



# NEW LEADERSHIP

*These individuals were elected to serve the Association beginning in 2023*

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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## FCS ADA



@FCS\_ADA



**Brad Teague**  
University of  
Central Arkansas  
Athletics Director

### Challenges Facing FCS Athletics Directors

Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) athletics directors are facing a multitude of challenges. These include budgets, the need for facilities, recruiting, and the new national landscape. These challenges have caused FCS athletics directors to become increasingly creative in finding ways to generate revenue to continue providing their student-athletes with a great experience and great care.

One of the most significant challenges facing FCS athletics directors is the pressure to balance their budgets. Expenses are increasing for many reasons. Whether it is inflation hitting travel costs, or new NCAA rules requiring outlays, the increases are significant. FCS athletics directors must often find creative ways to boost their revenue and supplement their budgets, without compromising the quality of their program or

the experience of their student-athletes. They also have to be very mindful of the cost to the institution.

The recommended requirements for the division by the Transformation Committee are important for our student-athletes and our campuses. Many of these recommendations are already being completed on a number of FCS campuses, so the additional costs are not overwhelming for some. However, there are requirements that will drive the costs up. These costs have to be funded by external sources and if not, then internal sources. This is certainly concerning for our ADs and their campuses.

Another challenge for FCS athletics directors is the increased competition for student-athletes. FCS programs compete with FBS programs for the best recruits, which is forcing FCS athletics directors to try to remain competitive. This competition has caused FCS athletics directors to become more creative in assisting with recruiting efforts, as well as in the marketing of their programs. It is difficult to compete with significant NIL deals, cost of attendance, and Alston awards, not only for incoming prospects but retaining the current roster. Then throw in the Transfer Portal making the ease to leave for various reasons readily available. The game has certainly changed.

Facilities play an integral role in collegiate athletics. It is the duty of FCS athletics directors to provide the proper facilities to their teams, but this is no easy task. This means that FCS athletics directors have to be creative and resourceful with their limited budgets when creating or improving facilities. Most of our facilities are completed with private funds. This is complicated since the majority of the funding must be in place prior to starting construction. This takes time. Then add the time for construction, especially when forced to use the low bid, and facility projects are lengthy. Facilities are so important in obtaining and retaining top recruits. That's why timing is critical. It's great to talk about what's coming, but it needs to be completed quickly and well.

FCS athletics directors face a variety of challenges in this new era. FCS athletics directors must be creative in finding ways to generate revenue while still providing their student-athletes with a quality experience. There are opportunities, but we must be innovative. I know we are up to the task!