



SEPTEMBER, 2007

ISSUE XV

Greetings to all,

Bill Edwards and I will do our best to maintain the voice of FARA as established by Alan Hauser. We owe him many thanks for his initiative, effort, and commitment. As FARA's next president, Alan will prove to be an excellent steward of the association, following the lead of previous presidents and our current president, Dennis Leighton.

Bill and I will strive to have the **FARA Voice** be your voice. You are more than the audience; you are the association. We hope that you will voice your opinions, concerns, and ideas. The **FARA Voice**, along with the FARA Web site (thank you, Bob Ziegenfus), will sustain the cohesive effort of the association to address the three prongs of our role: Academic Integrity, Student-Athlete Well-being, and Athletic Department Oversight. Each of us can ensure that

collegiate athletics complements effectively the mission of our respective institutions, whether we hold Division I, II, or III affiliation. As we navigate yet another fall semester, let each of us focus on our distinct role at our institutions and how we can fulfill that role with the interest of the student-athlete and the institution clearly established in our minds.

In anticipation of our November meeting, we ask that you reflect on the role of the FAR and how you can best fulfill that role given the uniqueness of your institution. Send your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and suggestions to the **FARA Voice** and bring them to Baltimore. See you there!

Joe Catanese
Saint Anselm College
Co-Editor

Thank you Alan!

With the August edition of the **FARA Voice**, Alan Hauser signed off as its editor. Upon joining the FARA Executive Committee in January 2006, he had the vision of a newsletter that would serve as a voice of FARs in all divisions. Reflecting on that time, Alan notes three primary goals he hoped to achieve through a newsletter. One was to keep FARs apprised of important issues in intercollegiate athletics within and across divisions. Secondly, to regularly highlight for all FARs the important role the FARA could play in assisting them in carrying out their duties on campus. Third, being an advocate for FARs acting in the academic interest of student athletes within the broader structure of the NCAA. With these goals in mind, the first issue of the **FARA Voice** was launched in May 2006. Since that time the newsletter has been a forum for FARs and a source of important information.

For those of you who know Alan, the **FARA Voice** exemplifies his commitment to championing the role of FARs. New FARs could appreciate his efforts to keep them informed and support their growth and profile on their campuses. Alan brought to his position as editor insight,

understanding of the role of FARs, and, most importantly, wisdom. His role as editor was always informed with background knowledge, thoughtfulness, and clear articulation of issues. Alan also brought to his role a wide range of experiences having served as chair and member of several conference groups as well as NCAA-wide groups. He epitomized recent themes of FARA national meetings: engagement and empowerment.

As editor, Alan set a very high standard and as Joe Catanese and I assume responsibilities for editing the **FARA Voice**, we hope to continue the noteworthy tradition set by him. We extend our gratitude to Alan for his vision and the tireless efforts to make **FARA Voice** a reality.

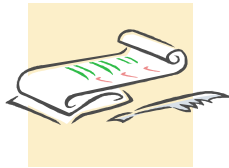
We hope you have made plans to attend the FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium in Baltimore, Nov. 8-10. Next month's issue will include some program information and updates.

Bill Edwards
University of San Francisco
Co-Editor

FARA LISTSERV UPDATE

Over the past summer, FARA introduced listservs as a way for FARs to keep in touch with colleagues in their division. The listservs are useful for asking questions and sharing information. Up until now, the three divisional listservs have been moderated by Roberto Vicente, the NCAA staff liaison to FARA. The moderation was to make sure the listservs worked well and were being used for appropriate content.

The FARA Executive Committee has now decided to make some changes to the listservs. We recently launched a new one-way listserv, which will include FARs at all NCAA institutions.



This listserv will include all three divisions. The e-mail addresses are populated through the NCAA membership database. The purpose of this listserv is to provide a convenient way for the FARA Executive Committee to get information to the membership. Content will include the monthly **FARA Voice**, announcement for the Annual Meeting and Symposium, along with other important and timely matters. As a one-way listserv, members will not be able to reply or respond to the listserv.

Members will also not be able to unsubscribe. Questions and comments should be directed to the author of the posting or to a member of the Executive Committee.

The divisional listservs will remain in place, although there will be some changes. These listservs will no longer be moderated; all postings will be broadcast. This change should not create a problem, as only FARs will be subscribed to the divisional listservs, and the members can unsubscribe if they wish. At the beginning of each academic year, all FARs will be automatically subscribed to the listservs, utilizing the same NCAA database. Of course, we hope that you will stay subscribed and be a part of the conversation.

Further information will come soon on the listservs themselves. The Executive Committee hopes these listservs will further enhance communication among NCAA FARs.

Dennis Leighton
University of New England
FARA President

FARA WEB SITE



On behalf of the FARA Executive Committee, I am pleased to announce that a new FARA Web site is available for your use at www.farawebsite.org. The Web site has undergone a complete redesign and restructuring. I trust FAR's will find it not only informative but also easy to navigate. In one or two clicks you can read about the FARA mission, the Executive Committee, our Annual Meeting, the newly adopted Guiding Principles, and all of the issues of the **FARA Voice**, among many other topics. You can even see a selection of photographs of the Executive Committee's donation of a check to the city of New Orleans last November during the field trip to see the devastation from Hurricane Katrina. We hope that you will find the site to be a useful tool to learn more about the only organization dedicated solely to supporting and enhancing your work as an FAR.

I wish to thank all of the members of the Executive Committee for their constructive comments during the

development phase of the project. Most of the plaudits, however, must go to Ms. Kay Hawes of Sports Association Management, Inc. who provided the media and technical personnel that brought the project to fruition. Kay's helpful suggestions and good humor throughout the sometimes tedious nature of the work made this task much more enjoyable than it would have been otherwise.

I also wish to thank Vicki Hightower, FAR at Elon University and long-time Secretary-Treasurer of the Executive Committee, for her yeoman service as the creator and host of the original Web site for many years.

The Web site is another one of the tangible products of the Communications Initiative launched by the Executive Committee early in 2006. A description of this Initiative can be found in my article published in the July 2006 **FARA Voice**.

Dr. Robert C. Ziegenfus
FARA Executive Committee DII Representative
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania

FARA SURVEY

The long-awaited results of the FARA Survey have been tabulated and are now being formatted into report form. Although the report will not likely be published until near year-end, we will be presenting survey results at the FARA Annual Meeting in Baltimore. As you may recall, the data collected include the following broad categories:



Demographics; institution; the FAR; the FAR position; support for the FAR position; duties of the FAR; and role of the FAR

We offer our sincere thanks to all who responded to the survey, and we hope you will find the results interesting and useful. And we give special appreciation to Roberto Vicente and the NCAA research staff for their good work on the survey.

Stay tuned, as we will offer more insight in the next issue of the **FARA Voice** and will occupy a significant spot on the program in Baltimore.

*Dan Fulks, FAR
Transylvania University*

THE FACULTY ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVE, THE COLLEGIATE STUDENT-ATHLETE, AND SAAC

The alarm on my cell phone buzzes early in the morning. I hit the snooze button and sleep in till 5:25am. I get to the gym for a 6am lift, a 6:45 run, and shower in time to get a quick breakfast and go to class. Maybe I have a quick break to the read the newspaper after my first class, but nevertheless I am at my 10:30, 12:30 and 2:30 ready and raring to go. After a quick lunch break I go to the library and read for the next day of classes. As 4:30 rolls around I'm in the gym with my teammates, ready to play pickup. After a shower come dinner and a little more homework. Before I realize it, it's time for bed and whatever amount of sleep I can get before morning arrives. But this is no unusual schedule for the college athlete. Many share in the hectic going-on's of the week, especially those athletes who are in season. Of course my experience of a member of the women's basketball team at Saint Anselm College (Manchester, NH) is unique because of the school, my teammates, and my coaches. But I am not alone. My schedule and the balancing act between books and basketball are shared by many athletes all over the country in Division I, II, and III.



Regardless of the rigor of the academic load at an institution, student-athletes need an organization where, together, their thoughts and concerns can be discussed and their common goals achieved. The Student Athlete Advisory Council is such a place. In it, representatives of all varsity sports are able to come together and discuss the unique issues and opportunities that arise on their campus. What remains the same, though, from California to New Hampshire are student-athlete's academic concerns. Will teachers let me make up the work I missed for a game? How do I schedule my classes around such a difficult workout schedule? How can I become more than just an athlete on campus and within the greater community of my school?

These questions are often answered by none other than the Faculty Athletic Representative. He or she tries to bridge

the gap between athletics and academics and seeks to maintain the well-being of each individual student-athlete. Questions about eligibility, scheduling conflicts, and even helping students find tutors are some of the tasks of a FAR. His or her contributions to the SAAC group at a college or university are crucial to the performance in the classroom of the body of student-athletes. The FAR serves as the representative to college administration as well as to the director of athletics. The FAR also helps interpret the NCAA and conference legislation that is relevant to the performance of every student on and off the field. The FAR is not simply an academic advisor; rather he or she offers knowledge of the institution so that each student athlete can perform effectively in the classroom, on the playing field, and in the community.

SAAC affords student athletes a forum to voice their academic concerns and opportunities with each other. With the presence of the FAR, they have their voices heard by someone who can address those concerns and present those opportunities to college administration. Perhaps even more important is the example the FAR sets—athletics and academics are a related and interdependent recipe for success for a college student athlete.

For all the hours spent on improving skills, fitness, and overall performance in our individual sports, equal time must be spent of the academic piece of our college experience. Student-athletes are just that—students and then athletes. The value of an engaged FAR transcends NCAA sport and division. We all want to do well on and off the court, and given the extra demands of a student-athlete, it is extremely beneficial for student athletes to have a Faculty Athletic Representative who has our unique interests and needs in mind.

*Cassie Loftus
Chair, SAAC
Saint Anselm College*

2007 FARA ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

The good news ---- A record number of FARs have now registered for the 2007 FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium.

The bad news --- We have no more hotel rooms.

We still, however, encourage you to go to the registration site

<https://www.planningpoint.net/Events/2007FARA>

and register for the conference. A list of hotels in close proximity to the conference is posted on the site.



A tentative agenda is available for viewing on the registration site. Please bookmark the site so you can refer to it from time to time to get the latest information on the meeting. We are very excited to have so many FARs at this meeting and to be offering such an exceptional program.

We hope to see all of you at this very important meeting. Should you have any questions, please contact Karen Cooper at kcooper@ncaa.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 8-10, 2007

FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium

Baltimore

Register now at <https://www.planningpoint.net/Events/2007FARA>

January 11-14, 2008

May 18-23, 2008

June 1-6, 2008

November 13-15, 2008

January 14-17, 2009

NCAA Convention

NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar

NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminar

FARA Annual Meeting and Symposium

NCAA Convention

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 Karen Cooper at

FARA@ncaa.org.