FROM THE EDITOR

I know that for all of you this is surely a very busy time, with both the semester and the school year winding down to their conclusion. So, I invite you to lean back, take it easy for a moment, and relax as you look at the excellent items we have for you in this month’s FARA Voice.

The first piece is by Ralph Bertrand, President of FARA, who discusses the planning session your Executive Committee held in Indianapolis March 17-19. The main topic was the agenda for the annual FARA meeting, to be held in San Diego November 10-12. The theme is “Optimizing Your Role as FAR,” and President Bertrand will flesh out the details of the meeting for you. He also discusses planning for the FARA programming at the 2012 NCAA Convention.

The next section includes reporting on the Division II and Division III Institutes for FARs. You will recall that March’s FARA Voice had an article describing the initial Division I Institute, to be held in Indianapolis May 23-25. This month, we have a report from Dan Fulks on the Division III Institute, held for the first time last fall, and a report by Keith Vitense on the Division II Institute, which has been held for several years. The report on the Division II Institute contains the exciting news that an Advanced Leadership Institute has been planned and approved, in which attendees from previous Division II Institutes can return for more advanced training. This Advanced Institute will be held October 14-16 in Indianapolis.

Next we have an overview from Dennis Leighton, Secretary Treasurer of FARA, on FARA’s Web site, which has been in place since 2008. If you have not already visited FARA’s Web site (www.farawebsite.org), I encourage you to do so, as it has numerous helpful features, as described by Dennis.

Finally, we have reports from Jackie Campbell, Director of Division I, Mike Racy, Vice President for Division II, and Leah Kareti, Director of Division III. All gave informative reports to the FARA Executive Committee during its March meeting, and it occurred to me that it would be good if you got to know these folks better. There is a brief biography for each of them, followed by an article by each on a matter of importance currently before their division. Campbell reports on Division I’s Comprehensive Review of Men’s Basketball Recruiting; Racy reports on the study of Strategic Membership Growth in Division II, and Kareti reports on Division III’s Identity and Integration Symposiums.

I hope you have already “kicked back” as you began reading, and trust you will enjoy this issue. I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

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REPORT BY RALPH BERTRAND,
FARA PRESIDENT

The FARA Executive Committee met at the NCAA national office in Indianapolis on March 18 and 19. The committee discussed the logistics and programming for the 2011 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium that will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego November 10-12, 2011. The theme for this year’s meetings will be “Optimizing Your Role as FAR”.

The committee worked hard this year to design a program that includes both association-wide and division-specific hot topics. The vice-presidents in charge of programming took many ideas that you provided during the NCAA Convention FARA Business Session this past January. Below I have provided a brief overview of the proposed programming.

This year, the FAR orientation on Thursday morning will include breakout sessions by division in order to more thoroughly address specific divisional concerns of new and seasoned FARs. The morning orientation will be followed by the keynote address and results from the FAR Survey. Division-specific breakouts will begin late afternoon. Topics for the divisional breakouts are: Division I - Two-year Transfers and Diversity; Division II – Economic Impacts and the Partial Scholarship Model, and Division III – Dashboard Indicators, What Are They and How Can I Use Them?. The awards banquet will follow the afternoon breakout sessions. The awards banquet and presentation of the David Knight and Walter Byers Awards is always a highlight of the meetings.

Friday morning we will hear the results of the GOALS Survey as it relates to Divisions I, II and III. Friday afternoon breakout session topics are: Division I - Men’s Basketball Recruiting; Division II - Retirement Plans for FARs, and Division III - Updates on the Strategic Positioning Platform. All divisional breakouts will have a legislative review session. There is the possibility of a reception/entertainment event on Friday evening. More information regarding that event will be forthcoming. Also on Friday evening, we will have a social gathering for those interested in dining out (we hope to get excellent recommendations from our former FARA President, Roger Caves, from San Diego State University).

Saturday’s sessions will include a variety of topics including, Nuts and Bolts, Mistakes I’ve Made, Discontinued Sports, and Compliance.

The Executive Committee also started planning the FARA sponsored educational program for the 2012 NCAA Convention. This year’s FARA sessions were a great success and we hope to repeat the attendance record we set in January. The Convention sessions are still in the development stage but a variety of ideas were presented. Some of the possible topics are: The Special Need Athlete, Recreational Use of Student Prescription Medications, Special Admits, Orientation Courses for Student Athletes, and How to Conduct an NCAA Investigation.

As the program for the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium is solidified this summer, we will have more specifics. I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their efforts. I am excited about the upcoming Meeting and Symposium and I hope to see you there in November.

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DIVISION III 2010 FAR INSTITUTE: A BIG SUCCESS

The first of what is hoped to be annual Division III FAR Institutes was held in Indianapolis last October 1 through 3. By all accounts, the institute was a large success, as we welcomed thirty attendees from 29 Division III conferences for three days of camaraderie, leadership training, and a bit of reflection on who we are and how we interact with others. The 2010 institute was one of two that have been approved by the NCAA budget folks as “pilot” programs, and because of the feedback we have had from attendees, the planning committee, and NCAA liaison, we are confident that we will continue to be funded for future institutes, for which we are sincerely appreciative.

The plan is to have at least one representative from each Division III conference over a two-year period. For the 2011 Institute, priority will be given to the conferences that were not represented at the initial institute. Since our desired number of attendees is approximately thirty, however, we should have space available for some conferences to send a second FAR.

There are many objectives that we hope to accomplish through the Institute, and the two most important are probably providing leadership training for FARs and achieving more involvement from FARs in the NCAA committee/governance structure, as well as that of FARA. We are hopeful that participants leave the Institute with energy and desire for involvement, and our attendance at the 2010 Fall FARA Symposium and the 2011 NCAA convention provided some evidence that we have made good progress. We look forward to seeing more FARs at the 2011 Institute.

Very sincere thanks go to Leah Kareti, Dan Dutcher, Marquette Potter, and other NCAA staff for their wonderful support and assistance for the 2010 Institute. Thanks also to the other members of the Institute planning committee – Dennis Leighton, Lorie Clemo, and Chris Walker, and to the Institute’s facilitators – Chris, Dennis, Lorie, and Effel Harper.

Your schools and conference commissioner should have recently received an announcement asking for nominees for the 2011 Institute. Pay attention, and be sure your conference is represented. More information about this year’s event will be forthcoming in your Voice from a FAR.

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2010 DIVISION II FAR FELLOWS INSTITUTE

The 2010 Division II FAR Fellows institute was held last October, which was the sixth iteration of the institute. Division II was the first to offer this program; to date there have been 135 Division II FARs that have completed the Fellows Institute. Some of the topics that were discussed during the 2010 Institute included the financial impact and benefit of athletics at the Division II level, the perception of the role of the FAR by others across campus, the changing role of Division II FARs in compliance, and the feasibility of a ‘Phase 2’ of the Fellows Institute.
Based on the discussions at the 2010 Fellows Institute and from Division II FARs that had previously attended the Institute (and felt that there was a need for an ‘advanced’ version), a working group was formed to investigate the possibility of offering an Advanced Leadership Institute for Division II. Committee members consisted of FARs that had attended previous institutes, an athletics director, a conference commissioner, and NCAA staff members. After much planning and polishing, a proposal was presented to the Division II Budget and Finance committee to fund an Advanced Leadership Institute (ALI) for Division II FARs. This proposal was approved, and the first ‘advanced’ institute will be held October 14 – 16 in Indianapolis. Currently, offerings of the FARA Fellows Institute are scheduled to alternate with the ALI; however, if the demand to offer both the Fellows Institute and the ALI remains strong, it is possible that both institutes may run the same year at some future date.

Because of the nature of the ALI, the committee believed that a smaller group than for the fellows institute would be appropriate for the first offering, so the target for this first ALI is sixteen FARs. The selection process for candidates to attend the ALI will be similar to that for the Fellows Institute, in that nominations will come from the conference commissioners. However, the application process will require more detail from the applicant, including information about leadership roles at the campus, conference, and national level, as well as the potential to contribute to the project that is intended to be the work product from the institute. The one unwavering requirement is that any participant in the ALI MUST have attended the FAR Fellows Institute! The steering committee is excited about this offering, and is looking forward to the initial class of attendees at the 2011 Advanced Leadership Institute!

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FARA WEB SITE

The current FARA Web site (www.farawebsite.org) has been in place since 2008. The primary use of the Web site over the past few years has been as a location to post information and announcements. For this purpose, the Web site has served us well.

The home page is used for major announcements, such as the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium, or the posting of FARA position statements and divisional legislative review reports. Across the banner on the home page are links to other important pages:

- The “About FARA” link takes you to information about the FARA Guiding Principles, Bylaws, and Constitution. Additional information is included about the FARA leadership, including current and archived listings of the Executive Committee.
- The “What is an FAR” link takes you to a page explaining the role of the FAR on campuses, along with NCAA requirements for the FAR.
- The “FARA Annual Meeting” link takes you to, well, information about the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium. Registration information is found here, along with an agenda as it becomes available. Other links on this page take you to archives of previous Annual Meetings, and a listing of past winners of the David Knight FARA Service Award.
- The “FARA Voice” link takes you to postings of all editions of the FARA Voice, in case you missed one or want to take a look back.
The “Upcoming Meetings” link provides information on important upcoming FARA and NCAA meetings, conventions, and seminars.

The “Resources” link takes you to a page with documents and other information that may be of particular use to all FARs. This includes the FARA Handbook, the FARA Student-Athlete Handbook, FAR Survey results, a sampling of FAR position descriptions, and links to other organizations.

Also tied into the FARA Web site are the three divisional list servs, which allow FARs to contact all FARs in their division. These list servs have been a useful way for FARs to gather information about practices at other institutions.

The Communications Committee of FARA is currently reviewing the structure and function of the FARA Web site. The goal is to reconstruct the FARA Web site to become more interactive, with threaded discussions between and within divisions. The committee also hopes to have a Web site that is easier to navigate and has easier ways to find content.

If you have any thoughts on ways to improve the FARA Web site, please contact Dennis Leighton, FARA Secretary-Treasurer at dleighton@une.edu.

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DIVISION I LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ENGAGES IN A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF MEN’S BASKETBALL RECRUITING.

Jackie Campbell is the NCAA Director of Division I. Jackie held a similar position with the NCAA in the 1990s. Campbell rejoined the NCAA staff as the Director of the Division I Women’s Basketball Championship in 2008. Immediately prior to her return to the national office in 2008, Campbell was associate commissioner at the Atlantic 10 Conference. While at the Atlantic 10 Conference, she chaired the Division I Management Council, and served on the Division I Satisfactory Progress Waivers Committee, Division I Financial Aid Committee, Division I Women’s Soccer Committee, Division I Women’s Basketball Committee and the former Academics/Eligibility/Compliance Cabinet. In her role as Director of Division I, Campbell, along with David Berst, the vice president for Division I, is responsible for coordinating Division I initiatives through the NCAA governance structure, as well as helping to manage the Division I agenda.

In October 2010, the Division I Board of Directors directed the Division I Leadership Council (along with appropriate stakeholders) to study the men’s basketball recruiting model. The directive followed a request from the Collegiate Commissioner’s Association (CCA) that the Board sponsor legislation that would eliminate the July evaluation period in men’s basketball beginning in July 2011.

The Leadership Council began its review in January 2011 with presentations from representatives of the Black Coaches and Administrators (BCA), Collegiate Commissioner Association (CCA), iHoops, National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and National Federation of High Schools (HFHS). Following the January meeting, two subcommittees of the Leadership Council were formed and met via conference call several times in March. The Council was provided a status report during its April 4 meeting in Houston, Texas where the group heard presentations from several current and former Division I head men’s basketball coaches, the executive director of the NABC, two non-scholastic event operators and two Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)
members. The Council also received feedback from 20 Division I and Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) commissioners and head men’s basketball coaches from those conferences, as well as recruiting model alternatives developed by conference office administrators with compliance and men’s basketball backgrounds from the Group of Six conferences. Among the concepts that were shared with the Council:

- Providing opportunities for earlier interaction with prospects, their coaches and parents/legal guardians (e.g., telephone calls, off-campus contacts, official visits).
- Consider allowing on-campus evaluations (“tryouts”) during official visits.
- Shortening the July evaluation period, provided that evaluation days are added to April.
- Consider eliminating the text messaging restrictions.

Moving forward, the subcommittees will continue their work, with the full Council meeting again in July to review the subcommittees’ work and begin to develop a recruiting model for consideration by the Board of Directors during its October meeting.

DIVISION II STRATEGIC MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Mike Racy has been NCAA Vice President for Division II from May 1999 to present. As Division II vice president, he is a member of the NCAA president’s cabinet and the primary liaison to the NCAA Division II Presidents Council. In addition, he manages the division’s $30,000,000 annual budget, oversees the division’s strategic plan, and coordinates national office staff support for the nearly 300 member institutions in Division II.

During the past 20 years, Division II has grown from 210 schools to 290 schools. In order to provide Division II with the tools to strategically manage the division’s future growth, the Division II chancellors and presidents who attended the 2010 Chancellors and Presidents Summit urged a study of membership matters that would 1) seek to achieve greater understanding of current conference discussions regarding membership and possible expansion; 2) consider the ramifications of what happens when expansion does occur in Division II; and 3) identify strategic solutions to address these issues.

Division II has become a membership destination and there continues to be strong interest from schools outside the division. This growth will assist current Division II active members with geographic challenges as they attempt to build out cost-effective regular-season schedules. In addition, the quality of the schools looking at Division II can assist the division’s regional and national identity. However, the Presidents Council wants this growth to be strategic and occur at a pace that does not disrupt Division II programs, services and current financial distributions to the membership.

Since Fall 2010, different groups within the Division II governance structure have had the opportunity to discuss the possible effects of membership growth based on a membership modeling project. These groups have provided their feedback to the Membership Committee and the Long-Range Projections Task Force. These results were shared at the 2011 NCAA Convention, and it is anticipated that some policy changes will occur in 2011 and legislation will be considered at the 2012 NCAA Convention.
DIVISION III IDENTITY AND INTEGRATION SYMPOSIUMS

Leah Kareti, Director of Division III since October 2006, supports the Division III Management and Presidents Councils as well as the Strategic Planning and Finance and Convention Planning Committees. In this role, she coordinates the governance activities and education sessions that occur at the annual NCAA Convention. She works with NCAA Student-Athlete Affairs Department and Office of Inclusion to advance the Division III Strategic Plan and manages the division's operating budget. She collaborates with Division III conference offices to administer the Strategic Initiatives Conference Grant Program and coordinate the division's communications.

Integration is a central tenet of the NCAA Division III Philosophy. Division III member schools and Conferences "seek to establish and maintain an environment in which a student-athlete's athletics activities are conducted as an integral part of the student-athlete's educational experience."

The NCAA Division III Presidents Council has approved a Strategic Positioning Platform to help the division's internal and external constituents better understand and articulate the division's unique philosophy and identity. The platform was released at the 2010 NCAA Convention, with implementation and activation efforts anticipated through 2010-12 and beyond. Implementation and activation encompass not only the development and use of a consistent Division III look and feel, but more importantly, it involves use of the platform to guide the division's policy making and program development.

A significant example of such program development is the addition of Identity and Integration Symposiums to the division's conference grant program. Division III provides funding to each conference to support its strategic planning priorities. Integration receives specific emphasis in this grant program, and conferences are required to host an Identity and Integration symposium at least once every four years. The conference wide symposiums are primarily intended to bring key conference partners together to discuss ways each school (and the conference as a group) might best support the integration concept, consistent with the division's unique philosophy, identity and strategic positioning platform. If the conference cannot bring all institutions together for such an event, it is to support each member institution having its own campus-wide conversation about the integration of athletics into the academic and overall mission of the college or university.

Symposium participants ideally include presidents, athletics direct reports, athletic directors, senior woman administrators, associate/assistant athletic directors, faculty athletic representatives (FAR), and at least one coach of a male and one coach of a female team. Conference members are also encouraged to include student-athlete leadership.

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<td>November 10-12, 2011</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
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