



JUNE, 2007

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I trust everyone is having a relaxing and productive summer, with all the pleasures that this time of the year brings. It has been good to get away from the rigors of the academic term for a few weeks, but I am looking forward to teaching a summer school class beginning in early July. Most of all, I am looking forward to the birth of my third grandchild in early August. So, all in all, this should be a great summer, as I hope yours will be.

We have a treat for you this month. President Myles Brand has provided a letter to FARA Voice in which he discusses the important role the FAR must play on each campus. As he notes, if athletics is to be truly integrated into the mainstream of each college or university, and if athletics programs are to operate with academic integrity and be fiscally accountable in the same manner as are all other parts of the university, the role of the FAR is vital. Many thanks to Dr. Brand for sharing his insights with us.

Following the words of President Brand is a piece by Audrey Hudgins, who until recently was FAR at Seattle University. After reflecting on the steep learning curve from early days as a new FAR, Audrey presents a useful mnemonic device

developed for use with student-athletes to help them navigate through their academic work. You will find it useful, appropriately tweaked for your campus.

Audrey's piece is followed by a letter from Lee A. Meserve, FAR at Bowling Green State University and chair of the Walter Byers Award Committee. Lee describes the pleasant experience of working on this committee and the joys of reviewing the splendid applications of so many excellent student-athletes. Lee also asks that FARs both submit applications from their campuses, and volunteer to serve on this important NCAA committee.

Our last piece is a brief review by Ralph Engelman, FAR at Long Island University in Brooklyn, of a recent book titled *The College Athlete's Guide to Academic Success: Tips from Peers and Profs*, written by Bob Nathanson and Arthur Kimmel. You may consider this book a useful resource for student-athletes on your campus. I have seen a copy, and it is well done. If you know of other useful resources for FARs or for student-athletes, I invite you to send me information about them, and we will include this in FARA Voice.

Enjoy. I will have more informative pieces for you in the July issue of FARA Voice.

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

FARs: Part Ombudsman, Part Ambassador

By Myles Brand
NCAA President

In a series of articles recently in *FARA Voice*, Alan Hauser, Lorrie Clemo and Dennis Leighton presented commentary on aspects of *The Second-Century Imperatives: Presidential Leadership~Institutional Accountability*, the report of the NCAA Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Intercollegiate athletics. It was an important series and the FARA leadership should be commended for addressing the issues raised in the report.

I believe the role of the faculty athletics representatives on the campuses of NCAA member institutions has never been more important. It is difficult to document, but I sense that over the last four years we have made progress with regard to strengthening the relationship between athletics and the rest of the campus. Many campuses can say fairly that athletics is fully integrated, that it operates similarly to departments on campus. Some more are moving in the right direction, but others have seen little increase in the alignment of athletics with academics or with the way in which athletics is managed.

In my view, it will be difficult to achieve success with integrating intercollegiate athletics into the mainstream of the intercollegiate experience without the initiative and support of FARs. They are the bridge between what is often perceived and sometimes is the reality of two worlds operating under the banner of one institution. As faculty members, FARs already have an understanding of the faculty role in the governance of a campus and have taken the time to inform themselves about the culture of intercollegiate athletics. They appreciate the role participation in sports can play in the development of students from matriculation to graduation. They understand that while athletics can never be *exactly* like other departments on campus, it should never stray so far from the norm that it becomes ancillary to the mission of the academy.

There is a temptation by some within the university to believe that athletics should be little more than intramural activity, with unrealistic restraints on how often, how far away and when student-athletes can compete. Because there are three divisions, three subdivisions within Division I and the contemplation of more subdivisions or new divisions in the future, there is room under the NCAA tent for great diversity in the way intercollegiate athletics is conducted, including so-

called “big-time college sports.” Indeed, it is nearly always true that big-time college sports exists where big-time universities already flourish. I do not see as a goal of integration the reigning in of intercollegiate athletics. Where athletics is financially successful, we should celebrate. Where it must be subsidized, as it is almost everywhere, we should be supportive so long as the academic mission of the university is not threatened. And, I do not see the role of the faculty athletics representative as the campus “lion tamer,” holding athletics at bay with whip and chair.

Instead, there are two areas where FARs can and should play a critical role, in my view. First, they are the first line of defense for the integrity of the academic mission of the campus. The goal for intercollegiate athletics is the same as the rest of the campus – educate students. Academic reform has moved past the days of keeping student-athletes eligible for competition to assuring that student-athletes have every opportunity to receive the degree of their choice. Eligibility is not enough; education is paramount. FARs must help and support the university in ensuring that academic fraud – in any of its manifestations – will not be tolerated and does not occur.

Second, FARs are essential to aligning the budget and operations decision-making for athletics with the decision-making for other components of the campus. The degree to which all other departments on campus undergo scrutiny by faculty and others is the degree to which athletics should be held accountable for its operations. The standard should not present a higher burden for athletics merely because it is not an academic unit, nor should the standard be lower.

FARs must sometimes be both ombudsman and ambassador as they interact between athletics and the academy. They must respond to complaints and celebrate differences. It is not an easy role to play. But if intercollegiate athletics is to continue as a vital component of the higher education experience in America, much will depend on the ability of faculty athletics representatives to bridge the relationship between the classroom and the court.

Mnemonic Device

By Audrey Hudgins
Seattle University

When I was appointed the FAR, I was lucky I knew how to spell it. I was handed a folder and essentially told “there’s not much to it; you’ll figure it out.” I had a steep learning curve but eventually arrived at a point where I felt I could easily spell it (on most days!) and more importantly, articulate it to student-athletes and faculty in a meaningful way. Over time, this developed into a shorthand mnemonic which I have found useful with student-athletes in orientation sessions and faculty in campus discussions, department meetings, etc. I hope that by sharing this with you, my fellow FARs, you might put it to good use on your campuses.

F – Faculty Engagement.

- Interact face-to-face with your advisor and professors on a regular basis, during advising week (with advisor) and at the start of each quarter (with professors), at a minimum.
- Remind your professor of a scheduled absence *before* you leave on the trip.
- Follow-up with your professor after a scheduled absence.
- Faculty notification critical when: post-season play, injury, other hardship.

A – Academic Responsibility.

- Your word is your bond! If you say you’re going to do it, just do it!
- Go to all classes when not officially traveling.

- Sit in the front to maximize your immersion in the subject.
- Participate fully in class and group projects.
- Complete all negotiated requirements due to absence, injury or other hardship.
- Understand the implications of the dearth of 2-4 credit class offerings for continuing eligibility.
- Register at start of your advance registration window.
- Timing is everything: know when your major courses are offered and plan accordingly; choose T/TH classes over MWF in competitive seasons if possible; consider course requirements (take classes with weekend or evening requirements like MGMT 280 in non-competitive seasons).

R – Resources for Assistance.

- Academic Advisor
- Pre-Major Advising Center
- Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Academic Support
- Writing Center, Math Lab, Learning Center, etc.
- Core Solutions Center (during registration period)
- Teammates
- Me, the FAR!

FARA Annual Meeting And Symposium Registration

By Karen Cooper
NCAA

Beginning in mid-July, the registration process for the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium (formerly the FARA Fall Forum) will be available online. For those of you who have attended the NCAA Convention, the process will be similar. You

will be able to register for the conference and reserve your hotel room at the same time. I will send out an e-mail with the link once we go live with the registration site.



The Crème de la Crème: Walter Byers Awardees Colleagues in FARdom

By Lee Meserve
Faculty Athletics Representative
Bowling Green State University

If you attended the FARA Fall Forum in New Orleans last November, you perhaps heard me singing (semi-literally!) the praises of the 2006 Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship awardees, Anne Bersagel and Bryan Norrington. In my current position as chair of the Walter Byers Scholarship Committee, it was recently my great pleasure to review the applications for the 2007



cycle, and with the other four members of the committee, to narrow down the field to six finalists (thumbnails of these finalists can be read on-line in the April 9, 2007 issue of the NCAA News). And the ultimate joy of this process, as it is annually, was to meet and

interview the finalists, with the outcome of choosing Katie Kingsbury and Dane Todd as the 2007 Walter Byers Scholarship Awardees (the article about the awardees appeared in the May 7, 2007, NCAA News). With any luck, both Katie and Dane will be able to attend the banquet at the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium in Baltimore this coming November for a personal recognition by the FARA membership.

I would encourage all FARs, regardless of division, to consider taking two actions with regard to the Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship:

1. Support the nomination of any scholar-athlete on your campus who meets the qualifications (available on the NCAA Website) to apply for this award. At present, awardees receive \$21,500 to support postgraduate education, and the stipend can be renewed for a second year. Other FARs

have told me that if there are only two awardees, it's not worth the time and effort to have the student submit the application. I contend that the process of application is worthwhile, and the only scholars being considered for the awards are the applicants! Let your potential applicants know that the Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship application is available online in October, and that completed forms are due in the NCAA office late the following January (Oct. '07 and Jan. '08 for the 2008 cycle). Additional application information can be obtained from the NCAA Web site:

(<http://www1.ncaa.org/membership/scholarships/byers/index.html>),

from myself (imeserv@bgsu.edu) or from Ann Kearns, Walter Byers Scholarship Committee liaison at the NCAA.

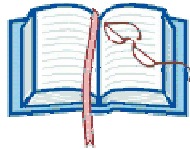
2. Please have your conference nominate you for membership on the Walter Byers Scholarship Committee when openings occur. The actions of this committee represent the best of why we are faculty athletics representatives. There are no deliberations about infractions, no decisions about eligibility, no problems about progress toward degree. From beginning to end, the committee is a reviewer and provider of good news! Information about committee membership can be viewed at www.ncaa.org. The current committee consists of three FARs, a compliance coordinator, and a college president. The next time a vacancy occurs will be September, 2008, followed closely by a second in January, 2009. This time delay gives each of you a sufficient opportunity to research the role of membership on this committee and to examine your interest in becoming a member.

Hope to see you all in Baltimore in November!

Athlete's Guide to Academic Success

By Ralph Engelman
Faculty Athletics Representative
Long Island University

I'm writing to alert you to a new book authored by two colleagues at Long Island University, *The College Athlete's Guide to Academic Success: Tips from Peers and Profs*, published by Pearson Prentice Hall (ISBN 0-13-237947-3). With a foreword by Myles Brand, this is a very inviting reader-friendly guide that is most appropriate for incoming freshmen, as well as for all student-athletes throughout their college careers. The book speaks from "both sides of the desk" by providing insights and suggestions from 35 academically-successful student-athletes who have competed in a



variety of sports at 16 colleges nationwide, along with time-tested advice from two faculty members (the authors) with decades of experience teaching and mentoring college athletes. Solidly addressing the CHAMPS/Life Skills objectives, the book is ideal either as a primary or supplementary text for your student-athlete orientation program. I encourage you to request an exam copy at www.prenhall.com and if you're so inclined, to recommend its use to your director of student-athlete advisement and/or CHAMPS/Life Skills program.

Mark Your Calendars!

July, 2007

October 4, 2007

November 8-10, 2007

January 11-14, 2008

May 18-23, 2008

June 1-6, 2008

November 13-15, 2008

January 14-17, 2009

Registration for FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium

Annual Meeting and Symposium Registration Deadline

FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium

NCAA Convention

NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar

NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar

FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium

NCAA Convention

Baltimore

Nashville

Boston

San Antonio

San Diego

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

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or

or Alan Hauser at hauseraj@appstate.edu