New to the FAR role?

Questions to help you understand your role and responsibilities

Here are questions you may want to ask of your president or director of athletics to better understand your role and responsibilities as a faculty athletics representative. To support this conversation, we have included key findings from the 2025 FAR Study.

Background: The Faculty Athletics Representatives Association Executive Board collaborated with NCAA Research to gather feedback from FARs to gain a better understanding of their perspective on a wide range of issues. The intent was to use survey data to inform FARA and the NCAA membership more broadly about the FAR experience and aid in decision-making and guidance for entities engaged in supporting FARs. All FARs in the membership were invited to complete the online survey via a Salesforce email invitation and 517 complete responses were received (about 50% of all FARs).

As a result of the survey, we learned that ***over half of all NCAA FARs are new to their roles since 2020***. A majority (79%) of FARs are tenure-track faculty, and 52% hold the rank of full professor. While 29% of Division I FARs are associate professors, that's true for over a third of FARs in Division II and Division III (39% and 35% respectively).

- ✓ **What is the reporting structure for this role?**
  Across divisions, 75% of NCAA FARs report to the president/chancellor in their FAR capacity. However, in Division III less than half of FARs report to the president, while 30% report to the director of athletics.

- ✓ **What is the term length of the FAR appointment here?**
  Sixty-eight percent of FARs report that their term is not fixed, while the second most common response was a three-year term (15% overall, 20% in Division I, 10% in Division II and 13% in Division III). However, over 85% of FARs reported that their campus did not have a limit on the number of terms one can serve, indicating opportunities for reappointment.

- ✓ **Is there a job description I can review?**
  If your president or AD says yes to this question, know that you're in the minority; *69% of FARs across the membership indicate that there is **not** a written description for the role on their campus.* FARs with job descriptions also note that while it's accurate in terms of work expectations in the academic space (90% endorsed accurate or extremely accurate), where it often needs revision is in terms of compliance and rules interpretation (61% endorsed accurate or extremely accurate in this category).

- ✓ **What will the commitment entail?**
  The anticipated weekly time commitment for FARs varies widely both across and within divisions. On average FARs report spending the largest proportion of their time on

academically related issues (47%), and the least on compliance and rules interpretation activities (13%).

Hours per week	Division I	Division II	Division III
1 to 5 hours	26%	38%	69%
6 to 10 hours	42%	44%	24%
More than 10 hours	32%	18%	8%

Over 60% of FARs reported that their role included each of the following activities:

- Confer on academic/athletics matters with campus administrators, faculty, students and/or alumni.
- Inform the athletics department of faculty concerns.
- Inform the faculty of developments in athletics.
- Certify academic eligibility of student-athletes.
- Assist student-athletes encountering difficulties with class scheduling.
- Become informed/involved in discussions of mental health issues impacting student-athetes.
- Serve on athletics department hiring committees.

✓ Is there compensation for this role?

In recognition of their FAR duties:

- Two-thirds of FARs report receiving recognition that the FAR role fulfills service expectations (highest in Division III, at 75%).
- About half indicate receiving additional monetary compensation (highest in Division II, at 67%).
- One-third report receiving course release(s) in exchange for performing their FAR duties (highest in Division I, at 48%).

✓ What national or conference resources are available to support me in this role?

About 80% of Division I and Division II FARs meet regularly with other FARs in their conference (46% for Division III). And two-thirds of FARs agree that the structure of their conference enables FARs to be effective representatives of student-athletes' interests (80% in Division II, 68% in Division I, and 56% in Division III). What FAR opportunities are available in your athletics conference, and how can you get connected?

✓ Connect with FARA

At the national level, consider engaging with FARA, the Faculty Athletics Representative Association. Whether it's through the monthly newsletter (*FARA Voice*), attending the FARA meeting, or engaging in FAR programming at the NCAA Convention, there are opportunities to connect and further your development. FARs credit FARA with providing information and support (78%), providing opportunities to connect with other FARs (67%), defining the FAR position (66%) and providing assistance in understanding NCAA legislative issues (55%).