

FARA VOICE

March, 2007

Issue XI



March Madness signals both the time for winding down our winter sports, and the advent of spring, when we may enjoy a new configuration of sports even as we relish the outdoor pleasures that spring brings. Some of our northern colleagues will even get to celebrate the reappearance of land long buried fallow under a blanket of snow. Of course, there is also the bustle of the spring term as it enters its latter weeks, even while the many tasks of the year which still are not completed vie for our attention.

In this issue of FARA Voice, Lorrie Clemo, immediate past president of FARA, presents discussions held by the executive committee of FARA concerning part II of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) Report: Reconnecting Intercollegiate Athletics with Higher Education. As noted previously, I encourage FARs from all three divisions to study carefully both the PTF Report and the comments of the executive committee. Even though the report is focused on issues deemed important by the presidents in Division I, such discussions have a way of impacting Divisions II and III. In the April issue of FARA Voice, Dennis Leighton, president of FARA, will present additional discussions of the executive committee concerning the PTF Report, focusing especially on the section entitled "Celebrating the Student Athlete".

Please note that some important dates are approaching. April 6 is National Student-Athlete Day. The Regional Rules Compliance Seminars will be held May 13-18 in Denver, Colorado, and June 6-8 in Miami, Florida, so be sure to plan to attend one of them. I trust you also have on your calendar for November 8-10, 2007 the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland. Please note the comments by FARA executive committee member Bill Edwards in

the February issue of FARA Voice concerning the name change for this meeting. You will miss a great deal if you do not come.

NCAA membership services is now providing our membership a new tool with which to find pertinent contact and sponsorship information for all members of the Association in one centralized location via an online directory. You can see an article with further details in this edition from Michelle Vaughn, membership database administrator for the NCAA.

We have a letter to FARA Voice from Paul Engelmann of Central Missouri State University. He raises some points in response to the comments by the executive committee on the Leadership's Bottom Line portion of the Presidential Task Force Report. These comments by the executive committee were reported in the February issue of FARA Voice. Thank you, Paul, for writing. Let's get more discussion going among readers of FARA Voice. We would be pleased to have your letters and comments.

I want to mention that Karen Cooper, who works long and hard on behalf of FARA, has been recovering from surgery. Being devoted to FARA and to intercollegiate athletics, she is back in the office part time as she recovers. Please join me in wishing Karen the best as she recovers.

Enjoy this annual March festival of basketball. What an exciting time! Please let us hear from you, either in response to items that have appeared in FARA Voice, or to raise issues you would like to have aired.

*Alan Hauser
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 II: Reconnecting Intercollegiate Athletics with Higher Education

The February issue of FARA Voice featured an article by president-elect Alan Hauser discussing the PTF's call for increased campus leadership on the issue of fiscal responsibility in intercollegiate athletics. This month, the executive committee examines the recommendations outlined in the PTF for further integration of athletics within the campus environment.

The full integration of athletics into the mission of higher education is a laudable goal. It is a goal that faculty athletics representatives support and commit ourselves to in our daily work. As a group, faculty athletics representatives need no convincing--we firmly believe that athletics has an important and integral role to play in the personal and educational development of student-athletes. Most faculty athletics representatives will readily admit, however, that there is much work to be done before the goal of integration can be widely achieved.

The challenge facing many colleges and universities today is that athletics looks like a separate entity apart from the university. While few athletic programs can boast financial self-sufficiency, most are perceived as independent enclaves falsely evidenced by the way they are managed and operate within the university. Adoption of the self-sufficiency model of athletics over the last decade has greatly diminished the regular and direct communication between the athletic department and the campus. These deteriorating relationships have resulted in a great divide that we are now being challenged to bridge.

To fully align athletics into the mission of higher education, there must be a collective will to act by all constituency groups involved in higher education. The will to act gained some traction with

the release of the PTF, and the momentum appears to be growing as a result of the work of FARA and other faculty and athletic groups committed to the integration principle.

The PTF recommends specific structural and organizational changes to help move us toward complete integration of athletics on college campuses. Additionally, the report recommends greater faculty awareness and involvement in athletic policy issues. FARA executive committee members offer the following best practices for educating and involving the general faculty in issues of athletics and to help athletics become further integrated:

1. One of the most widely recognized and effective means of involving the general faculty in athletics is through a faculty-team mentoring program. Many colleges and universities have adopted programs like these to bring faculty into the athletic arena as active participants in the student development process. By providing opportunities for observation and face-to-face interaction with student-athletes, coaches, academic support staff, athletic directors, and others, faculty gain a better understanding of the role athletics plays in the personal development of student-athletes and are more prepared to discuss policy issues in a constructive manner.

2. FARs use new faculty orientation programs or opening convocation programs to discuss the role of the faculty athletic representative and to describe the responsibilities we have as critical liaisons between the general faculty, university administration and the athletic administration on athletic/academic issues.

3. On some campuses FARs have established an extended network of faculty from each department or academic program that serve as academic advisors to student-athletes. Similar to the team-mentoring

program, the faculty advisor is given an opportunity to have face-to-face interaction with student athletes and is also provided with the tools and information they need to advise student-athletes for academic success.

4. Involving faculty governance in athletics can be supported by the FAR in several ways including: regular reports to the faculty senate on a monthly or semester basis; having representation from the faculty senate on the campus athletic committee; and seeking input from faculty governance on the selection and review of the campus faculty athletics representative.

5. Strongly supported by the executive committee was the recommendation detailed in the PTF that athletic academic advising as a support service to student-athletes should be both financed and organizationally located outside of the athletics department. The suggestion that athletic academic advising should report to the vice-president for academic affairs in an effort to reduce the perceived and possible conflict-of-interest within the athletic department is reasonable and enthusiastically endorsed by the executive committee.

6. There was much less enthusiasm for the PTFs recommendation calling for direct report of the compliance director to the university CEO. The executive committee believes that presidents simply do not have time in their schedules or the depth of knowledge needed to deal with compliance as a direct report. An alternative recommendation by the executive committee was to have the compliance director have a dotted reporting line to the president allowing the compliance director to access the president for major reporting issues when necessary.

While these reactions by the executive committee respond directly to the recommendations outlined in the report, the executive committee believes there are many additional ways to help achieve integration of athletics on our campuses and is currently working on a number of initiatives that move us in this direction. Over the next year, FARA will be involved in designing programs to this end and will be calling on FARs to provide input to the development and promotion of these programs.

We strongly encourage you to provide us with comments and feedback on this response. We continue our series on the PTF next month when FARA president Dennis Leighton examines student-athlete well being.

Lorrie Clemo
FARA Past President
SUNY Oswego

Online NCAA Directory

NCAA membership services is now providing our membership a new tool with which to find pertinent contact and sponsorship information for all members of the Association in one centralized location via an online directory. It is accessible to the membership with their six digit organization identification

number. This link to the directory is located in the About NCAA -> Membership -> Membership Overview section of NCAA.org. Information for the online directory is transferred directly from the NCAA membership database. Listings contained in



the directory are a direct reflection of information reported to the national office by each member throughout the academic year. Members may update listings at any time using the links provided on the directory site, on the sports sponsorship and demographic form or by contacting the membership database manager. It is the responsibility of all members (active, provisional, conferences, affiliated and corresponding) to keep all information listed up-to-date. Enhancements have also been made to the institution and sport listings. Although the general public does not have access to the NCAA Directory, they should find useful information from these reports. The new reports are located in the same section as the NCAA Directory of NCAA.org and

are entitled "Lists of NCAA Schools and Conferences by Division" and "Lists of NCAA Schools and Conferences by Sport."

New features found in on-line directory:

- Lists of sports sponsored.
- Lists of individual sport division.
- Lists of sport specific conferences.
- Notation of reclassification division if institution is reclassifying.
- List of all schools in the reclassification process.
- Hot links to e-mail contacts, additional information concerning specific sports and conferences.

Michelle Vaughn
Membership Database Administrator
NCAA



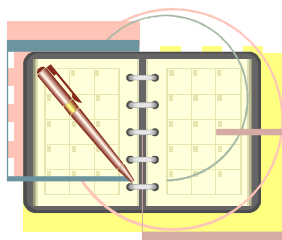
Letter to the Editor

Just read your well-written recent article on fiscal restraint in the February FARA Voice. In it you refer to the Executive Committee's (I think) consideration of legislative proposals to deal with the "arm's race." Fortunately (I think), we at D-II are much less affected by the arms race than our D-I colleagues . . . However, some of us have been around long enough to remember when we tried to legislatively exercise some restraint while bringing new blood into the coaching ranks with the restricted earnings

coach concept. We (the NCAA) paid dearly, under antitrust laws, for that attempt, no matter how well-intentioned it was. Sometimes memories are short; I'm sure Elsa Cole wouldn't let us make that same mistake again, but others may not realize just how significant the legal restrictions are on the Association when trying to legislate cost-containment measures.

Just my 2 cents worth. Keep up the excellent job - I enjoy FARA Voice each time it arrives.

Paul Engelmann
Faculty Athletics Representative
Central Missouri State University



Mark Your Calendars!

April 6, 2007	National Student-Athlete Day	
May 13-18, 2007	NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar	Denver
June 3-8, 2007	NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar	Miami
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 kcooper@ncaa.org

or Alan Hauser at hauseraj@appstate.edu.