FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue of the FARA Voice, we make yet another change at the editor’s desk. At least this time we are returning to an established success story as editor. Alan Hauser, FAR at Appalachian State University and Past President of FARA returns as FARA Voice editor with the March issue. Alan was the editor previously when he was on the FARA Executive Committee, but stepped down when he took on the role of FARA President. Now that his term as President has come to an end, Alan is ready to reassume the editor’s role. If you ever have an idea for an article for the Voice, please do not hesitate to contact Alan at hauseraj@appstate.edu.

While I step down as editor, I will remain on the FARA Executive Committee as Secretary-Treasurer. I have enjoyed the role of editor, and am now looking forward to having Alan reassume this role. Please enjoy this issue and others to come in the future.

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IMPORTANT DATES

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<td>Regional Rules Seminar</td>
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From the FARA President

Welcome to a new year and the spring term. I enjoyed meeting many of you at the NCAA Annual Convention in San Antonio, and seeing old friends. Although the weather was disappointing, by all accounts the Convention was a success. I want to thank Alan Hauser for all of his work and mentorship as FARA President this last year. Alan has been a great asset to FARA and has been instrumental in ensuring the beginning of a DI FAR Institute, strengthening FARAs relationship with other organizations (N4A, DIA, SAAC), and overseeing successful FARA sponsored programming at the NCAA convention. This years FARA sponsored programming at the Convention was a great success and this is in large part due to Alan’s leadership. Most of all I would like to thank him for his mentorship over the last year. He has introduced me to a variety of NCAA staff and FARs from around the country and has helped me to better understand the inner workings of the NCAA.

The coming year brings both new challenges and new opportunities to FARA as we try to face the issues and overcome the problems associated with intercollegiate athletics. I’m sure many of you heard President Emmert speak at the Convention about the issues of “Pay for Play”, player participation after violations, and the overall public perception of the NCAA and intercollegiate sports. He also pointed out the success of student athletes and the important life long attributes of participation in intercollegiate athletics. As FARs we have played an instrumental role in student-athlete success and need to continue that effort by addressing problems with academic performance of junior college transfers, ensuring that academic reform maintains its momentum, sustaining FARs voice in the legislative process, and ensuring athletic oversight on our campuses. We need to work diligently to enhance our relationship with athletic conferences, and the NCAA. As FARs some of us have seen an ever- decreasing role in our involvement with conferences, and sometimes on our own campus as it relates to athletics. At the DIA meetings this past October I heard several retired FARs talk about “the old days” when FARs ran conference meetings and were involved at almost every level of decision making as it related to athletics, and I could not help but wonder where has that level of influence gone. With new leadership at the NCAA this presents and opportunity to increase our voice on some of the issues by making increased faculty involvement part of President Emmert’s vision for the future of the NCAA.

FARA has been very successful over the last several years with the development of FAR Institutes in all divisions, and the support of the 20% representation of FARs on DI NCAA Cabinets and Councils. We have seen good participation of FARs at the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium, the NCAA Convention, the DIA Meetings, N4A, and the Rules and Compliance meetings. With the ever-increasing demands on faculty, budget constraints on campuses, and the variety of athletic related meetings, we need to think carefully about how to increase participation of FARs without overtaxing them.

Over the next year the FARA Executive Committee will continue to discuss some of the issues and problems associated with being a FAR and will try to incorporate these issues into the Annual Meeting and Symposium. The FARA Executive Committee will be working on programming for the annual meeting in March and will incorporate many of the suggestions that we received at the NCAA Convention FARA Business Meeting. As always, if you have any ideas for the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium this year in San Diego (November 10-12) please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a great spring term and I hope to see you in San Diego.

Ralph Bertrand  
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Division I Highlights from the 2011 NCAA Convention

For those of you who previously attended an NCAA Convention, the 2011 iteration continued the glorious tradition. For those FAR’s who have not attended the NCAA Convention, it is a special event that you should try to attend at some point in your career. One certainly sees the best of what intercollegiate athletics has to offer and confirms that what we do is important to the lives of young people. One cannot walk away from the Honors Recognition dinner without being impressed by the achievements of student athletes. That being said, a large number of Division I FAR’s do not attend, perhaps rightly so, as the FARA Annual Meeting and the NCAA Regional Rules Seminar provide more hands on information on how best to fulfill the duties as Faculty Athletics Representative.

The Scholarly Colloquium, held in conjunction with the NCAA Convention for the past several years is becoming an interesting academic meeting. The information sessions are well thought out and disseminate information you can take back to campus. Legislation is handled by the Legislative Council and then the Board of Directors, and thus not open to everyone. Given a legislative agenda of more than 100 proposals this year, I will not comment on each piece of legislation. But you should look what legislation passed, what was defeated, and those items that were put out for comment. It is interesting to note that legislation to conduct override votes on line rather at the convention, which was initially passed by the legislative council, was put under review by the Board of Directors as we all grapple with ways to make the NCAA Convention relevant for Division I membership.

Looking ahead, FARA anticipates another year of active legislative activity. Primary among the issues will be how to deal with academic progress of two year transfers. Another point to be looking for is a survey of FAR’s, which is sort of a mixed blessing. The NCAA will not be soliciting our help in conducting a survey of student athletes, and the associated work of getting approval of your campus human subjects committee. We, as FAR’s will be asked to complete a survey, so please answer in a timely manner.

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Division I Committee Service

FARA was careful when wishing for greater FAR representation on NCAA councils and cabinets. Now that we have what we sought, it is our obligation as FAR’s to step up to the plate and serve on the various cabinets, councils and working groups. With many positions just recently filled it may not seem like the time to be thinking of how to serve within the NCAA governance structure. However, now is the time to begin thinking of how to use your interests and expertise to promote the activities of the NCAA. Most terms begin in April or July, but that is not always the case. The process of being nominated and eventually approved for cabinets and councils begins with you and your multi-sport conference. A call is put out to conferences in October for April openings and in February for July appointments. FARA suggests that you review the various councils and cabinets on the NCAA website now. When you find openings that match your interests and level of commitment, you should talk with your institution and your conference office. You have the opportunity to convince your conference that you are the most suitable candidate, and hopefully your nomination is forwarded to the NCAA. It is certainly not too soon to begin the discussions with your conference as you find the correct opportunity for you. Be mindful that you may not be selected to your first choice the first time you try, so keep trying and eventually you will find your service within the NCAA governance structure very rewarding.

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Division II Highlights from the 2011 NCAA Convention

Legislation

The three pieces of legislation presented as “Life in the Balance Part II” passed. Two of the new rules delay the start of conditioning, weight training, skill instruction, practice, and competition until September 7th or the fourth day of classes for student athletes participating in winter and spring sports to allow them to become acclimated to the new school year prior to involvement in athletics. A third piece of legislation (which FARA opposed) allows for limited team practice during the non-championship segment. Other outcomes of note from the 2011 proposals include defeat of the proposal to allow strength and conditioning coaches to design a workout for student athletes during the summer, lifting the limitation on number of official visits that a student athlete may take to DI and DII institutions, allowing employment of PSAs on campus IF the student has signed a NLI or financial aid/offer of admission from the employing university, tightening academic requirements for partial and non-qualifiers who transfer to a DII institution, and broadening the activities in which a student-athlete may participate in without using a season of completion. One other noteworthy vote was the defeat of adding flexibility to the seven-day winter break. Although this legislation was defeated, the Presidents Council has agreed to study the issue, and determine if the legislation as currently in place should be modified.

Other News

Arguably, the biggest news for DII FARs was the development of an Advanced Leadership Institute for FARs. This institute is designed to build on the success of the Leadership Institute. Currently the plan is to alternate the Leadership and Advanced leadership Institute annually, with this year being selected as the first for the Advanced Leadership Institute. Look for an announcement about the selection criteria and process early this Spring.

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Division III Highlights from the 2011 NCAA Convention

The 2011 NCAA Convention for Division III was by all accounts (well, OK, by most accounts) an excellent event. It was well attended, and the weather was horrible – but very likely better than the weather at home. I am encouraged that our DIII FAR attendance was steady, yet I am discouraged that we have been surpassed by the DII attendees. Our “Business Session”, which included no business at all, was a bit over-represented by DII FARs. We attribute that to the enormous success of the DII Institute, which served as an excellent model for the DIII Institute. We are hopeful that our DIII attendee numbers will increase as a result of our own Institute.

Speaking of which, there was considerable discussion about the relative importance of our meeting opportunities. Many of us are not able to attend all four major events – Fall Symposium, DIII Institute, Annual Convention, Regional Rules Seminars, as a result of either time demands or financial support. I personally dismiss the first excuse, as I do not believe, as an FAR, there is any event or absence more valuable than any one of these four. Nonetheless, I understand the constraints, and we of the executive committee failed to reach consensus as to which of these is of greater import. For certain, the FAR Institute is a wonderful opportunity to network and learn from others and probably should have the highest ranking of the four. DIII Executive Committee members would place the Fall meeting as second, followed by the Convention and the Regional meetings. I suggest you do the best you can to attend all, as there is much to be gained from each, and each offers its own benefits.

What’s coming for the next twelve months for DIII are three issues:

- Continued discussion of drug testing – mandatory or not
- Continued work on academic progress reporting of our student athletes
- Financial benchmark tools for our membership

Your newly volunteered (stalked) members of the Legislative Review Committee, all of whom were much too slow in recognizing the impact of their acceptance are:

- George Metz, Bluffton University, Chair
- Pat Anderson, Lynchburg College
- Catherine Berheide, Skidmore College
- Andrea Zevenbergen, SUNY -- Fredonia
- Karen Thompson Wolfe, Westminster College

All deserve our gratitude for agreeing to serve on the committee.
Division III Highlights from the 2011 NCAA Convention – Cont’d

The legislative votes went well and relatively quickly. Here are the results, summarized for your convenience and my inconvenience:

1. Administrative stuff – Who cares?
2. More administrative stuff – Who cares?
3. Allows non-athletic promotional material to be distributed at high schools and junior colleges – banners, program ads, etc. This passed by a wide margin.
4. This one was close, with sixty percent voting in favor of the proposal that allows fund-raising to be designated for individual student athletes. Thus, funds raised by an individual student athlete may be designated for her or his expenses, with any excess going to the team pool.
5. Corresponding Membership classification no longer exists. Who cares?
6. Certified strength and condition coaches may now supervise and direct conditioning sessions for all (not specific team) student athletes during the academic year. This was approved by 72 percent of the membership present.
7. This proposed legislation to remove limitations of squad sizes for post-season play was controversial. Where we landed is the passage of a MC and PC resolution to refer the issue back to the Championships Committee to research squad sizes and report back to Management Council this year. A subsequent vote to remove squad size limitations was defeated. This affected three different proposals.
8. Above
9. Above
10. Student athletes, primarily swimmers and tracksters) may participate in triathlon events, provided they enter all three legs of the event.
11. Wrestling practice and playing season – Very few of us care, but it passed.
12. Was withdrawn – something about pro sports.
13. This permits enrolled student athletes (mostly golfer and tennis athletes) to accept prize money during summer events, not to exceed their travel and related expenses.

Given the controversial nature of our DIII legislative sessions of recent years, this was a very welcomed session. We applaud the work of our DIII Legislative Review Committee and all those who participated in discussions at the Fall Meeting. We landed on the winning side on all proposals.

That’s it from here. We encourage all DIII FARs to get involved, and there are plenty of opportunities to do so. These include the DIII FAR Institute, the FAR Fall Symposium, the Annual Convention, Regional Rules Seminars, and a multitude of NCAA committee positions.

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