



September 16, 2009

The Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) has lost a great friend and ally in NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand. He fought a great battle against pancreatic cancer. Dr. Brand was a strong and eloquent leader and spokesperson for maintaining strong academic standards within intercollegiate athletics. He introduced a dose of realism to discussions of academics and athletics and in promoting academic reform within the NCAA. He recognized the educational value of athletics and its part in the comprehensive experience for student-athletes. We applaud his support in increasing high school academic requirements for prospective scholarship student-athletes and with mandatory progress-toward-degree measure to make sure student-athletes graduate in a timely fashion. His guidance in developing two new academic standards – the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of student-athletes and the Academic Progress Rate (APR), measuring how scholarship student-athletes and individual teams are doing term to term is impressive. Graduation rates have improved and the APR has changed the recruiting mindset and behavior on many campuses.

The entire FARA Executive Committee recently named Dr. Brand as the recipient of the 2009 David Knight Award for Outstanding Service to FARA. His strong support of FARA, his commitment to having FARs play a key, important role in NCAA governance, and his support for our FARA presidents and FARA's Executive Committee was greatly appreciated by all. His contributions in promoting academic reform in intercollegiate athletics were truly remarkable.

Our deepest condolences go out to his family and friends. His voice within intercollegiate athletics will be greatly missed. His ideas and spirit will continue to be heard in our discussions on academics and intercollegiate athletics.