



APRIL, 2007

ISSUE X

We Are One



I know all of you join me in sending our condolences and support to the Virginia Tech community, and to all those aggrieved by the senseless killings that took place there.

As I reflect on this tragedy and struggle, trying to make some sense out of these horrific events, I take comfort in the way our common humanity has bonded us together. Mindless violence does not discriminate. The slaughter did not focus on males or on females, on whites or on African Americans, on Eastern Europeans or on scholars from India, on Middle Easterners or on Indonesians. All groups suffered, and all of us suffer with each and every one of them. This tragedy, which began with the worst kind of brutality of which humans are capable, has also brought out the best in all of us: compassion, love, comfort, hope, and support for one another. The walls which sometimes divide us seem so petty in the face of such a disaster, as we huddle together and nurture one another. If we have the will to tear down the walls that divide us in less troubling times, these sisters and brothers will not have died in vain.

Alan J. Hauser

Even though the snows of early April that recently hit major parts of the country suggest otherwise, spring is indeed upon us. Today our baseball team will play its first game at its brand new stadium, and we have beautiful spring baseball weather and a green field, despite the seven inches of snow that fell last Friday. Many of us are deep enough into April that we are beginning to think seriously about the end of the spring term, even as we can enjoy our spring sports while they are in full swing. Another interesting season of March Madness is behind us, with champions crowned and the rest of us licking our wounds over what might have been.

The FARA executive committee met in San Diego for several days the last week in March. Among other things, we made detailed plans for what promises to be a very productive FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium, to be held in Baltimore November 8-10. I will not now go over the details of the meeting or other items discussed by the executive committee, since, in next month's issue of FARA Voice, Dennis Leighton, President of FARA, will be

presenting a review of important items from that meeting. But I will guarantee that the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium for this coming fall will be one of the best we have had.

As you will recall, in the February issue of FARA Voice, I presented a summary of discussions held by the executive committee of FARA regarding that portion of the Presidential Task Force Report that deals with financial matters. Last month, Lorrie Clemo, Immediate Past President of FARA, summarized the executive committee's discussions on Part II of the PTF Report: Reconnecting Intercollegiate Athletics with Higher Education. This month, Dennis Leighton will present the thoughts of the executive committee on Part III: Celebrating the Student Athlete. As with the previous two summaries, there is a good deal of substance here to be considered.

We are nearing the point when the new Web site for FARA will be made available. Bob Ziegenfus, who has supervised

the process for the creation and implementation of this new Web site, will have a piece in next month's FARA Voice in which he will present the features of the new Web site to our membership. Many thanks to Bob for all the work he has put into preparing this new Web site. I also ask that everyone join me in expressing our thanks to Vicki Hightower and to her institution, Elon University, for their sponsorship of the FARA Web site for these many years. Thank you so much for all that you have done, which has been a great service to FARA.

This issue of FARA Voice concludes with a piece by Demetrius Marlowe, who is the Assistant Director of the

Academic Support Program for Student Athletes at North Carolina State University. Demetrius describes a proposal the N4A has presented to the NCAA, the goal of which is to have the two organizations co-operate in a configuration of programs designed to assist institutions in assessing how they can improve their APR in areas where they have problems. An initial pilot project is being prepared for presentation June 9 and 10 during the N4A conference in Phoenix, Arizona. A description of the pilot project, along with information about the sessions and registration information, follows Demetrius' piece. Please share this information with others on your campus who would be interested in these sessions.

*Alan J. Hauser, editor
FARA President-Elect
Appalachian State University*

Report of the Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Athletics

Response by the FARA Executive Committee

Part III: Celebrating the Student-Athlete

The March issue of FARA Voice featured an article by immediate past president Lorrie Clemo discussing the call of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) for realigning intercollegiate athletics with higher education. This month, in the last of this three-part series, the executive committee examines the recommendations outlined in the PTF for celebrating the student-athlete.

Of all that we do in intercollegiate athletics, isn't *celebrating the student-athlete* what it's all about? Isn't the *student-athlete* the one and only reason that intercollegiate athletics, and therefore the NCAA, exists? While this might seem a point of universal agreement, if one closely examines intercollegiate athletics in recent history, some might believe that what we say is quite different from what we do. In part one of this series, Alan Hauser examined fiscal responsibility, and invited us to consider that the financial aspect of athletics needs to be better controlled at many of our larger institutions. In part two, Lorrie Clemo reminded us that we need to reintegrate athletics and academics, so as not to forget that athletics is only a part of a complex academic system. In part three, we pose the question--are we doing the right things at our institutions to maximize the college experience for student-athletes?

The PTF notes that student-athlete well-being is clearly defined as the educational and physical best interests of the student-athlete, not the outcomes of the games. The FARA

executive committee recommends that the definition of "well-being" be further defined to include the emotional and social best interests, as well. Are we putting all of these factors first when we consider what is best for athletics and student-athletes on our campuses?

The PTF recommends a student-athlete agenda that promotes academic success, access to education through financial aid, and the assimilation of student-athletes into campus life. Can we, as faculty, effect changes that will further this agenda?

The academic success of our student-athletes is paramount. Recent academic reforms in Division I, such as the APR and its consequent penalty system, have shown gains in retention and graduation rates. While it's too early to make long-term predictions, early data indicates that the reforms are leading to positive outcomes. These reforms should be supported, with changes made in coming years to fine-tune the systems. For example, the progress toward degree rules may be negatively impacting the ability of student-athletes to change majors or to transfer. Small changes in the system could easily allow the mobility of students between institutions and departments. This mobility is easily available to all students, and should also be available to our student-athletes.

All faculty, led by the FAR, must assess and promote change on our campuses to ensure academic success. FARA fully supports the principle that athletic academic advising must report to the academic officer that oversees all academic advising. These advising systems vary between and within our institutions, so it is important that the FAR, academic advising officer, and athletics personnel work together to create a system that is independent of athletics, while at the same time maintaining reporting lines between academics and athletics. It is neither appropriate nor desirable that athletics is left out of the loop. The recent academic reforms hold athletics departments responsible for the academic success of student-athletes, and the departments must have knowledge of where the problems are, so changes can be implemented to promote success.

The role of the faculty, led by the FAR, is to help to create the structure and oversight of the advising system. Furthermore, the FAR can inform the academic advisors and the general faculty of NCAA and conference rules related to academic progress. The full integration of athletics and academics will happen when the faculty and the coaches know and respect each other's roles.

The PTF also calls for access to education through financial aid. While the area of financial aid is generally not as closely monitored by the faculty, this is an important part of student-athlete well-being. The recommendations of the PTF are appropriate and supported by FARA. It is important that each student-athlete is treated fairly and equitably. Measures must be in place such that any student-athlete has reasonable access to the financial aid necessary, including beyond athletics scholarships, to obtain a quality education.

Finally, the PTF agenda calls for the assimilation of student-athletes into campus life. This is an area in which the FARA Executive Committee feels all faculty can have a greater role, and where improvements can be made.

One must ask if the current NCAA legislation is supportive of student-athlete well-being. The most important piece of legislation in place to support well-being might be the 20-hour rule – the weekly hourly restriction on athletics participation. The Division I national student-athlete

advisory committee (SAAC) has questioned whether this rule is working. The rule is abused by things such as “voluntary” workouts (no such thing, the students claim) and the perceived lack of enforcement. Student-athletes feel uncomfortable reporting abuse of this rule, as they fear possible retribution from their coaches. The FARA Executive Committee recommends that FARs make spot checks of teams during the season by checking in with student-athletes. In addition, methods of confidential reporting should be in place within our athletic departments and with our FARs. If each institution keeps required athletics activities to a reasonable level, student-athletes are more likely to have the time to enjoy a full collegiate experience.

Other factors can also lead to a fuller collegiate experience. FARA suggests that athletic training tables and athletic dorms serve to isolate student-athletes from the general student population. These practices should be assessed at our institutions to be sure they best meet the needs of the student-athletes. The scheduling of contests should include input from the FAR and other academic officers to be sure that missed class time is kept to a minimum. Creative sport seasons and scheduling could be beneficial. For example, perhaps a split season in spring sports like baseball and softball could alleviate the difficulty of completing enough games in northern schools.

Student-athlete well-being cannot be over-emphasized. Within the intercollegiate athletics model, we must all strive to meet this goal. Everyone with the potential to affect positive change must work together to better serve the student-athlete. It begins with a reminder that academic institutions exist for the academic experience, and that this experience comes from the faculty. Athletics can be an important part of the student's overall collegiate experience, but not in isolation of academics and campus life. Therefore, it is critical to the success of intercollegiate athletics that athletics personnel, led by the AD, and the academic faculty, led by the FAR, gain better understanding and respect for each other's role. This can only lead to improved experiences for our student-athletes in all aspects of their lives.

*Dennis Leighton
FARA President
University of New England*

The National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics APP Educational Initiatives Task Force

The National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) are discussing the possibility of working together to implement a multifaceted educational initiative in support of the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program (APP). A more detailed discussion of the programs that are being proposed will be made at the 2007 N4A National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona June 9-12. This article is intended to provide you with an overview of the proposed implementation plan that has been developed by the N4A APP Educational Initiatives Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force has been charged to collaborate with the NCAA in order to present a pilot educational seminar at the 2007 N4A convention, develop educational workshops that can be delivered to a number of interest groups, and prepare training opportunities for APP consultants and seminar/workshop facilitators. Alan Hauser (Appalachian State University), FARA President-Elect, serves on the Task Force, and he will be directly involved in the development and implementation of a number of the initiatives.

As you will recall, NCAA Division I institutions will receive APP historic penalty warnings in Spring 2007 as a consequence of their 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006 cohorts not achieving the 900 Academic Performance Rate (APR) benchmark, excluding those that meet the Fishers Exact Test (FET) exception and the subsequent factors review. Accordingly, the NCAA Committee on Academic Performance (CAP) has discussed appropriate responses to assist institutions that have realized previous "shot across the bow" warnings produced by the contemporaneous APR penalties. Furthermore, the CAP Penalties and Rewards Sub-committee has been in discussion with the N4A, NACDA, and FARA to determine the types and forms of assistive strategies that could be a part of a menu of offerings to low performers as they seek to develop an appropriate

recovery plan in an effort to avoid being labeled a chronic under-performer. As a result of ongoing conversations, the NCAA is considering capitalizing on the N4A's strategic position, given its membership's 32-year history of delivering educational resources to NCAA member institutions at the local level. The Task Force has recently submitted its proposal to the NCAA Membership Services Division for review.

Educational Seminars/Workshops

The N4A will launch its first educational seminar on June 9, 2007 in conjunction with its 2007 convention. This pilot seminar, entitled *Winning Strategies for Academic Performance and Retention*, will include three interconnected sessions. The sessions will allow participants to hear from a panel of campus leaders who will: discuss such topics as shared-ownership and responsibility; present a model approach to managing the APP; and conceptualize methodologies that might enhance each institution's APR. Following the N4A convention, similar seminars will be proposed for delivery at conventions and conferences sponsored by intercollegiate interests groups (i.e. FARA, NCAA, Athletics Conferences, Coaches Associations, D-IA Athletics Directors Association, National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, National Academic Advisors Association, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators). Facilitators training and seminars/workshops development are proposed to begin as early as July 2007. Alan Hauser, FARA President-Elect, will be participating in the implementation of the pilot seminar, and will assist with the training and development components of the future seminars/workshops. The Task Force will be seeking additional FARA representation.

Self Study

In order that institutions might clarify whether and how their current approach to managing the APP requires

reframing, the N4A has proposed a self-study instrument for evaluative purposes. The self-study would be designed to engage appropriate campus leaders in dialogue concerning strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that may have an impact on the institution's APP recovery plan. The N4A will seek input, including FARA's, regarding the items to be included in the self-study.

Improvement Plan Consultants

The Task Force recognizes that, as APP low-performers seek to re-tool components of their academic success strategy, they may benefit from an objective lens. The N4A, in anticipation of collaboration with the NCAA and FARA, is planning to select and train consultants who will be accessible to those institutions seeking outside advice on how to proceed with their recovery plan. Ideally, utilization of the self-study instrument will allow institutions to be prepared for initial conversations with consultants. For example, the self study may reveal an unmeasured disconnect between academic support services provided by the athletics department and course advisement offered through college departments. Therefore, consultants will need to be prepared to help institutions identify appropriate measures to mend such problems. The Task Force will be seeking to train individuals who serve a number of different roles, including faculty athletic representatives, senior woman administrators, academic support personnel, etc.

Academic Support Services Review

The plan is that institutions seeking an in depth analysis of how to improve the academic support services rendered to

student-athletes will have access to a review process intended to produce "best practice" recommendations. The Task Force agrees that behavioral shift expectations at all levels should include a genuine commitment to providing the highest quality of academic support an institution can afford, and instituting and adhering to policies that reinforce the principle that earning a degree is paramount. This component of the proposal will offer the option of an onsite-visit or offsite consultation by a team of reviewers.

The development of the self-study instrument and training curriculum for the consultants and academic support services review team is proposed to begin in May 2007, with an anticipated launch date for trainings being August 2007. Hence, the plan is that all components of the proposal will be in place for presentation at the 2007 FARA conference in November.

In conclusion, the central purpose of the proposed N4A-NCAA partnership is to provide the NCAA Division I membership with viable educational resources in a timely manner, in order that each member institution might be proactive in creating a culture that maximizes shared-ownership and responsibility for, "... providing student-athletes with an exemplary education and intercollegiate athletics experience in an environment that recognizes and supports the primacy of the academic mission of its member institutions, while enhancing the ability of student-athletes to earn a degree" (NCAA Division I Committee on Academic Performance).

*Demetrius Marlowe, Assistant Director
Academic Support Program for Student Athletes
North Carolina State University*



**Winning Strategies for Academic Performance and Retention:
A Seminar for Intercollegiate Athletics Professionals
N4A Conference – June 9th & June 10th**

The National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) are excited to announce, “**Winning Strategies for Academic Performance and Retention: A Seminar for Intercollegiate Athletics Professionals.**” This seminar will be offered on Saturday, June 9th and Sunday, June 10th at the Pointe South Mountain Resort in Phoenix, Arizona in conjunction with the 33rd Annual N4A National Convention. The seminar is designed to assist professionals whose job responsibilities have a direct or indirect impact on the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program. Come join us so that you can...

- 1) ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE with coaches, athletics administrators, faculty athletics representatives, and academic support personnel professionals relative to the effect NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR) and Graduation Success Rate (GSR) have had on institutional control over intercollegiate athletics, namely decisions that influence admission to the institution, matriculation into degree granting programs, academic advising, and support services,
- 2) LEARN methodologies for analyzing institutional APR and GSR data, CREATE opportunities to bring clarity to the dialogue about your institution’s rates, and GENERATE **solutions** that can be part of a realistic improvement plan, and
- 3) PARTICIPATE IN A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP that will garner action steps for developing a strategic plan that might address the academic fitness of the athletics department and/or specific sport teams.

To register go to: <http://www.nfoura.org>

\$75.00 Registration fee for individuals not registered for the N4A Convention. Convention registrants must register for the seminar but are not required to pay an additional fee.

Registration includes participation in the following N4A Convention events:

Saturday, June 9

8:30 am – 9:30am

9:30 am – 10:30 am

10:45 am – 12:00 noon

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

9:00 pm – 12:00 am

Registration

N4A Convention Featured Speaker

APP- Winning Strategies Session I – Expert Panel

Lunch on your own

APP- Winning Strategies Session II – Model Practice

NCAA Update

APP- Winning Strategies Session III – Strategic Planning

N4A Hospitality

Sunday, June 10

8:00 am – 9:00 am

8:30 am – 9:15 am

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

8:00 am – 9:00 am

9:15 am – 9:30 am

9:30 am – 9:45 am

9:45 am – 10:45 am

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Continental Breakfast

APP- Winning Strategies Session – Open Forum

Idea Mart Open

Ecumenical Worship

Memorial Moments

Community Service Presentation/Election Results

N4A Featured Speaker

N4A-Wilma Rudolph Student-Athlete Awards Luncheon

For additional details about the program, contact Carrie Leger, N4A Region II Director at 919-515-4504 or carrie_leger@ncsu.edu

TECH NEWS

WE WILL SOON BEGIN ROLLING OUT OUR NEW MAILING LISTS. WE WILL HAVE ONE MAILING LIST FOR EACH DIVISION. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL MAKE THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE FARA MEMBERSHIP AND ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MORE EFFICIENT. TESTING THE NEW MAILING LISTS WILL BEGIN WITH THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE FARA VOICE. YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE SUBSCRIBED. PLEASE DO NOT DELETE THE MESSAGES BY MISTAKE. THE MAILING LIST ADDRESSES WILL BE:

DI_FAR@MYLIST.NET
DII_FAR@MYLIST.NET
DIII_FAR@MYLIST.NET

ANOTHER EXCITING CHANGE IS THAT WE HAVE A NEW DEDICATED E-MAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE SEND ALL GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS TO FARA@NCAA.ORG FROM NOW ON.

ROBERTO VICENTE
NCAA LIAISON TO FARA

Mark Your Calendars!

May 13-18, 2007	NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar	Denver
June 3-8, 2007	NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar	Miami
July, 2007	Registration for FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium	
October 4, 2007	Deadline for registration for FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium	
November 8-10, 2007	FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium	Baltimore
January 11-14, 2008	NCAA Convention	Nashville
November 13-15, 2008	FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium	San Diego
January 14-17, 2009	NCAA Convention	Washington, DC

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

or

or Alan Hauser at hauseraj@appstate.edu