



FARA VOICE

Issue No. 1

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The FARA Executive Committee is launching a new initiative, designed both to provide frequent communication between the Executive Committee and FARA members, and to provide a forum for regular dialogue on matters of interest to FARA members. The name of this new electronic forum will be "FARA Voice," and it will come out monthly. FARA members are invited to respond to items that appear in FARA Voice, or to submit to me new essays discussing particular issues or raising specific matters of concern to FARs. Items and concerns that are specific to one division are certainly welcome. Please contact me at: hauseraj@appstate.edu Many thanks to Karen Cooper for her assistance in preparing this initial issue for distribution.

In this first issue of FARA Voice, Lorrie Clemo, President of FARA, presents a letter to the membership concerning new initiatives the Executive Committee is undertaking, and key issues currently of interest to FARA members. We thank Lorrie for taking the lead in this initial issue.

Special note: Because of the tragedy caused by Hurricane Katrina and the ongoing need of those it affected, the members of the Executive Committee of FARA are gathering a donation among themselves to help the victims of this tragedy. In addition, the Executive Committee encourages all FARA members to share with those in need. Wouldn't it be great if we could raise a sizeable donation to help those who are still suffering as a result of this natural disaster? You may send a check for this cause to Karen Cooper at the NCAA 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 will be tax-deductible.

Thanks for helping these folks, who still are very much in need.

**Alan J. Hauser, Editor,
Division I FARA Vice President**

FARs, Can You Hear Me Now?

"Can you hear me?" "Can you hear me now?" We are all familiar with Verizon's "Can you hear me now?" guy who randomly travels the country 24/7 checking wireless communication to insure quality phone service for its subscribers. What you may be less aware of is FARA's initiative to improve communication and insure quality representation to its membership. That is about to change. Since taking office in January, I have made it my personal mission to improve communication connections between FARs, the NCAA, university and athletic administrators, faculty senates, student-athletes, and the general public. The FARA Executive Committee has enjoined me on this journey and we are now prepared to launch an aggressive campaign to turn up the volume and draw attention to the issues faculty athletics representatives are empowered to speak on.

As an important constituency group within the intercollegiate athletics community, we are committed to becoming a more effective and prominent voice in the intercollegiate athletics arena. To that end, we have adopted several initiatives to move us in this direction. The first step is this email correspondence called

FARA Voice. Here is your opportunity to raise an issue, ask a question, express a concern, share an idea, or hold our feet to the fire! We are hoping this electronic newsletter will provide FARs with a venue that encourages thoughtful discussion of the challenges and issues that we face. It will help us inform you, solicit your opinions, and define FARA positions on emerging matters.

Over the past several years, issues of academic integrity have been the centerpiece of public debate and media attention in intercollegiate athletics environs. Recognizing a need to garner a more prominent position in discussions of these issues, the Executive Committee recently retained the services of a professional management company to design a structure and strategy for offering a collective voice for FARs. It is expected that the company will help us establish a communications plan, provide education for the membership on outreach and promotions practices, and assist FARA with the management of issues of national significance. This initiative will provide the Association with mechanisms for rapid response to critical issues, so our voice will not only be heard, but will be heard most immediately.

FARA has traditionally held semi-annual orientation and professional development programs that have generally been considered useful and informative by attendees. Despite the success in these programs, communication to FARs between meetings has been nearly void. This third initiative will address this problem by instituting a semi-annual association-wide newsletter. Over the next year FARs will receive a newsletter filled with meeting announcements, professional development tips, best practices, advice from colleagues, and in-depth coverage of intercollegiate athletics issues relevant to our membership. There will no longer be a need to wait until November to become a more effective FAR; the learning will soon be seamless.

Finally, it is also our aim to continue to deliver quality professional development opportunities to our membership. This has traditionally been the foundation of our association. As you will see in the next issue of FARA Voice, we have already devoted a significant amount of time and thought to fulfilling this promise in our plans for the upcoming 2006 Fall Forum and the 2007 NCAA Convention programs. Much more to come on this in your next edition of FARA Voice.

Over the next several months as these initiatives take hold, you will hear from me and other members of the Executive Committee in greater mass, and in greater volume. We are firmly committed to renewing our communications relationship with you and other affiliated athletic constituency groups. Our collective voice will grow when we are all connected. So, Can you hear me now?

Lorrie Clemo, President
Faculty Athletics Representatives Association

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

FARA Fall Forum

November 16-18, 2006
Sheraton New Orleans

(Registration forms will be sent to you in May)

NCAA Regional Rules Compliance Seminars

May 14 – 17, 2006
San Diego, California
&

June 4 – 9, 2006
Dallas, Texas

(Please go to www.ncaa.org to register for these seminars)

NCAA Convention

January 5-9, 2007
Orlando, Florida