

Enhancing the Role of Faculty Athletics Representatives in Division II
A Proposal to Continue the Division II Leadership Institute Program

Background.

Over the past several years, the concept of a Division II FAR Leadership Institute went from an idea to reality as the first class of Division II FARs Fellows attended the inaugural event October 7-9, 2005. Lynne Kaplan and Diane Husic have worked together to develop and conduct a number of surveys of Division II FARs, CEOs and conference commissioners in order to identify areas of opportunity, which were used to develop the program content. FARs who have been active in FARA and/or the NCAA governance structure served as steering committee members and developed case studies to use for the program, as well. The main objectives of the pilot event are listed below.

FAR Fellows will:

- Develop an enhanced understanding of the roles and critical functions of Division II faculty athletics representatives (FAR);
- Further develop leadership skills to better perform these functions;
- Network with other Division II FARs;
- Construct an action plan to take back to their campuses and conferences; and
- Upon returning to their institutions, initiate conversations with campus constituents to support the role of the FAR as an integral element of the Model Athletics Program.

By all accounts, these objectives were not only met, but the success of the program exceeded our expectations. Evaluations completed by the 22 "FAR Fellows" and six steering committee members were unanimous in their support for the event and indicated that the program was very valuable and worth their time. The majority of Division II conferences were represented. We had the added benefit of a breakfast/round-table session with the conference commissioners, an event that was identified as a highlight of the weekend.

Specific tangible products of the Institute included a draft mission statement for Division II FARs, a diagram showing the various linkages between FARs and campus constituencies, several draft position statements and the formation of a task group that is in charge of developing a FAR "Best Practices" repository for Division II.

In debriefing the event, NCAA staff members and the program developers and facilitators thought that this, indeed, was a worthwhile event that should be continued. At this point, other than updating specific case studies and a few other activities, we don't think that there should be major changes to the format of the event or the program content.

Proposal.

The original grant from Division II was for two years at \$50,000 per year. Moving forward, we are planning to hold the second Institute October 14-16, 2006. Ideally, each Division II conference will nominate a FAR. In addition, we would include a FAR from an independent institution. We would like to constitute a new steering committee with some members from year one, Division II leadership from FARA and some of the inaugural FAR Fellows who are on the Best Practices Task Group. The Model Athletics Program and Model Conference Document will be key themes again for year two.

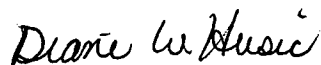
We are requesting another two-year commitment at \$50,000 per year to support this event, which would include travel, program materials, on-site housing and food for the selected FAR Fellows; consulting fees and travel funds for Lynne Kaplan to review and revise the program and serve as the main facilitator for the Leadership Institute; and a yearly stipend and travel funds for Diane Husic, who will again serve as project coordinator and co-facilitator.

As with the first group of Fellows, individuals selected to attend the Leadership Institute will be expected to:

- Attend the Institute;
- Develop a follow-up activity for the next year;
- Keep in communication with one of the FAR discussion leaders (the steering committee members) who will serve as a mentor following the Institute;
- Report on the results of the leadership training and project at conference meetings, FARA Fall Forums and, perhaps, the NCAA Convention;
- Participate in a growing network of Division II FAR Fellows who help to enhance the position at other institutions, especially within their own conference; and
- Help contribute to a growing database of resource materials for other FARs to use (position descriptions, sample policy and procedural documents, case studies, etc.).

We are very thankful for the support and funding that enabled the development of this exciting and unique Division II program and hope that support will continue for a second two-year period. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 610-625-7100 [or via email: dhusic@moravian.edu].

Respectfully submitted,



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