



FARA VOICE

Issue No. 4

August.

August is always one of my favorite times of the year. Summer is still with us, with all that summer brings, but there is also anticipation in the air. The fall quarter or semester will soon come into shape, and everyone is looking forward to the fall seasons of competition. This is an exciting time!

As I noted in issue 3 of FARA Voice, we hope by now to have everyone in our address book to receive FARA Voice. If, however, you have not received this issue by e-mail, but instead have received it from a FAR colleague, please send us your e-mail address so we may get you on our mailing list. Also, I welcome your responses, letters, discussions of issues, etc., which may be sent to me at hauseraj@appstate.edu. This month's feature article by Thurston Banks, who has just completed his term as the chair of the Initial Eligibility Subcommittee of the Division I AEC Cabinet, raises a number of issues currently being considered regarding initial eligibility. We would welcome comments or discussion on the issues mentioned by Thurston. Our thanks to him for writing this piece to bring us up to date on these matters.

If you have not already registered for the FARA Fall Forum in New Orleans this November, please do so in the near future. We have a fine program planned, and it will be even better if you come and participate. Key components include: remarks by former NCAA President Ced Dempsey during our opening session; divisional breakout sessions focusing on best practices and divisional issues; a session the second day titled "Tested by the Storm: Universities and Conferences in the Aftermath of Katrina"; empowerment breakout sessions conducted by division; current issues and legislative review sessions conducted by division; and empowerment plan workshops conducted by division. Together, these promise to make this a very productive and useful meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Contributions continue to come in for FARA's efforts on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina, but we have not yet done as much as we can do. I encourage you to make a contribution if you have not already done so. If you are not aware of all the details of the FARA initiative, I refer you to President Elect Dennis Leighton's article in issue 2 of FARA Voice, which may be viewed on the FARA Web site at (<http://org.elon.edu/ncaafara/fara.html>). You may send a check for this cause to Karen Cooper at the NCAA national office (P.O. Box 6222; Indianapolis, Indiana 46206), made payable to the NCAA with "FARA Katrina Relief" written in the memo on the check. Or, you may designate an amount on the registration form for the November FARA meeting in New Orleans. Your donation is tax deductible, and will be greatly appreciated. Friends who have been to New Orleans recently tell me that there is still much to do before the city is "back on its feet," so let's not forget them.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer, even as we look forward to the beginning of a new academic year. Don't forget to write, as I would love to receive your comments.

Enjoy the summer, and let me hear from you.

Alan J. Hauser, Editor
Division I FARA Vice President

Initial Eligibility Issues

For the new division I FARs and others who are not aware, one of the subcommittees of the Academic Eligibility Compliance (AEC) Cabinet deals with initial eligibility issues. Among the responsibilities of this subcommittee are to:

- Evaluate and make recommendations on any issues relating to initial eligibility;
- Initiate and review division I legislation relating to initial eligibility;
- Work with Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse representatives on issues relating to certification of student-athletes and coordinate with the division II Academic Requirements Committee to try to minimize the differences in rules between divisions I and II;
- Review the initial eligibility waiver application and instructions, and
- Hear appeals from institutions for student-athletes who have been denied an initial-eligibility waiver.

Some recent initiatives intended to assist in these endeavors are the review and discussion of:

- Research related to academic performance and its impact of initial eligibility requirements;
- Research related to academic performance of student-athletes who have received an initial-eligibility waiver;
- Research that may foster better predictors for initial eligibility waivers that lead to academic success;
- Research on first year success for student-athletes subject to the 14 core course rule;
- Research on academic performance of home schooled student-athletes;
- Research on academic performance of student-athletes in-season versus out-of-season, and
- Research concerning the impact of the writing section of the ACT/SAT on initial eligibility standards and academic success.

A current initial eligibility issue of interest in division I concerns NCAA Bylaw 14.3.1.2.1. This bylaw indicates that core courses must be taken during grades nine through 12 (the eight semester rule) unless a student repeats a regular term or academic year following the completion of the requirements for graduation. If core requirements are taken during a repeated term, then full-time collegiate enrollment may not occur until the following academic year and the core courses must be taken at the high school from which the student graduates.

A situation has been encountered in which some students, who would probably not meet the clearinghouse certification requirements, either through their own volition or more probably due to advisement, drop out of high school before graduation or otherwise fail a course so as not to graduate. Such an action permits the student to repeat the next year at another high school or a prep school in order to overcome core course or GPA deficiencies. This is not a new issue but one that has been discussed on several occasions and one could argue that given the interest in improving college graduation rates for student athletes an extra year of secondary school may be in the best interest of these students. A problem has been that some of the high schools and prep schools used by these students offer less than reputable (bogus) academic programs.

Based on information in the recent report from the Working Group on Initial Eligibility Trends (a group formed at the request of President Myles Brand) the AEC Cabinet proposed legislation at the June 2006 meeting relating to the core course time limitation. This legislation would provide an exception to the current requirement. The proposal states that a prospect must graduate from high school no later than his/her class in order to be permitted to take one core during the year following graduation (summer or regular academic year). This course may be taken at a high school other than the one from which the prospect graduated or at a prep school, however, the high school or prep school must be one that has been approved by the NCAA. The effect of this proposal is to close the loophole that encourages prospects to fail to graduate from high school in order to gain the opportunity to complete another year at a different high school or prep school. It also will afford the opportunity for a prospect to earn an additional core course to assist in meeting the 16 core course standard that will be implemented in 2008. This proposed legislation has been forwarded to the Management Council for their July 2006 meeting.

Thurston E. Banks
Former Chair
Initial Eligibility Issues Subcommittee

IMPORTANT DATES

FARA Fall Forum

November 16-18, 2006 - Sheraton New Orleans
(Registration forms have been mailed. If additional forms are needed,
please go to <http://org.elon.edu/ncaafara/fara.html>.)
Deadline for registration: October 11

NCAA Convention

January 5-9, 2007 - Orlando, Florida

NCAA REGIONAL RULES SEMINARS

May 13-18, 2007 – Denver, Colorado

June 3-8, 2007 – Miami, Florida