The 2009 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium is just around the corner. This year, the Meeting and Symposium will be held in St. Louis November 12 - 14. The FARA programming committee has been hard at work putting the final touches on this year’s agenda, and I think we will have a very exciting few days. In this issue of the FARA Voice, an overview of the agenda is provided, along with brief descriptions from the three FARA Vice Presidents about Divisional programming. Elsewhere in this issue the Divisional Vice-Presidents are recapping the agenda for their sessions at the Fall Meeting. From an Association-wide perspective, Executive Vice-President of the NCAA Bernard Franklin will provide a "State of the Association” update.

There will be presentations by the Research Staff on the forthcoming GOALS survey and preliminary results of the 2008-09 Substance Use survey, a preview of the soon to launched FLAG program which will help to identify and support student-athletes who may be academically at risk, and an update on Gender and Diversity initiatives at the National Office. Always a highlight is the Honors Dinner where recipients of the David Knight Award for Outstanding Service to FARA will be announced along with the recipients of the Walter Byers and Jim Mckay Scholarships.

Further information is available on the FARA Web site at www.farawebsite.org. Like they say, meet me in St. Louis!

Dennis Leighton
FARA Secretary-Treasurer
FAR, University of New England
2009 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium Program Highlights

Association-wide Sessions

- Keynote Speaker President Sidney McPhee, Middle Tennessee State University
  - Academic Reform of Athletics and Campus Culture
- Annual State of the NCAA Address
- Annual Awards Dinner featuring
  - Walter Byers and Jim McKay Scholarship Award Winners
  - Presentation of the David Knight Award for Outstanding Service to FARA
- Updates on NCAA Research Studies, including:
- FLAG Program for At-risk Students
- Gender & Diversity Programming Review

Divisional Sessions

- Division I Sessions
  - Report on Sport Enhancement Groups
  - Commercialism Task Force Report
  - Economic Issues on campus and athletics
  - Legislative updates
  - D1A FARs Meeting

- Division II Sessions
  - Communication on Campus
  - Legislative Review
  - Roundtables on Strategic Platform

- Division III Sessions
  - Communicating in Tough Times
  - Philosophy and Identity Initiative
  - Making it Work, An Idea Exchange
  - Legislative Update and Review
FROM THE DIVISION I FARA VICE PRESIDENT

As of August 2009, approximately eighty-eight legislative proposals had been introduced into the NCAA Division I legislative process. These proposals will be considered by the Legislative Council along with two from 2008 that will be subjected to override votes at the convention. The FARA DI Legislative Committee is currently studying these legislative proposals and will bring its recommendations to the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium in St. Louis next month. In the meantime, brief descriptions of several proposals that should be of particular interest to faculty athletics representatives are presented below.

Proposals 2009-7 and 2009-8 are intended to revise the definition of the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) cohort and the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program penalty structure, respectively. Proposal 2009-17 is intended to specify that an institution’s faculty athletics representative shall administer the annual coaches’ certification test. Should the FAR be unable to administer the test, he or she would appoint an institutional staff member outside the athletics department to administer the test. Proposal 2009-64 addresses non-traditional courses. The proposal specifies that for the purpose of using a nontraditional course to satisfy NCAA core-course requirements, the course must be one in which the instructor and the student have ongoing access to one another and regular interaction with one another for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student throughout the duration of the course. The proposal further specifies that the student’s work must be available for review and a defined time period for completion of the course is included.

Two override votes are scheduled during the convention. The first relates to Proposal 2008-59, Sand Volleyball. The second relates to Proposal 2008-46, Baseball schedule.

Finally, legislative proposals from the Men’s Basketball Enhancement Group are anticipated prior to the convention. These anticipated proposals will be discussed during the legislative review session FARA meeting, should they be available by then.

Best Wishes,

Cecil Carter
FARA D-I Vice President
FAR, Florida Gulf Coast University
ccarter@fgcu.edu
FROM THE DIVISION II FARA VICE PRESIDENT

The DII FAR sessions will provide an opportunity for professional development, collaboration, and an exchange of effective practices. DII FARs will be involved in all of the sessions and will lead most of them. We will have the largest representation of FARs among the three divisions, allowing for a variety of thoughts and opinions on the issues we face as FARs.

On Thursday, we will welcome new FARs and first-time attendees, discuss the Fellows Institute, and address NCAA committee service. A panel discussion will follow these sessions. Among the scheduled panelist are Dr. Steve Jordan, Chair of the DII Management Council; Jim Johnson, Commissioner of the MIAA; Lori Flanagan, Athletics Director at Missouri-St. Louis. Our discussion will focus on the DII Strategic Plan. In particular, we will consider strategies for enhancing academic and athletic partnerships on campus and within the conference.

The Friday sessions will include a DII update presented by the NCAA DII staff, a review of proposed legislation, and a survey and discussion on the scope of roles and responsibilities of FARs. Paul Engelmann has graciously volunteered to Chair the LRC.

Saturday morning provides ample time to continue the discussion of Friday's topics and to introduce three new topics; community engagement and game environment, recent and upcoming issues affecting the role and responsibilities of FARs, and future priorities of DII FARs.

Along with Brenda Cates and Keith Vitense, DII FARA representatives, I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis.

Joe Catanese
FARA D-II Vice President
FAR, Saint Anselm College
jcatanese@anselm.edu

FROM THE DIVISION III FARA VICE PRESIDENT

This year, the FARA Symposium will offer a wide variety of topics for the DIII breakout sessions, as well as a review and discussion of proposed legislation on Friday afternoon.

This year there are nine sponsored proposals. Seven of the proposals are sponsored by the Presidents Council, one sponsored by the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, and one sponsored by the American Southwest Conference. Legislation proposed by the Presidents Council includes: Deregulation and reformatting of permissible and non-permissible tryouts; A tryout exception for recruiting, and playing and practice seasons; A change in the criteria for determining season of eligibility and minimum amount of participation in baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer,
ftball, and women’s volleyball; Changes in calculating eligibility for a hardship waiver; Specifying the length and end of fall and spring nontraditional seasons; Exemption of an alumni contest during the playing season; and Affirmation (in the philosophy statement) of presidential leadership at institutional, conference, and national governance levels. Legislation from the American Southwest Conference proposes a change in the playing and practice season for football, allowing a walk through session during the five-day acclimation period. Legislation from the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference proposes changes in transfer regulations so that a student is immediately eligible after transfer, even if the student was disqualified or suspended from their prior institution for disciplinary reasons.

Ralph Bertrand
FARA D-III Vice President
FAR, Colorado College
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**GOALS**

In the July and September issues of FARA Voice we announced that the 2009-10 survey administered by the faculty athletics representatives will once again be the *Growth, Opportunities, Aspirations and Learning of Students in college* (GOALS) survey. The GOALS study was designed to gauge the academic, athletic, social and health experiences of current student-athletes in Divisions I, II and III. While policymakers within the membership have found the information to be valuable, we also have received many questions on how the results from the student-athletes compare to what is seen among a non-athlete college population. A recent collaboration formed between the NCAA and the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), conducted out of the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at the University of California, Los Angeles will move us closer toward being able to answer many of those questions.

CIRP administers three surveys annually to over 200,000 students at approximately 900 colleges and universities nationally. The CIRP surveys are concerned with many of the topics explored in GOALS, including academic engagement, campus climate, campus integration and academic and career ambitions. Beginning in 2009, all CIRP surveys will ask each student respondent to identify if he or she is an NCAA student-athlete. The NCAA research staff will have an opportunity to analyze much of this data, which will provide us with the opportunity to better understand the impact of a wide variety of college experiences, including athletics participation, on student-athletes and other students.

In addition to the benefit of the added question on CIRP surveys identifying NCAA student-athletes, the GOALS and CIRP studies, particularly CIRP’s *College Senior Survey* (CSS), measure similar constructs. This will permit not only the direct comparison between student-athletes and non-athletes on CIRP items, but also a national comparison between student-athletes and non-athletes using the comparable CIRP and GOALS constructs.
Many of your institutions are currently participating in one or more of CIRP’s surveys. Maximizing the number of NCAA institutions participating in these surveys will permit a more comprehensive national comparison of student-athletes and their non-athlete peers within our membership. In the coming weeks, you and your CEO/President will be receiving a letter from the NCAA and CIRP outlining in more detail the specifics of this partnership and how your institution can help make it a success. The letter also will explain the benefits of participation, including receipt of your student-level data as well as reports comparing your students nationally to students at like-institutions.

The letter will include a postcard you can return to receive more information about the CIRP surveys, or please feel free to contact Annie Kearns, NCAA research, at akearns@ncaa.org with any questions regarding CIRP or the NCAA GOALS study.

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<tr>
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<td>FARA Annual Meeting</td>
<td>November 12-14, 2009</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
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<td>NCAA Convention</td>
<td>January 13-16, 2010</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
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<td>Regional Rules Seminar</td>
<td>May 17-21, 2010</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
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<tr>
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<td>June 14-18, 2010</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCAA Convention</td>
<td>January 12-15, 2011</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCAA Convention</td>
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<td>Grapevine</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**

http://www.farawebsite.org