

1-28-2008 DIII VP Dan Dutcher

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2 JOSH CENTOR: Welcome to a very special addition of  
3 "Mondays With Myles".

4 Today joining Dr. Brand and I is Dan Dutcher, the vice  
5 president for Division III.

6 Now, Dan, we got back from convention a couple of  
7 weeks ago. And there was some significant discussion about  
8 the membership issues facing Division III. So I wanted to get  
9 all of us together here to talk about those issues.

10 Coming out of convention, what are we thinking?  
11 What's going on?

12 MR. DAN DUTCHER: Well, Josh, I think it is important  
13 to note that there are significant issues regarding growth in  
14 Division III, in the diversity of the Division III membership.  
15 While we've had a working group studying this issue for about  
16 a year now, for a large portion of our Division III  
17 membership, the convention was really the first opportunity  
18 they had to review this issue in any kind of formal setting.

19 As you can imagine, it is a complicated issue. It can  
20 be a bit emotional. It's a challenging issue for the  
21 division, and the convention discussion sessions really  
22 generated a lot of important feedback.

23 DR. MYLES BRAND: You know, I want to pick up on one  
24 point you said, Dan, namely that this was the first  
25 opportunity the group really had to dig down and discuss it.

1           I know you and your staff have been putting together a  
2 lot of information, some of which they saw for the first time  
3 at that convention. It is such a complicated and important  
4 set of issues, that we have to take our time and discuss it in  
5 detail and not jump to conclusions.

6           MR. DAN DUTCHER: I think that, Dr. Brand, that is a  
7 very important point. We would want to really emphasize the  
8 fact that although the Division III Working Group presented a  
9 model at the convention through which membership growth and  
10 diversity could be addressed, that model is far from a done  
11 deal. We are going to take the feedback that we received at  
12 the convention. We are going to follow up with an in-depth  
13 survey of the Division III membership in February. And then  
14 we'll take all of that information and chart our future course  
15 of action.

16           JOSH CENTOR: Dr. Brand, Dan said it was an emotional  
17 issue. And I know you had some interaction with chancellors,  
18 presidents, athletic directors from Division III. What was  
19 your sense of how people were responding to their initial  
20 exposure?

21           DR. MYLES BRAND: I'm not sure I would agree it was  
22 emotional. I would say they were deeply engaged, which was  
23 very positive. Now, did they feel strongly? Yes, they did.  
24 But when I met with the presidents, over a hundred presidents  
25 and chancellors from Division III institutions, I know we had

1 a very productive conversation and a very candid conversation.  
2 I thought, in the follow-up conversations and meetings I had  
3 with individuals, I thought we went pretty far in trying to  
4 articulate what the issues are. Do we have a solution? Do  
5 they have a solution? I should say. No, not yet, because I  
6 don't think the problem is well enough defined at this point.

7 JOSH CENTOR: Dan, you had mentioned -- and one of the  
8 things here, is Division III is quite large. It's by far the  
9 largest of the three divisions. And that's one of the things  
10 driving this membership discussion. Why does it matter that  
11 Division III is so large? Why is that a concern? Isn't  
12 everything okay at this point?

13 MR. DAN DUTCHER: Well, Josh, I think it is always  
14 important for an organization to plan for the future. Many  
15 folks would suggest that they are very comfortable with the  
16 current state of affairs in Division III. And I believe they  
17 would say that for good reason. But as we plan for the  
18 future, growth will begin to impact things like access to  
19 national office programs and services, in particular access to  
20 championships.

21 These are programs and services that the membership  
22 holds in very high regard, and it's important to understand  
23 how growth may affect access to the programs and services in  
24 the future.

25 DR. MYLES BRAND: There is another issue there, which

1 not everyone agrees is a serious issue, and some think that it  
2 is serious, but others think it's very serious. And that is  
3 whether there is a difference in opinion about how broad-based  
4 versus how focused the division should be; how it reacts to  
5 various reforms that have taken place in the last few years,  
6 such as redshirting, nontraditional season, and so on.

7           And there is enough difference of opinion that there  
8 may be a reason for a number of institutions to want to  
9 affiliate together and move more in that direction. And  
10 another group may look for a more broad-based approach and  
11 move in a different direction. So that's still on the table.

12           No one quite understands where the dividing lines on  
13 that is, and we are starting to get clear about it.

14           I think we have, you know, another 6 to 12 months of  
15 conversation before we can get to a point where some potential  
16 decisions are made.

17           Dan, your group is putting together a survey. I think  
18 that is the major next step; is that right?

19           MR. DAN DUTCHER: That's correct, Myles. We will be  
20 surveying all of our Division III membership in February.  
21 We'll be sending one survey to each member institution, asking  
22 the president ultimately to complete the survey, but  
23 encouraging him or her to consult with all key constituents on  
24 campus to be sure that the survey results represent a true  
25 institution-wide perspective.

1 DR. MYLES BRAND: Yeah. My sense is that after you  
2 get that survey and compile all the data, you should have a  
3 pretty good idea of what the membership wants. And if there  
4 is a very significant group, say, 150 to 200 institutions that  
5 want to move in a different direction, that's one thing. If  
6 it is just a few institutions that want to move in another  
7 direction, that's wholly different. But you'll get that data  
8 as a result of the survey.

9 MR. DAN DUTCHER: I agree, Dr. Brand. And really,  
10 ultimately, I think the question here is as we plan for the  
11 future, does the membership believe that the current structure  
12 will be sufficient to address the Division III of the future?  
13 Or might we be best served by exploring other structural  
14 options to best position us for the membership as it might  
15 exist 10, 15 years from now?

16 DR. MYLES BRAND: And finally, let me add, Josh, that  
17 the NCAA's national office's role here is to provide good  
18 solid information and data for the members to make their  
19 decisions. We are the basis on which the decisions are made.  
20 It is the members themselves in Division III who are going to  
21 determine what ultimately happens.

22 JOSH CENTOR: That is an excellent point, you know,  
23 for those of you scoring at home. The national office,  
24 Dr. Brand, Dan Dutcher -- we don't make the decisions here.  
25 Dr. Brand is right on. It is the Division III members.

1           And I wanted to follow up with both of you on the time  
2 line here -- something important coming on at the 2009  
3 convention. Is that still set in stone? How are we dealing  
4 with the time line here on membership issues?

5           DR. MYLES BRAND: I think that's a good time line. It  
6 is not yet carved in Indiana limestone, but it is a good time  
7 line. You know, we don't want to take forever. It is a hard  
8 decision. But I think with this survey information and the  
9 data that is being collected by the national office staff, I  
10 think the members will have enough time to really reflect on  
11 it. If they are not ready to make a decision then, we could  
12 always extend it. But I think that's a reasonable time line.

13           MR. DAN DUTCHER: And I think, Josh, you know, the  
14 point to know, whenever the membership votes, we would still  
15 include a delayed effective date, so that once a vote takes  
16 place, we will still include a reasonable amount of time, for  
17 example, two years, during which additional details could be  
18 resolved before we would actually implement any new kind of  
19 structural change.

20           JOSH CENTOR: All right. Well, thank you both very  
21 much for joining me today to talk about these important  
22 issues. I suspect this is something we will revisit later on  
23 down the road.

24           DR. MYLES BRAND: We certainly will. And maybe once  
25 we have the data from the survey, that might be a good time to

1 talk about it again.

2 JOSH CENTOR: Absolutely. Thank you both.

3 MR. DAN DUTCHER: Thank you.

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