With this issue of the FARA Voice, we dive headlong into the year 2010. There is so much going on in college athletics, at all three divisions, that it is sometimes hard to keep up. The Faculty Athletics Representatives Association has had a very busy academic year, and also continues to push forward. The Annual Meeting and Symposium was another huge success, with several divisional and association-wide presentations for the new FAR and for the veteran (not old) FAR. In January, FARA was a prominent presence at the NCAA Convention, with an information booth, two FARA-sponsored menu sessions, and the ever-popular FARA business meeting.

Later in this issue, FARA president Alan Hauser describes some important association-wide issues, while our three divisional vice presidents talk about their important issues. We also hear from moderators Dydia DeLyser and Ralph Bertrand who summarize the menu sessions.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the FARA Voice. Please share it with others across your campus.

Dennis Leighton
FARA Secretary-Treasurer
FAR, University of New England
FROM THE FARA PRESIDENT

Fellow Faculty Athletics Representatives,

I trust all of you are enjoying a good beginning to your spring term. It was good to see many of you at FARA’s Annual Meeting and Symposium in St. Louis in November, and at the NCAA Convention in Atlanta. I enjoyed the conversations I had with each of you about the numerous issues currently needing to be addressed in intercollegiate athletics.

Let me begin by thanking Roger Caves for the fine job he did this past year as FARA’s President. He worked diligently to enhance the relationship between FARA and the SAACs in all three NCAA divisions. He worked to increase FARA’s involvement in programming at the NCAA Convention. He and I have worked to develop a Division I institute for FARs in Division I, in which they can undergo an intensive training session to prepare them to be effective FARs on their campuses, in their conferences and within the NCAA. He has worked to develop more direct and effective communication between FARA and the staff of the NCAA. And he has continued to promote the Academic Reform Program that had been so ably led by Myles Brand.

Let me begin my comments with this last point. Academic reform is at a critical juncture. Much of the structure has been built, and a good deal of the mortar is drying, but the entire process of establishing academic reform is not yet complete. We all need to be supportive of academic reform as its agenda continues to be developed during the next few years. Certainly this impacts on the process of choosing a new president of the NCAA, on which I will comment below, but it also spills over into issues and problems that still need a good deal of work. I am a member of the Men’s Basketball Academic Enhancement Working Group, and one of the tough problems we have been studying is how to understand thoroughly the configuration of issues threatening the academic performance of junior college transfers, and then how to develop effective measures to successfully address these threats. FARA needs to be active in analyzing problems such as these that impede our ability to enhance the academic well-being of our student-athletes.

Wally Renfro and Dan Parker spoke on January 13 to FARA’s executive committee, informing us about the search for a new president, with a six person committee already in place. They also sought our input about characteristics needed in the new president. We of course mentioned the need for the new president to strongly support the continuation of the academic reform movement. We also discussed with them Dr. Brand’s understanding of the importance of FARs in providing a balanced athletics program that is well-integrated into the life of its campus. In another context, as a member of the Division I Leadership Council, I mentioned to Wally and Dan the need to look carefully at any candidates for president who come from the business world, with clearly established measures in mind to weigh whether a successful business person understands sufficiently the academic heart and soul of a college and university, while also understanding what intercollegiate athletics is all about.

I mentioned Roger and my efforts toward establishing a Division I Institute. A highly successful Division II Institute has been in place for several years, and signs are good that we will soon have one in Division III. Ironically, it is in Division I that it seems to be most difficult to establish an Institute, due to the way NCAA budget procedures and monies are handled. We are working on this problem. I have asked Roger to chair the Committee that is planning for a Division I Institute, and the other members of this Committee are David Clough, Patrick Devine,
Dydia DeLyser and me. We will be working this spring to have a fully-developed Division I Institute planned and ready to go, even as we also seek funds to support it.

There are other issues I could mention, but these will be enough for now. I do have one request of you. If there are particular issues or programs that you would like to see addressed at our FARA meeting in Baltimore this coming November 11-13, please let me know. We will be doing a major part of our planning for Baltimore at our executive committee meeting March 15-17, so we would appreciate your input before then.

Thanks,

Alan J. Hauser
FARA President
FAR, Appalachian State University
hauseraj@appstate.edu

FROM THE DIVISION I FARA VICE PRESIDENT

The Division I business session at the NCAA Convention this year had two override votes on the agenda. The override for the baseball proposal was upheld resulting in the 56 baseball games per season being spread over 14 weeks instead of 13. This was intended to address some concerns relative to the amount of missed class time for baseball student-athletes in the spring.

The second override dealing with adding sand volleyball as an emerging sport for women was defeated. Therefore, sand volleyball for women will be added as an emerging sport.

This was the fifth year in a row that the Division I business session voted on override proposals.

There were two Division I Issues Forums on Friday. The morning session shared information on the iHoops youth basketball initiative and the Men’s Basketball Academic Enhancement Group (BAEG) report. Alan Hauser, the current FARA president, was part of the panel for the BAEG report so FAR had an excellent presence not only on the BAEG working group but at the NCAA Convention session as well.

The second Division I Issues Forum again this year had the chairs of the Division I Cabinets making reports on the work of their groups. Each chair reinforced that their Cabinet continued to seek input from the membership. FARs are encouraged to let their voices be heard by contacting the chairs or any cabinet members on issues being considered during the coming year.

For the third time, a Scholarly Colloquium was held on Tuesday and Wednesday preceding the start of the Convention. This year’s theme was Economic Perspectives on the Sustainability of College Sports. There were planned sessions as well as paper presentations. Issues concerning the impact of the economy on student-athlete welfare, diversity, and inclusion were of particular concern to FARs.

If you plan to attend the NCAA Convention next year, you might also consider attending the Scholarly Colloquium. I have attended all three years, and they never fail to be interesting and informative. I highly recommend you attend if at all possible.

Jean Perry
FARA Division I Vice President
FAR, University of Nevada
FROM THE DIVISION II FARA VICE PRESIDENT

At the NCAA Convention, the primary focus for Division II was the consideration and passage of the four-proposal Life in the Balance legislative package. Proposals 2010-5 through 2010-8 effectively delay the start of preseason practice in fall sports; reduce the number of contests or dates of competition in soccer, volleyball, softball, baseball, basketball and golf (a reduction in field hockey begins fall 2011); and provide for a seven-day dead period Dec. 20 – 26 for winter sports. FARA supported the Life in the Balance package with the exception of the winter break dead period, voicing support for the concept, but citing a preference for more flexibility in determining the dates.

A total of fourteen proposals, including two amendments, were presented and passed. FARA supported the following proposals:

- A shift in the distribution of disclosure reports, initial-eligibility standards, the banned drug list and information about nutritional supplements to prospective student-athletes from institutions to the Eligibility Center.
- The creation of an exception allowing prospective student-athletes entering a Puerto Rican institution to use a minimum combined math/verbal score of 730 on the PAA to establish initial-eligibility.
- The requirement that each head coach and all other coaches who are employed full time at an institution must maintain current certification in first aid, CPR and AED.
- The establishment of an expanded “grace period” for student-athletes who delay initial college enrollment along with a change in the organized competition rule that no longer uses compensation as a factor in determining organized competition.
- The expansion of the non-championship segment for golf to a 60-consecutive calendar day period.

FARA took no position on proposals that permit an institution to pay summer facility fees for a prospective student-athlete; establish a tryout exception for non-sponsored sports activities which further permit the involvement of athletics department staff members; and the establishment of financial aid equivalencies, playing and practice seasons, and sports sponsorship requirements for sand volleyball.

FARA opposed a membership sponsored proposal to eliminate the requirement that an institution must provide written notification of the five official-visit limitation to a prospective student-athlete.

Proposal 2010-14, a membership sponsored proposal which FARA also opposed, specifies that a member institution shall not play its first contest with outside competition prior to the second Friday of November. This was arguably the most controversial proposal, initially failing by a slim margin, and subsequently passing by a similarly slim margin after a motion to reconsider passed.

As we move towards Phase II of the Life in the Balance initiative, I encourage you to stay informed and be a source of information for your campus and conference. Subsequent issues of the Voice will include information about Division II FAR representation on NCAA committees as well as summary reports of committee meetings. It will be a busy and exciting year for Division II!

Brenda Cates
FARA Division II Vice President
FAR, Mount Olive College
The 2010 NCAA Convention was held Atlanta, Georgia January 12 – 16, 2010. The Division III Identity Initiative: DISCOVER, DEVELOP, DEDICATE was revealed at the convention. [Link]
The Division III Strategic Positioning Platform: The NCAA mission is “To govern completion in a fair, safe, equitable and sportsmanlike manner, and to integrate intercollegiate athletics into higher education so that the educational experience of the student-athlete is paramount.” Some of the key benefits of Division III:

- Compete in a highly competitive athletic program
- Focus on academic achievement
- Opportunities to play more than one sport
- No red-shirting
- Focused on being a student first
- Valuable “life lessons”
- Comprehensive educational approach
- Do not receive monetary incentive to play sports but rather participate for the love of the game

Some of the reasons to believe in Division III are:
1. Comprehensive educational experience
2. Integrated campus environment
3. Academic Focus
4. Available Financial Aid
5. Competitive Athletic Programs
6. National Championship Opportunities
7. Commitment to Athletics Participation

More information about the Division III Identity initiative can be found at: [Link]

The Division III Identity Platform will be sent out to the membership during spring 2010. You are encouraged to share the Division III Strategic Platform document with campus constituent groups, Board of Trustees, faculty, administrative staff, current and prospective students, coaches, alumni, media, and local community.

All legislative proposals were adopted at the January 16, 2010 Division III business session. Please follow the adopted legislation.

[Link]

The 2010 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium will be held November 11 - 13, 2010 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Have a great day!

Effel Harper
FARA Division III Vice President
FAR, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
eharper@umhb.edu
RECAPS FROM NCAA CONVENTION SESSIONS
SPONSORED BY FARA

----------------------------------------------

THE STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPERIENCE: COMMUNICATING ACROSS CAMPUS

FARA sponsored a session at the NCAA Convention entitled The Student Athlete Experience: Communicating Across Campus. The session was designed to discuss strategies and approaches to engage the broader campus community in enhancing the student athlete experience. The belief is that communicating and working with groups like the SAAC, FAR, Student Affairs and a broad variety of constituents can help to create a more positive environment for the student athlete.

The session opened with a brief presentation by Becky Ahlgren-Bedics, Associate Director of Educational Affairs for the NCAA. Becky provided an overview of academic resources on campus for student-athletes and challenged the audience to ask themselves if they were aware of the resources and the people in charge of providing student resources. She asked the audience to consider barriers they may have encountered or partnerships that they may have formed with different groups, and the strategies they developed to overcome barriers or strengthen partnerships. She presented some ideas about the complexities faced by student-athletes in deciding where to go or who to talk to when situations arise.

The panel, (Ralph Bertrand, FAR at Colorado College; Mark Verburg, Director of the Athletic Academic Center at University of North Carolina Charlotte; Bobby Stewart, Athletic Director, Pfeiffer University; Brooke Baker, SAAC Representative, Grand Canyon University; and Nathan Studgeon, SAAC Representative from Keuka University) was asked to provide brief example of groups on campus that they communicate with regularly and how they established and maintain those relationships. Bertrand pointed out regular communication with coaches, who often know the student-athletes better than anyone, by attending athletic department meetings and traveling with teams. Verburg gave examples of student participation in Leadership Programs and CHAMPS Life Skills where he communicates with a variety of students on a daily basis. Stewart communicates across campus with faculty, administrators, coaches, and most importantly with students. He emphasized the need to keep in touch with the student athletes to understand problems that may not be apparent. The SAAC representatives both agreed that communication was essential to a good athletic and academic experience and knowing where to go and who to talk to was important. They encouraged more communication among all constituents of the community to strengthen and enhance the student-athlete experience.

Ralph Bertrand
FARA President Elect
FAR, Colorado College
rbertrand@coloradocollege.edu
This panel presented an engaged discussion geared to describing frequently arising issues and offering resources to help deal with them. Issues that arise in different ways, on different campuses, in different sports concerning LGBT student-athletes often include the following.

1. How do teammates and coaches respond to a romantic relationship between teammates?
2. Negative recruiting (chiefly in the case of gay or lesbian coaches).
3. Hostile climate.
4. Perception that an openly gay or lesbian teammate will detract from team unity.
5. How do staff, coaches and teammates respond to having openly gay or lesbian people in the locker room?
6. Most colleges and universities are unprepared to deal with transgendered student-athletes, but this is an emerging issue, and Olympic Committee guidelines may not be appropriate at the college level.
7. Ongoing education in these areas is needed, and “don’t ask, don’t tell” is a policy that works poorly in athletics.

The panel advised FARs to verify that their Student-Athlete Handbooks described their college/university’s policy on LGBT student-athletes, and to verify that that policy was in line with their campus’ policy. The Handbook, they advised, should have a clear non-discrimination statement that includes LGBT issues, as well as a respect statement, and a list of campus resources for LGBT students and student-athletes.

The panel advised FARs to talk about these issues with their student-athletes, coaches, and athletics administrators. As a neutral person, the FAR can play an important role in assessing the climate for LGBT student-athletes and providing resources.

The panel encouraged FARs to see these as social-justice issues (for student-athletes and the institution) and suggested that the FAR can be a significant, positive culture-change agent at their institutions.

More resources are available here: www.athletesrathletes.typepad.com (a blog with links to all the resources mentioned in the session)

Dydia DeLyser
FARA D-I Executive Committee
FAR, Louisiana State University

---

**GOALS SURVEY DISTRIBUTED TO CAMPUSES**

FARs should be receiving shortly, if they have not arrived already, copies of the GOALS 2010 survey. GOALS is the largest and most comprehensive survey of student-athletes conducted by the NCAA and helps to inform discussion on a wide variety of issues that affect student-athletes at our member institutions. Without the assistance of campus FARs, we simply could not produce the high quality data that we do.

As you may be aware there are two versions of the GOALS survey - the traditional paper format and, for the first time, an online version of the survey. Materials for the online administration were distributed the last week of...
January. The paper surveys began shipping on February 3. While the distribution of materials has taken longer than we had hoped there is still ample time to administer the surveys to the teams on your campus. The deadline for the return of the surveys is May 31.

The materials that FARS will receive include a cover letter with the teams that you are being asked to survey, a complete set of instructions for administering the surveys, materials to assist you in preparing campus Institutional Review Board applications, and of course return envelopes and mailing labels to ship your results back to the NCAA. Electronic versions of these materials were included in the e-mail you received in December. We have also posted copies of these documents on the NCAA Web site. You can go directly to that site by following the link below,


or by connecting to the NCAA Web site at www.ncaa.org and then clicking on the Research tab on the left side.

If you have questions regarding the study or survey instrument, please contact Karen Cooper, study coordinator, at 317/917-6307 or kcooper@ncaa.org. For questions regarding the study procedures, please contact Michael Miranda, Research Review Board coordinator, at 317/917-6304 or mmiranda@ncaa.org.

Again let me thank you for your patience and your invaluable assistance in administering the GOALS 2010 survey.

***************

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Rules Seminar</td>
<td>May 17-21, 2010</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Rules Seminar</td>
<td>June 14-18, 2010</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARA Annual Meeting</td>
<td>November 11-13, 2010</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Convention</td>
<td>January 12-15, 2011</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARA Annual Meeting</td>
<td>November 10-12, 2011</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Convention</td>
<td>January 11-14, 2012</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARA Annual Meeting</td>
<td>November 8-10, 2012</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAA Convention</td>
<td>January 16-19, 2013</td>
<td>Grapevine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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