



FARA VOICE

December, 2007

Issue VIII

It was wonderful to see many of you at the FARA Fall Forum in New Orleans just a couple of weeks ago. A good time was had by all, with many lively and energizing sessions and, as FARA President Lorrie Clemo notes in her accompanying letter, we had numerous productive programs focused on the theme of faculty empowerment. We clarified the wording of our Guiding Principles, which define what FARA is and what we are about. We also discussed and acted upon the numerous changes that had been proposed to FARA's Bylaws. It was helpful to hear Dr. Myles Brand's thoughts on the report of the Presidential Task Force (more on that below), and it was good to hear Dr. Ced Dempsey's interesting observations on the current state of affairs within intercollegiate athletics. All in all, this was a most enjoyable and useful forum. Many persons worked to make this a successful meeting, but I especially want to say a word of thanks to Karen Cooper, who managed the many details that needed to be tended to in order for everything to work well. Many thanks, Karen! For those of you who missed this year's session, we certainly invite to you join us for our forum next year in Baltimore on November 8-10. Place it on your calendar now.

I was both heartened and discouraged by what I saw in New Orleans. There was a real energy and good spirit among those we encountered in the hotel, the restaurants, the shops, etc. Yet, the bustle of New Orleans is clearly less than what it has been, as evidenced by the numerous closed shops and restaurants in the area surrounding the hotel. A visit to the areas most heavily flooded carried a powerful impact, with so many empty lots and severely damaged homes. Perhaps what struck me most was the sign advertising "We Tear Down Homes," and the markings indicating homes where the dead have been found. Yet, in the midst of all this devastation there is hope. The presence of so many FEMA trailers in driveways and on lawns is a sign of life, as individuals live in temporary housing next to the homes they are restoring, in most cases a very daunting task. The collection FARA made for New Orleans exceeded \$4,000, so many thanks to all of you who contributed! New Orleans will need to be rebuilt one step at a time, and, as President-Elect Dennis Leighton noted in a previous issue of FARA Voice, our collection helped to provide recreational equipment for the park, a valuable but easily overlooked need.

The electronic process is now available for you to vote for FARA officers and Executive Committee members. This process will be open until January 4, as President-Elect Dennis Leighton notes in his attached article. If you have not received the email which gets you into the process, you may contact Dennis (DLeighton@une.edu) and he will get the proper email message sent to you. There will be no paper balloting this year at the NCAA Convention. The entire process will be electronic, prior to the convention. Please be sure to vote!

Lorrie Clemo's article discussing the recent meeting in New Orleans also discusses FARA activities at the upcoming NCAA convention in Orlando. Division II Vice-President Robert Ziegenfus, who led the discussion on the Guiding Principles at the meeting in New Orleans, has an article on the updating of the Guiding Principles. This is followed by a couple of additional Bylaws changes that will be voted on at our meeting in January. I will then conclude with a few comments concerning one of the assumptions contained in the report of the Presidential Task Force.

The end of the fall term is near, and all of us are certainly looking forward to a break at the end of the month. I wish all of you an enjoyable and restful holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in January in Orlando.

*Alan J. Hauser, editor
Division I Vice-President*

From FAR Empowerment to Faculty Engagement

The FARA Executive Committee hardly caught it's collective breath following the recent Fall Forum meeting, before we came together again to begin programming for the 2007 NCAA Convention in Orlando. For those who attended the Fall Forum in New Orleans, you know that our program focused on the theme of FAR Empowerment. Our speakers, divisional breakout sessions, workshops, and best practice discussions all reinforced the idea that faculty athletics representatives are most effective in insuring academic integrity and student-athlete well-being when they are empowered to perform their roles and responsibilities by institutional leaders and conference administrators. After attending the meeting, many FARs returned to their campuses with action plans and best practices in hand, as well as a strong sense of commitment and empowerment.

At the Fall Forum we also heard NCAA President Myles Brand report on the *Presidential Task Force Report on the Future of Intercollegiate Athletics*. The report calls for moderation in athletics spending and continued integration of athletics into the university mission. The report challenges the general faculty to participate in the guidance of intercollegiate athletics and to help ensure the integrity of the student-athlete academic experience by remaining engaged in providing advice on planning and financial issues in athletics. The Presidential Task Force specifically recognizes that the faculty athletic representative plays a key role in this regard, and is the faculty member best positioned to appreciate the dynamics and problems of intercollegiate athletics, and is most likely to understand student-athletes' academic well-being. It is a call that FARA whole-heartedly embraces and will begin to address directly at the NCAA Convention.

To this end, the Executive Committee has established two distinct objectives to be achieved at the Convention. First, at the FARA Business session we will complete work on the guiding principles of the association. These principles which we spent considerable time reviewing at the Fall Forum have been revised into clear statements that express the basic tenets of our association. They will be used to articulate to others our commitment to ensuring that student-athletes are supported properly and treated fairly and that it is the role of the faculty athletics representative to ensure that universities establish the appropriate balance between intercollegiate athletics and academics. Once adopted, these principles will be used to guide the future initiatives of the association as we begin to develop specific strategies to implement the recommendations of the Task Force report. Second, we will continue our efforts carried over from the Fall Forum to enable FARs to perform their duties more effectively with advice from presidents and conference commissioners at a panel entitled "Empowering the FAR: Perspectives from CEOs and Conference Commissioners". This discussion will reinforce our plan to support FARs in their effort to develop strong relationships with intercollegiate athletic decision makers.

Once we have clearly communicated to others through our guiding principles what FARA values, and once our membership feels they have the skills and power to perform their duties effectively, our next step as an association is to engage the general faculty in a dialogue about the role of intercollegiate athletics as a meaningful and purposeful learning activity. The 2007 NCAA Convention will mark a shift in this direction. While we will continue to provide orientation and professional development opportunities aimed at empowering our membership, in the upcoming year FARA will begin to develop and implement comprehensive educational programs to sensitize both athletic administrators and the broader faculty about the role of intercollegiate athletics as a valued learning activity for student participants. Our aim is to empower the FAR to engage the general faculty. Much more to come on this in 2007!

Lorrie Clemo
President

FARA Voting

The voting for FARA Executive Committee officers and representatives is now underway. As of 4:30 pm on Monday, December 4, 311 FARs had cast their ballots in the FARA elections. While this seems a low voter turnout out of slightly over 1000 potential FARs at NCAA institutions, this represents a number that far exceeds previous voter totals. In the past, email votes, mail-in votes, and voting at the NCAA convention generally accounted for less than 100 votes. This low number spurred the FARA Executive Committee to go to web-based voting this year, and the response has been overwhelmingly favorable. The voting is easy, the ballots are by division, and it takes only a few moments to vote.

Voting will continue until January 4, 2007. The results will be announced on Saturday, January 6 during the FARA Business Meeting at the 2007 NCAA Convention.

If you have not received an email from the Vote-Now company with your ballot, please contact Dennis Leighton, FARA President-Elect, by email at dleighton@une.edu. I can check that we have your correct email address, and can get a ballot sent out to your office email address. One thing we have found through this process is that some institutions and FARs have not kept their contact information up to date with the NCAA. As we identify these FARs, the records can be corrected, and they can receive regular emails and mailings from the NCAA and from FARA.

*Dennis Leighton
FARA President-Elect*

Guiding Principles for FARA: An Update

The October 2006 issue of the FARA Voice included my article about the development of a set of Guiding Principles. I outlined the role of guiding principles for an organization, and what the Executive Board of FARA hopes to accomplish by instituting these principles. At the FARA meeting in New Orleans last month, the Executive Board had an opportunity to comment about the content of the six principles set forth below. All the FARs in attendance had a similar opportunity to comment during the Business Session. The task now underway is to distill the substantial input gathered at FARA and produce a revised set of principles for a second reading and, hopefully, approval during the FARA Business Session at the NCAA Convention in Orlando next month.

Of the six principles, the first generated the most discussion. There seemed to be differences of opinion about the content of the first sentence, especially the word "academic." Another sentiment shared by many was the desire to omit the second sentence entirely. It is likely that two options will be presented for consideration in Orlando. Principle three had two words that prompted reaction: "ensure" and "establishes." The other four principles were acceptable with only minor changes. A revised set of principles will be posted on the FARA website in approximately two weeks.

Guiding Principles for the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA)

- We believe that intercollegiate athletics is central to the academic mission of the university. We acknowledge the many benefits of intercollegiate athletics, and we believe that, when properly managed, intercollegiate athletics can bring many positive attributes to a university, to the university's student body and to the participating student-athletes.

- We believe that the well-being of the student-athlete is an essential concern of the university. We take seriously FARA’s responsibility to ensure that student-athletes are supported properly and treated fairly.
- We believe that institutional academic integrity is essential. Therefore, it is the faculty athletics representative’s role to ensure that the university places the appropriate emphasis on academics in the athletics department, seeking to establish and maintain the appropriate balance between academics and athletics.
- We believe that conference academic integrity is essential. It is the faculty athletics representatives’ role to advocate for the appropriate emphasis on academics in the conference.
- We believe that academic integrity must be a priority at the NCAA level. It is FARA’s role to advocate for the appropriate emphasis on academics in NCAA discussions, NCAA committee decisions and NCAA member legislation.
- We believe that the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) speaks with the collective voice of faculty athletics representatives in all three NCAA divisions. It is FARA’s role to advocate for faculty athletics representatives and to represent their concerns at the national level.

*Robert C. Ziegenfus
DII FARA Vice-President*

**Proposed Changes to FARA Bylaws
FARA Business Meeting
NCAA Annual Convention
January 6, 2007**

Page Number	Bylaw Article Number	Original Language	Proposed New Language	Justification
3	3 (b)	Conditions of Membership: Members will remain in good standing as long as they occupy the position of institutional FAR. It is expected that members will attend FARA meetings as regularly as possible.	Conditions of Membership: Members will remain in good standing as long as they occupy the position of institutional FAR.	Redundant. Article 3 (c) was added a few years ago, and this can now be removed.
3	3 (c)	Continuing Education: All FARs shall attend periodic educational meetings such as the Fall Forum, Regional Rules Seminars or NCAA Convention.	Continuing Education: All FARs shall attend periodic educational meetings such as the Fall Forum, Regional Rules Seminars and/or NCAA Convention.	The word “or” is changed to “and/or” to indicate that, when possible, FARs should attend each of these meetings annually.

Presidential Leadership in Reform

In this issue of FARA Voice, let me focus on one of the key assumptions of the Presidential Task Force, namely, that future reform initiatives should be oriented primarily at the campus level, focused under the active leadership of each president, rather than at the national level, focused through NCAA legislation and enforcement.

Clearly, such an approach has its advantages. It would promote more active engagement of campus presidents in the affairs of the athletics program on their campuses. It would alert campus athletics administrators to the fact that there could be a more regular review of their actions and policies by their president. It could open up more dialogue between the athletics department and the broader campus as a whole. In the area of fiscal reform, so prominently discussed in the PTF Report, the presidents would have a more active role in attempts to cut back on the rapidly rising costs of intercollegiate athletics programs.

There are, however, some difficulties with such an approach. College presidents typically have a very heavy agenda on their plates, and additional time devoted to leadership in athletics reform on their individual campuses would mean less time available for other important matters with which presidents must deal. Many presidents may not have this time to devote to athletics, due to urgent institutional priorities in other areas. Furthermore, the deeper one probes into the details of the decision making process in an athletics department, the more one needs to broaden one's knowledge base about how intercollegiate athletics works, both nationally, and in the context of the particularities of each individual campus's athletics department. Intercollegiate athletics in 2006 is a very complex enterprise, and if one is to make solid decisions, one has to have the necessary knowledge based upon which to anchor such decisions. Such knowledge is not easily or quickly gained. This is compounded by the fairly rapid rate at which college presidents are replaced.

Another difficulty is the assumption that each president has the amount of power necessary to address athletics reform. Such may not always be the case. For example, in the area of fiscal reform, one could argue that more accurate knowledge about the expenditures of institutions comparable to one's own could lead to a heating up, rather than a cooling down, of the fiscal arms race between institutions. Will a president be willing to hold back the rise of expenditures on the president's own campus even as expenditures on other campuses in the same conference or in the same competitive division rise rapidly? To put it differently, will a president be willing to sacrifice the success of her or his own campus's athletics program on the altar of fiscal restraint and integrity? It is not unreasonable to assume that something beyond the ideal of fiscal restraint exercised by each individual campus and president will be necessary to bring the fiscal arms race in intercollegiate athletics under control. Furthermore, the boards on various campuses may not be willing to follow the lead of a president who proposes such tough fiscal decisions. As we all know, the pride of many institutions is heavily invested (especially in the eyes of alumni and supporters) in the success of the institution's athletics program, and many presidents and board members will therefore likely think long and hard before exercising fiscal restraint if others are not also doing so. Governments exist because we cannot always depend on the wise decisions and integrity of our fellow citizens. Similarly, something more encompassing than the best intentions of many institutions acting individually will likely be necessary if there is to be successful fiscal reform in intercollegiate athletics.

I would be interested in your response to what I have said.

Alan J. Hauser