Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 20, 2023

**03**

Board Meeting

July 20, 2023

APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ATHLETIC BOARD, URBANA

**Action:** Appoint Members to the Athletic Board

**Funding:** No funding required

On recommendation of the chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System, Professor Randall Green (College of Law), Professor Linda Moorhouse (College of Fine and Applied Arts), Mr. Kim Larson (alumnus), Ms. Sarah Benevento (student), Mr. Nick Erickson (student), and Ms. Adalia McKenzie (student-athlete) are being proposed for appointment to the Athletic Board of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The Athletic Board is a committee of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate and serves in an advisory capacity related to the academic, administrative, educational, and other aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program at the Urbana-Champaign university.

The board consists of nineteen members: two faculty representatives to the Big Ten; seven other faculty members; four alumni of the Urbana-Champaign campus; three students; and three *ex officio* members without a vote: a designee of the chancellor, the University comptroller or designee, and the athletic director. A slate of faculty nominees is provided to the chancellor by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate. The slate of student nominees is provided to the chancellor by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate and the Student-Athlete Advisory Board to fill one student position each. The slate of alumni is provided by a subcommittee of the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The chancellor reviews the lists of nominees and forwards recommendations to the president of the University of Illinois System for action by the Board of Trustees.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The president of the University of Illinois System recommends concurs.

**Randall Green** (adjunct professor, LAW)

Mr. Green is a former Division III student athlete. He is an attorney by trade and an adjunct professor in the College of Law on topics of negotiations. He currently serves as the faculty-coach for the college's NFL and NBA contract negotiation teams. He advises a minority-owned sports equipment and apparel company founded by a former teammate and has been involved in negotiating and preparing professional athlete endorsement contracts. He is also very interested in the evolution of NIL in amateur athletics.

**Linda Moorhouse** (professor, FAA)

As a multi-year chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy, Dr. Moorhouse has a good understanding of our educational mission and the academic goals and objectives faculty lay out for our students through the hundreds of new and revised curricula she has seen over the past six years. She plans to work with members of the provost's office, registrar's office, and other entities across campus, which all work together for the success of our students.

**Kim Larson** (alumnus, MBA ’99)

Mr. Larson is senior vice president, Wealth Management Director at Heartland Bank and Trust Company. In this capacity, he leads the Asset Management and Trust, Agricultural Services and HBT Investment Service divisions that work with clients through the markets served by Heartland Band and beyond. In addition to his MBA from Illinois, he holds a BS in business administration (finance) from San Francisco State University, and diploma from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has served on the board of directors of the United Way of McLean County since 2013 and is a finance committee member and immediate past treasurer of the Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary Club. Kim is a native of Belvidere, Illinois.

**Sarah Benevento** (student, LAS)

Ms. Benevento has first-hand experience with collegiate athletics as a former Division I student-athlete. She comes from a disadvantaged background, and athletics was a "ticket" that provided her with an abundance of opportunity. However, she wishes there were more efforts to support athletes in professional and personal development outside of sport, one of the University's academic objectives. Student-athletes are under immense pressures to uphold their identity as an athlete, making it difficult to utilize community resources they may need (e.g., welfare, assistance programs, etc.) and address issues of discrimination and equity. As a former athlete and doctoral student in communication, Ms. Benevento is well-positioned to connect with current athletes, understand their experiences, and accurately convey their experiences and needs to the committee.

**Nick Erickson** (student, ACES)

Mr. Erickson’s knowledge from the student-athlete perspective as well as the student employee perspective will give new insight to the athletic board. He was a student athlete at Jacksonville University (2020-21), served on the student-athlete advising committee (2020-21), and is a practice player/manager for the Illinois Women’s Basketball (2022-date). He is also a unique candidate because of his experience in both Men’s and Women’s Basketball. Additionally, he is a financial planning major in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, who understands the financial impact of sports not only for the university as a whole, but now the NIL perspective for all student athletes. He understands the day-to-day challenges student athletes face taking classes, having homework, but also having hours of practice, workouts, and contests weekly.

[**Adalia McKenzie**](https://fightingillini.com/sports/womens-basketball/roster/adalia-mckenzie/13002)(student athlete, women’s basketball)

Ms. McKenzie will be a junior in the 2023-2024 school year. She is very accomplished athletically and has been her team representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Athletically, she started every game on the women’s basketball team this past year as a sophomore and was named honorable mention All-Big Ten for 2022-2023 season. She is excelling as a student in Recreation, Sport and Tourism, in addition to being a 2023 Distinguished Scholar Award Nominee, 2023 Winter Academic All-Big Ten Nominee, and College Sports Communicators Academic All-District.