

Former UO president named NCAA head

Sarah Meinecke

Indiana Daily Student (Indiana U.)

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (U-WIRE) — The man who fired Bob Knight and advocated academics over athletics is set to run the nation's college sports machine.

Thursday in a surprising announcement, the NCAA unanimously named Indiana University President Myles Brand its president-elect. His five-year contract begins on the first day of the new year. Brand's new position will force him to resign IU's top job.

Brand's acceptance of this position leaves a void in IU's highest leadership position, and he said the process happened quickly. The new NCAA president barely had time to personally inform the IU board of trustees before announcing his resignation.

"Well, at first it was a very difficult decision, and when I finish in December, it will be with great regret," Brand said late Thursday night from Indianapolis. "I enjoyed working with the faculty, the administrative staff and the students at IU. This is an opportunity to have an impact on a national level. It's an opportunity I could not pass by."

One of three finalists interviewed early Thursday afternoon, Brand

was unanimously voted to the position by early evening.

He becomes the fourth president in the history of the association, and follows Cedric Dempsey into office. Dempsey announced his retirement from the position, where he spent eight years. The NCAA Executive Committee started its seven-month search for a new president soon after Dempsey's announcement that he would leave.

Brand was the University of Oregon's 14th president, immediately preceding University President Dave Frohnmayer. His tenure was marked by significant reductions in higher education funding after the passage of the property-tax-limiting Measure 5 in 1990. Brand had to make what he called at the time "incredibly tough" decisions about which University programs to cut. He also responded to Measure 5 by instituting The Oregon Campaign, an aggres-



Brand

sive private-gift fundraising campaign that raised more than \$255 million when it ended in 1998.

The NCAA Executive Committee accepted 118 nominations for possible candidates for its top job, before narrowing the field to 11 finalists in September.

The group cut the finalists to three, and the subsequent announcement of an appointee took only a short time.

"My understanding is that has developed fairly recently," IU spokesman Bill Stephan said. "He was contacted by the NCAA officials whether he might be interested. This was an extraordinary opportunity on a national scale. He will take on the responsibility that will go along with the job."

This announcement came as a surprise to many at IU as well. Because of the nomination and voting process that the NCAA follows, the screening process is kept under wraps.

In this case, the time period between an offer and an acceptance was short.

"From the beginning it was an important consideration to not at all speak about the candidates," IU Athletics Director Michael McNeely said. "I'm not surprised, because it is a very

prestigious role. It provides great opportunity and great challenges."

Brand, 60, has been IU's president since 1994, but arguably will be best remembered for imposing a "zero tolerance" policy on former men's basketball coach Bob Knight. Brand later fired Knight for breaking the agreement.

During his tenure as president, IU private donations led all public universities, and Time magazine named IU "College of the Year" among research universities in September 2001. Brand also helped unify the IU Medical Center Hospital and Riley Hospital for Children with Methodist Hospital to form Clarian Health.

IU also enjoyed record enrollment numbers under Brand.

"I personally can attest through the things that the rest of student body doesn't see," said IUSA President Bill Gray. "This man has done everything in his power to better IU and help its students in any way."

Brand also made headlines recently for his February 2001 NCAA News article, "Presidents Have Cause, Means to Reduce Arms," where he likened the continually increasing spending on college athletics programs to an military "arms race" and

suggested that the spending was harming academic progress at colleges nationwide.

"The path that we are now following leads to an ever-widening gap between the academic and athletics cultures on our college campuses," Brand wrote. "Over time, it could well lead to college programs that differ little from professional ones. It already has led to a growing sense among members of the public — and even members of the university community — that athletics success is the main goal of too many institutions of higher learning."

"We must get off that path. We must make certain that academic concerns are first and foremost. To do that, we don't have to turn off the game. We just have to turn down the volume."

One result of Brand's article was a resolution circulated by some university faculties, urging college presidents to slow the "arms race." Such a resolution was passed by the University of Oregon Senate on May 9, 2001. The minutes of the meeting and a copy of the resolution are available at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~uosenate/disen001/09May01minutes.html>.

Emerald editor in chief Michael J. Kleckner contributed to this report.

Gay pride symbols defaced at Southern Illinois campus

Arin Thompson

Daily Egyptian (Southern Illinois U.)

CARBONDALE, Ill. (U-WIRE) — Sometime Wednesday evening the Saluki Pride Rocks at Southern Illinois University were defaced, and it remains unclear who is responsible.

The Saluki Rainbow Network painted the rocks last week in celebration of National Coming Out Week. The rocks were painted Tuesday in colorful rainbows, and Thursday morning they were defaced with one big, white word — "FAG."

Jason Vaughan, treasurer for SRN, said this is the first incident of this nature to take place on the SIUC campus that he knows of.

"It makes me wish that people could participate on a campus,"

Vaughan said. "It happened in a campus community that values tolerance and a multiplicity of ideas, and that's why it makes me sad."

Mike Gary, co-director of SRN, said he is trying to look at it like a practical joke but said it may affect people considering coming out.

"If people are trying to come out or thinking about coming out, this might frighten them," Gary said.

Gary also said that in his two and a half years with SRN, this is the first time something this blatant has happened.

The SIUC Police could not be reached after repeated phone calls.

Although board members of SRN value the idea of freedom of speech, in a meeting Wednesday afternoon,

they came to the conclusion that this is a hate crime.

Accompanying the word "FAG" were three other letters — "ATO."

Alpha Tau Omega President Shawn Drone said he really doesn't know what's going on and that he is trying everything he can to figure this out.

"I don't think it was any of our guys that would do this," Drone said. "It's dumb to do this, but it's even dumber to put your name on it."

The possibility of fraternity rivalry has popped into Drones' mind, but he said that it's common and doesn't want to make any official statement in that direction.

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