



# FARA VOICE

Issue No. 5

September, 2006

I hope each of you is having a good beginning to your fall semester. While each new year always brings its challenges, I trust you have had a good summer and are ready to get into the many new and exciting things that this new year will bring, both in athletics and in your discipline.



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This past month we have found several persons who were not receiving a copy of FARA Voice. Please let us know if you are aware of a FAR who is not receiving FARA Voice, so we can add that person to our list (contact me at [hauseraj@appstate.edu](mailto:hauseraj@appstate.edu)). Also, I will describe below the expanded issue of FARA Voice that will come out in October. We will send this issue both via e-mail, as usual, but also in hard copy via U.S. Mail, hoping to reach those who are not on our e-mail list.

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This month's feature article is by Sandra Slabik, Division III Vice President of FARA. Sandra discusses the importance of each FAR working closely with the students on their campus Student Athlete Advisory Committee (or Student Athlete Advisory Board, as they are called on some campuses). These committees/boards are a vital link, keeping the FAR apprised of issues that are important to student athletes. Thus, the students can be a resource for you, and you can be of assistance to them as they do their important work. Students from the national group often have a significant influence on actions taken by governing bodies in each division, especially as they discuss legislation, and they should be given an equally important voice on each of our campuses. Your being there and working with your local SAAC will help that happen.

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As noted earlier, the October issue of FARA Voice will contain a number of items, including: the agenda for the Fall FARA Forum, to be held in New Orleans November 16-18; a discussion of changes needed in FARA's Bylaws, which will be presented at the November meeting; nomination and election procedures for FARA officers and Executive Committee members; the donations project for New Orleans; introductory information on the FARA guiding principles that we will discuss at the Fall Forum; and student involvement in our Legislative Review Committees. As you can see, this issue of FARA Voice will be packed with information. Also, please register to attend the Fall Forum in New Orleans, as it will be a very productive meeting. Registration materials can be found at: <http://org.elon.edu/ncaafara/FARAFF06.html>



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If you have not already sent in a contribution toward the funds FARA is collecting to help the people of New Orleans, please do so. There is a description of this effort in President Elect Dennis Leighton's article in issue 2 of FARA Voice (which may be viewed at <http://org.elon.edu/ncaafara/fara.html>). As you have no doubt seen on recent news broadcasts, New Orleans still has a need for major assistance as it recovers, and this is our opportunity as an organization to provide a piece of that assistance. You may send a check to Karen Cooper, made out to the NCAA, with "FARA Katrina Relief" written in the memo on your check.

If you have already sent in your contribution, thank you so much. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

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One last item. The report of the NCAA Presidential Task Force on the Future of Division I Intercollegiate Athletics is scheduled to be released to the public on October 30. The task force has done an extensive job of wrestling with substantive issues in intercollegiate athletics, and its report should be of considerable interest to us all.

*Alan J. Hauser, editor*

## Working with Your Campus SAAC

Submitted by Sandra Slabik  
FARA Division III Vice President  
FAR Neumann College

Working with your campus SAAC is both rewarding and time consuming. Its another meeting on your agenda, and sometimes additional activities added to your already busy schedule. On the flip side, it puts you in an environment with students that is very different than the faculty/student relationship, an environment that can be very satisfying and comfortable for you. You are not in charge, they are!

An FAR's involvement in SAAC can range from going to an occasional meeting, to being the advisor for the committee, which involves that extra time commitment. Some FARs will go to one meeting a semester. If this is a good place for you to start, you should arrange with the current SAAC advisor, which may be the SWA or other athletic staff member. Good times to attend a meeting would be at the beginning of each semester to see if there are any issues they might have. Another good time is when they might be discussing proposed legislation, and how it might affect them. This would be somewhere from the middle of the fall semester to the end. Another good suggestion is to meet with the student president, or chair of your SAAC and find out how they think you could assist them and/or become involved. Find out if they have a community service project, maybe you can help them with that, or even bring them ideas. They might even ask you to assist them in some positive communications with faculty in general. You can be a very good resource for them in academic issues.

If you have not attended any meetings, and don't feel ready to take an active role, check with both the advisor for SAAC, and the student leader, and request to attend meetings as an observer and resource person. Once you feel more comfortable, and they are used to you being there, you might want to take a more active role. One thing you will find out is the leadership abilities of the student athletes on SAAC. These qualities are not often apparent in the classroom setting. They may take the initiative to involve you in a more active role. It is good to remember that this is their organization. You are there to assist them, advise them, and be a resource.

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### 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