

From: [Jen Smith](#)
To: [Smith, Jen S.](#)
Subject: Division II FARA Voice - July 2024
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 2:09:47 PM

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The FARA Voice is the newsletter of the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association.
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If you would like to submit an article for the FARA Voice,
please contact Kurt Beron, FAR at the University of Texas at Dallas.
(kberon@utdallas.edu)

[Division II Update](#) **[July 2024](#)**

Association-wide News

(followed by division-specific news)

From the FARA President

Fellow FARs:

Hello, fellow FARs!

I hope you're enjoying the summer and taking this time to relax and recharge for the fall semester!

As many of you know, the second edition of the Mental Health Best Practices: Understanding and Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health becomes effective August 1st. Although we all take on different roles on our campuses, it is important to be aware of these updates so that we can collaborate with campus resources and provide a holistic environment for our student-athletes.

Please review the [updated version and excellent resources](#).

Before we know it, it will be time for our FARA Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas! If you haven't done so, please mark your calendars for November 14-16, 2024 (plan on arriving November 13 if possible)! More details and registration will be released and emailed soon, though feel free to check <https://www.ncaafara.org/> for up to the minute updates.

The FARA Executive Committee met in April for their Spring Retreat and developed amazing programming including divisional breakouts and association-wide sessions. We hope to see you in Dallas!

JoAnne Bullard
FAR President
Rowan University

DIVISION II NEWS

Matt Wilson, FARA Division II Vice President, Wilmington University (DE)

This year's annual meeting will be November 14-16, 2024 in Dallas, Texas. Registration will open soon, and we are looking forward to gathering together again. While items can change, I wanted to share the current sessions that are being planned for the Division II breakouts:

Planting Seeds: Cultivating D2 Connections & Knowledge

Building on the association wide opening session, this session will delve deeper into the diverse roles FARs play and the unique opportunities within Division II to foster a thriving environment for student-athletes.

Navigating the New Landscape: A Division II Perspective on Sports Gambling and Transfer Policies

This session is a follow-up on the association wide sessions with a specific focus on the impact of these hot topics on Division II. Attendees will gain a better understanding of these developments and their potential impacts on student-athletes, athletic programs, and institutional integrity.

Exploring the Impact of Self-Promotion and Social Media on Sleep and Mental Health among Student-Athletes

Faculty Athletic representatives (FARs) have a role to play with student-athletes' wellbeing. Student-athletes' activities off the playing field can affect their overall wellbeing. In this session you will learn about the impact on student-athletes' mental health and sleep due to social media use and self-promotion while also exploring additional activities that can affect student-athletes' wellbeing, thus, also affecting their mental health. We will take a hands-on approach in discussing the role of the FAR in regard to their role in student-athlete wellbeing.

Honoring Academic Excellence with Student-Athletes

This session aims to discuss the different ways FARs can honor their remarkable achievements and contributions of Student Athletes on their campus. How do you honor the hard work, dedication, and triumphs of individuals and teams who have excelled in their respective sports?

Synergizing Success: The Collaborative Role of the FAR

This session explores the multifaceted role of FARs and how they can effectively collaborate with athletic administration, institutional leadership, and student-athlete leadership. Through an expert panel and interactive discussions, attendees will discover strategies for fostering productive partnerships that enhance the student-athlete experience and promote the overall well-being and success of the institution's programming.

Empowering Voices: The FAR's Role in Supporting SAAC

This session delves into the role FARs can play in nurturing and supporting their institution's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Members of the National Division II SAAC will discuss points that will foster stronger relationships, enhance impact, and provide resources to better equip you and your student-athletes, including the newly created "SAAC Campus Guide".

Legislative Landscape: Proposals for the NCAA 2025 Convention

A session designed to provide an overview of the key legislative proposals set to be discussed at the upcoming NCAA 2025 Convention. This will include insight from the FARA D2 “Divisional Legislative Review” committee and perspective of the national SAAC representatives.

Bridging the Gap: Engaging Faculty to Enhance Student-Athlete Support

This session focuses on the pivotal role of FARs in fostering stronger relationships between faculty and student-athletes. Attendees will learn effective strategies for engaging faculty to create a supportive academic environment that promotes the holistic development and success of student-athletes.

MythBusters: NCAA Division II Athletics Edition

Wondering about some of the myths surrounding NCAA Division II athletics? This session is an outgrowth of research efforts to combat common misconceptions about the NCAA and intercollegiate athletics. Information will be presented in a light and engaging manner with considerable audience interaction.

Harvesting Insights: A Garden of Ideas

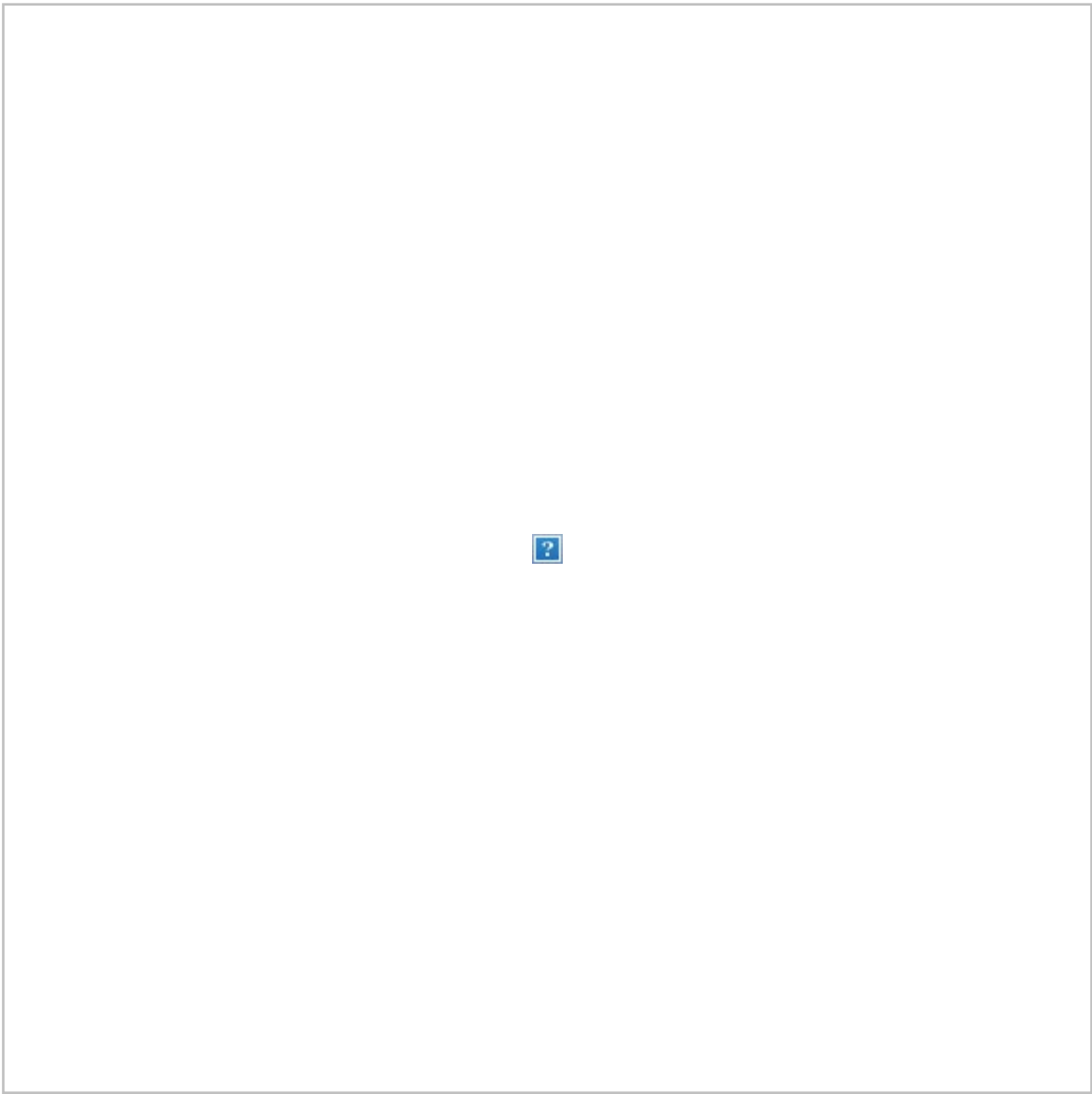
As we conclude our annual meeting, this session offers a reflective and empowering wrap-up for Division II FARs. This final session is dedicated to synthesizing the knowledge and experiences gained, sharing takeaways, and identifying action items for follow-up after the annual meeting.

We hope that we are offering a wide variety of topics that will meet the needs of your institution. Each session will provide an opportunity to learn and collaborate with your fellow FARs. Finally, during our time together, we will have a special time to recognize FARs and student-athletes for their tremendous accomplishments.

As we move into the closing of the summer months, I hope this preview of the annual meeting will assist with your preparing for the coming academic year. If there is anything I can do for any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me at matthew.j.wilson@wilmu.edu.

FARA is the Faculty Athletics Representatives Association, the professional association for faculty athletics representatives (FARs) in all three NCAA divisions.

This email was sent to NCAA Division II faculty athletics representatives, based on contact information in the [NCAA Directory](#).



National Collegiate Athletic Association, 700 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204 US

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