB members and at times a contentious member of this committee can stifle the studies momentum through committee faster than bicarbonate can neutralize excess stomach acid. Your batting average through this committee will depend on what you bring with you to the initial meeting, preferably with the Chair of the IRB. Citing from example, last January, I was present at the last general session of FARs where Nicole Bracken of the NCAA gave us an overview of the NCAA Survey being conducted this year on Substance Use Habits of College Student-Athletes. In addition to providing helpful information for completing this year’s survey, I found that what I learned will help to smooth the path of other surveys that may come down the pipeline in the future. I followed the recommendations of the presenters of the general session and had no problem getting the survey approved in one day! By doing so, I was able to avoid having to write up a description of the project, its purpose, validity, subject selection criteria, experimental design, analysis methodology and solicitation for subject’s materials. In short, I saved a lot of time, paper and energy and you can too by following these steps:

1. Arrange a meeting with the chair of the IRB. Take all of the materials you received from the NCAA and step-by-step inform him/her that the survey has gone through a number of different NCAA committees before being released to the membership institutions selected for the study.

2. I explained that as it passed through the NCAA Committee for Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, that it had been redesigned and modified to shorten the survey from 16 pages to 8 pages and to require 15 minutes to complete rather than the original 30 minutes and that the survey was piloted with a SAAC group to determine its reliability. The survey was then evaluated by two groups: the Data Analysis Research Network (DARN) and a group of FARs with established research expertise who called themselves the Faculty Representative Advisory Panel (FRAP). The input from those two groups substantially improved the survey material and accommodated IRB issues, especially those associated with preserving the anonymity of student-athletes, by eliminating “skip logic” questions to keep the student-athletes on task and with the test longer.

During my meeting with the IRB chair, I also shared all documents in the NCAA package which included the solicitation statement, the statement of anonymity and statements from the NCAA Research Review Board, FRAP, and the FARA president and 1A FAR president. At the end of my meeting, I was given clearance to proceed and contact the athletics department and coaches to schedule their identified team for a test date.

Pleasantly, what I thought would be an ordeal turned out to be an opportunity to learn the mechanics of my campus IRB and their charge. It turned out to be a win-win situation. The NCAA would get their research data; the student-athletes would learn something from the survey about performance enhancing drugs, behavior, etc, and the experience in total produced an educational opportunity while maintaining anonymity.

Helmut Perez
FAR, Adelphi University
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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](mailto:FARA@ncaa.org).

[http://www.farawebsite.org](http://www.farawebsite.org)