



FARA VOICE

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It's that time of the year. The seasons are changing, we recently adjusted all our clocks and watches by one hour, and our bodies are trying to catch up. Many fall sports are approaching the end of their season, and excitement is in the air for the beginning of our winter sports. This is always one of my favorite times of the year.

I'm excited about the upcoming FARA meeting in New Orleans in less than two weeks. As you saw in the October issue of FARA Voice, we have a great program, and a number of excellent sessions. Please note that the reports of the Legislative Review Committees in each of our three divisions will be available on the FARA Web site at www.elon.edu/NCAAFARA/FARA, so please go to the Web site to read the report for your division, print a copy, and bring it to our meeting in New Orleans. As part of the legislative review process, we will want to receive your opinion on the various pieces of legislation being considered in your division, so come prepared to make your voice heard.

One correction. The proposed changes in the Bylaws provided to you in the October issue of FARA Voice will be voted on at the meeting in *November* in New Orleans, *not* during the January NCAA meeting in Orlando. Please bring a copy of the Bylaws changes with you to our November meeting in New Orleans, so we can discuss items before a vote is taken. Thanks.

This issue of FARA Voice contains an update by Dennis Leighton on our campaign to raise funds to help the folks in New Orleans. We have not yet hit the \$4,000 mark, so please add your contribution if you have not already done so. You may send this to Karen Cooper at the NCAA office, made out to the NCAA, with a note that this is to go to the FARA hurricane relief fund for New Orleans.

Dennis's update is followed by a letter from Lorrie Clemo, President of FARA. Also attached are my comments introducing some of the issues and recommendations raised in the report of the Presidential Task Force. By now you should have your copy of the report. Please read the entire report carefully, as it raises a number of substantive matters that will be discussed throughout the NCAA in the upcoming year. The December issue of FARA Voice will contain a more detailed discussion of points contained in the report.

I look forward to seeing all of you in New Orleans. Have a safe trip, and remember to bring your copy of the proposed Bylaw amendments and your copy of the legislative review report for your division.

Alan J. Hauser, editor
Division I Vice-President

FARA Donations Project

The FARA New Orleans Donations Project continues to roll along. The total at this time is over \$3,600. With a final push leading up to the Fall Forum, I think we can get over \$4,000! This donation is going to the City Park of New Orleans, and is earmarked for the purchase of much-needed athletics equipment. The City Park was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and continues to make slow progress to return to offering programs to residents of New Orleans. If you have not yet donated, please send a check to: Karen Cooper; NCAA/FARA; P. O. Box 6222; Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.

Dennis Leighton
President-Elect

Countdown to the Fall Forum

In two short weeks we will come together for the FARA Fall Forum in New Orleans; this is truly remarkable. It is remarkable because on August 29th, 2005 it appeared by nearly all accounts that the city of New Orleans had been swept away following five violent hours of wind, rain and rage followed by days of rising floodwaters. Now, our members are counting down the days to return to New Orleans. When you arrive in New Orleans you will see some physical evidence that reminds us of one America's greatest disaster, but you will also be witness to the determination, hope and resolve of residents that permeates the city. While we gather to learn more about our roles and responsibilities as FARs, listen to thought provoking addresses and celebrate the contributions of individuals who have helped move our association to where it is today, I urge you to take time to listen to the heroic and inspirational stories told by the people of New Orleans. You won't have to go far, the stories can be found everywhere. When you do, I am certain that you will find that this Fall Forum is not only remarkable because of the programming that has been developed to help you grow professionally, but also because of the surroundings that may sadden you, anger you, educate you, move you, and hopefully inspire you.

Lorrie Clemo
President

Report of the Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Intercollegiate Athletics

By now each of you in Division I has received your copy of the Presidential Task Force Report. This report contains the observations and recommendations from 18 months of work by the Task Force. There is a great deal of substance contained in the report, and I cannot possibly try to summarize it all, but let me hit a few broad principles, and mention a few of the interesting specifics.

This report emphasizes two key features that the task force argues must be part of any effort to integrate each athletics program into the mission of its college or university: "presidential leadership at the campus level"; and "institutional accountability for the conduct of the enterprise." In the opinion of the Task Force, the NCAA's legislative process will not, by itself, be sufficient to bring about the additional reforms needed in intercollegiate athletics. The report speaks instead of "taking athletics reform home," by which the report means that reform must be primarily initiated on each campus, with strong leadership exerted by each president.

The four sub-sections of the report are: Fiscal Responsibility; Integration of Athletics Into the University Mission; Relationships with Internal and External Constituencies; and Student-Athlete Well-Being. One key premise is that expenditures on athletics, which have been growing at a rapid rate, cannot continue to do so, and fiscal controls, based upon accurate nationwide data about athletics expenditures, will have to be exerted on each campus by each president.

Some specific recommendations include:

- 1). Developing a comprehensive form, with clearly articulated definitions, on which each institution will be required each year to submit to the NCAA fiscal information itemizing revenues and expenditures in the institution's athletics program. A "third party" will be used to "verify the accuracy and completeness of the data."
- 2). Reinstate the "fiscal-integrity review" portion of the NCAA's Athletics Certification Program.
- 3). "Require the [NCAA's] Board of Directors to monitor and conduct a regular analysis of trends in intercollegiate athletics financing."

- 4). Establish a "maximum number of 'special admissions' for athletics" on each campus, either for the athletics program as a whole, or for individual sports.
- 5). Have compliance directors report directly to the institution's president, or to a senior administrator who reports directly to the president.
- 6). Increase the involvement by university presidents, either current or retired, in the NCAA's Certification Program for institutions.
- 7). Hold orientation sessions for new members of each institution's governing board, focusing on the proper role of institutional board members in matters related to intercollegiate athletics.
- 8). "Assess whether student-athletes have appropriate opportunities to receive non-athletics-based financial aid."
- 9). Amend current financial aid legislation to "require a hearing for cancelled or reduced athletics aid."

As you can see, I have selected both broad and specific items from the report of the Presidential Task Force, just to give you a brief sampling of the types of recommendations it contains. No doubt each of us will like some of what we read, and disagree with other items, but in any case you need to read the report carefully, as it is likely to have a significant impact on the future of intercollegiate athletics. If you will send me comments on the report as a whole, or on specific points contained in the report, I will place them in FARA Voice, in order that we can get some dialog going on the numerous items contained in the report. The Executive Committee will also have comments it will present to FARA members after it has had the opportunity to study the report in more detail.

Alan J. Hauser
Division I Vice-President

IMPORTANT DATES

FARA Fall Forum

November 16-18, 2006 - Sheraton New Orleans

NCAA Convention

January 5-9, 2007 - Orlando, Florida

NCAA REGIONAL RULES SEMINARS

May 13-18, 2007 – Denver, Colorado

June 3-8, 2007 – Miami, Florida