Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 21, 2022

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Board Meeting

July 21, 2022

# APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ATHLETIC BOARD, URBANA

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

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

On recommendation of the Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Vice President, University of Illinois System, Professor Jon Hale (Education Policy, Organization and Leadership), Professor Christopher Kempf (English), Professor Eric Larson (Business Administration), Ms. Janice Kimpel (alumna), Mr. Leonardo Jimenez (student), Ms. Katherine Tichy (student), and Mr. Caleb Griffin (student) are being proposed for appointment to the Athletic Board of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. (Biographical sketches for the nominees are attached.)

The Athletic Board is a committee concerned with intercollegiate athletics at the Urbana-Champaign campus. In its oversight of the academic and educational aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program, it is a committee of the Urbana-Champaign Senate. The board also serves as an advisory committee to the Chancellor and the Athletic Director on the financial management, personnel, and other operational aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program.

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 Urbana-Champaign Senate. The slate of student nominees is provided to the Chancellor by the Urbana-Champaign Senate, the Illinois Student Senate, and the Student Athletic Advisory Board to fill one student position each. The slate of alumni is provided by the Urbana Campus Alumni Advisory Board. The Chancellor reviews the lists of nominees and forwards recommendations to the President of the University 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 System concurs.

**Jon Hale** – Associate Professor, College of Education, Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership

Dr. Jon Hale is an associate professor of education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His interest on serving on the board comes from a place of service and advocacy. Moving back to teach at Illinois in 2020 after defending his dissertation from UIUC in 2009, Dr. Hale is seeking opportunities to serve students and his alma mater. Dr. Hale is intimately familiar with competitive sports and continues to compete informally on basketball courts on campus today, but his interest in serving on the board comes from an understanding that the position is one that can address issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice at Illinois. Working with and advising dozens of student athletes since 2009 was instructive in highlighting how collegiate sports are not always governed in the best interests of students or the communities we seek to serve. His research focuses on the history of student activism and the intersection of race and educational policy. His award-winning book, *The Freedom Schools: A History of Student Activists on the Frontlines of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement* was published with Columbia University Press in 2016. His recent book, *The Choice We Face: How Segregation, Race, and Power Have Shaped America’s Most Controversial Education Reform Movement* (Beacon Press, 2021) examines the history of school choice since the Brown decision. His forthcoming manuscript, *A New Kind of Youth* (University of North Carolina Press) examines the history of southern Black high school activism. Hale’s research has been published in history and education journals, including publications in the Journal of African American History, the History of Education Quarterly, South Carolina Historical Magazine, and the Journal of Social Studies Research. His work has also been featured in outlets including C-SPAN, The Atlantic, The American Scholar, the Chicago Tribune, CNN, and The Washington Post.

**Christopher Kempf** – Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of English

A four-year varsity runner at John Carroll University, Dr. Christopher Kempf would bring to the Athletic Board a passion for Illinois athletics and a firsthand understanding of the needs and priorities of the student-athlete. Kempf is committed to the notion that sport both complements and enhances students’ academic activities, honing body, and mind in equal relation. Having written extensively on the economic, racial, and political resonances of athletics, including work long listed in Best American Sports Writing, Kempf appreciates the role of Illini sports in building community, fostering social outreach, and furthering the mission of the university. In addition to teaching CW 199 Athletic Aesthetics: Sports in American Literature, Kempf serves on the Awards Committee, the Admissions Committee, and the Curriculum Committee for the Creative Writing program. Kempf received his Ph.D. at UChicago, his M.F.A. at Cornell, and a Visiting Professor now, will be a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the fall.

**Eric Larson** – Professor, Gies College of Business, Department of Business Administration

Eric C. Larson is a passionate teacher and sports fan, with a special interest in Illini Athletics. He was a three-time Academic All-Conference golfer at Colorado State University. Professor Larson’s interests in sports and academic achievement have made him a demanding, award-winning, and compassionate professor for all of his students, including our scholar athletes. Eric has taught students from every Illini sport and from diverse backgrounds, demonstrated success in managing complex financial and operational circumstances, and was just recognized with the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Eric volunteered as a walking scorer at the 2014, 2017, and 2018 NCAA Golf Championships for both men and women. Eric is a Teaching Associate Professor and holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems from the University of Minnesota. Prior to earning that Ph.D., Eric worked in industry and technology consulting for fourteen years.

**Janice Kimpel** – Alumna

A member of the women’s golf team during her time at Illinois, Janice is also the daughter of former women’s golf coach Betsy Kimpel. She is the Vice President of Business Development for AlPhaVax, Inc., a vaccine development company. She had in the past. She also worked as a science adviser and patent agent for Needle & Rosenburg, an intellectual property firm in Atlanta. Prior to her work at the law firm, Ms. Kimpel was a director of technological licensing at the University of Georgia. She also served as the external contracts research manager for an agricultural biotech firm. Ms. Kimpel earned her Ph.D. in plant biology from the University of California at Davis. Janice is very involved at the Urbana Country Club and serves on the board for the Western Golf Association.

**Leonardo Jimenez** – student, Gies College of Business

Mr. Jimenez believes that being a member of the athletic board would be a great opportunity for him to express his passion for sports while brightening the Illini student spirit. The fiscal aspect is also of great interest due to the experiences applicable to the Gies classroom and the real world. As someone with a passion for sports and its ability to bring people together and as an accounting and finance major in Gies, the Athletic Board and Mr. Jimenez can benefit greatly from one another.

**Katherine Tichy** – student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

As a former athlete, sports were an immediate interest for Ms. Tichy at Illinois. She joined Illini Pride and saw firsthand how college sports bring students together and ignite a powerful school spirit. She made friends with student athletes and saw the hard work and sacrifices that go in each and every day. By becoming a member of the Athletic Board, Katherine hopes to contribute a passionate student voice to continue the prideful legacy of Illini Athletics and help the department become the best that it can be. She wishes to protect and support our athletes as they compete at an elite level all while earning a degree from a top university. Katherine would also love to be an advocate for fairness in sports and continuing to build towards equity for all athletes.

**Caleb Griffin** – student, Gies College of Business

Caleb, a graduate student in the Gies College of Business, has served as a representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) throughout his time at Illinois. He was elected President of SAAC for the 2021-22 academic year and is a standout athletically, academically, and as a leader on his football team. Caleb has expressed strong interest in serving on the Athletic Board.