

Molloy's Bogner will help find new NCAA chief

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That [Molloy College](#) president Drew Bogner will have a hand in the NCAA's search for a new president could be considered part of the late [Myles Brand](#)'s legacy, an inclusiveness that doesn't leave smaller athletic operations out of the discussion with the quasi-professionals in Division I.

Bogner's Rockville Centre school (enrollment: 4,020) exists in Division II and fields 16 teams (seven men's, nine women's). "We put together a financial model with a reasonable amount of scholarship money, and those athletes actually bring in tuition money," Bogner said of the D-II approach - a different universe from the NCAA's big-entertainment, big-money competition at the top that has veered so far from rough-and-tumble toward cutthroat business that a recent watchdog report declared D-I college sports to be financially "indefensible and unsustainable."

"With Myles Brand as president," Bogner said, "we did get attention in Division II. Actually, Miles used Division II often as an example for promoting [academic/athletic] balance. Myles said the NCAA is a higher-education association and shouldn't be viewed as an athletic association. That's an important re-emphasis.

"And, personally, I think it should be retained."

As the incoming chair of the presidents council for Division II schools, Bogner, 52, will sit on the six-president panel, chaired by [Oregon State's Ed Ray](#), to oversee the search for a successor to Brand, who died in September of pancreatic cancer at 67 after six years as NCAA chief.

The other search-committee members - none of them a candidate to replace Brand - are from [Nebraska](#) (Division I), Hampton (I for basketball, I-AA for football), Widener (III) and Weber State (I). The panel will identify, and work with, a search firm to name a new president before the 2010-11 academic year. Ray has said that the process will remain confidential, though there already are rumors that University of [Georgia](#) president Michael Adam's name is expected to be in the mix.

"The NCAA is somewhat unique," Bogner said during an interview in his office last week, "because it's an association as opposed to a corporate entity. It's a multiple-constituency organization, and all constituencies have some right or some say. It's like a college, where you have the board, the faculty, students, administration, donors."

There will be a "sharing of priorities," Bogner said, when he begins canvassing other Division II representatives at the NCAA's January convention in [Indianapolis](#). "We want a broad-based conversation of what issues this person should give attention to."

But, he said, "the basic job description already exists." And the Brand brand was dramatically formed in the public consciousness two years before he took the NCAA job: As [Indiana University](#) president, Brand fired basketball coach [Bobby Knight](#), taking a rare stand against Knight's chronic bullying despite Knight's reputation as a winner.

"Myles was a seriously important figure in the NCAA, coming in as a former university president and calling on presidents to be more involved [in athletic programs]," Bogner said. "He was a philosophy professor. And that's how he worked."

"He asked the fundamental questions. What is the role of college presidents in athletics? He looked at the coaches and athletic directors; are we really inclusive? To me, in Division II, there are these philosophical, fundamental questions about striking the right balance for students, and to have the right balance economically. How do we do this in a way that makes sense? And most of the answers are not simple."

"So it's an interesting time in the NCAA, and there are some big shoes to fill."