

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
Committee on Committees
(Final;Action)

CC.13.09 Approval of Nominations for the Athletic Board

Background

The Athletic Board consists of seven faculty members, appointed by the Chancellor from nominations by the Senate, and two students appointed by the Chancellor from a slate of four candidates from the Illinois student government.

Terms of faculty ordinarily shall be four years; terms of students ordinarily shall be one year, with the possibility of reappointment for an additional year. Continuing faculty members of the Athletic Board and the expiration of their terms are as follows:

Cleo D’Arcy	ACES	2015
Adrienne Dixson	EDUC	2016
Rayvon Fouche	LAS	2014
<i>Margaret Kelley</i>	<i>LAS</i>	<i>2013</i>
Michael Raycraft	AHS	2015
Brent Roberts	LAS	2014
<i>Thomas Ulen</i>	<i>LAW</i>	<i>2013</i>

The Committee on Committees recommends approval of the following slate of nominees.
(Submitted interest statements from nominees are attached.)

Nominations

The following faculty are nominated to fill two (2) faculty positions for four-year terms expiring in 2017. If no additional nominations are made, the four (4) nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor.

Andrea Beller	ACES
Laurence Chalip	AHS
Vicente Diaz	LAS
Harley Johnson	ENGR

The following students are nominated to fill two (2) student positions for one year terms expiring in 2014. If no additional nominations are made, the four (4) nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor.

McKennon Biers	BUS
Nicole Fremarek	AHS
Imran Kazmi	AHS
Nisar Qureshi	LAW

Committee on Committees

Prasanta Kalita, Chair
Marni Boppart
Harley Johnson
Tim Flanagan
Steve Letourneau
Jim Maskeri
Chris McCarthy
David O’Brien
Joyce Tolliver
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by the nominee's signed statement of willingness to serve if elected, and a statement of interest. The statement shall be dated and include the name of the position to be filled. If present, the nominee's oral statement will suffice.

FACULTY NOMINEES

ANDREA BELLER (ACES)

I have attended men's basketball games annually since my son was young, usually with him but occasionally by myself! I attended many women's and occasionally men's gymnastics meets with my daughter (who attended gymnastics camp and had her picture on the cover of the brochure). I have attended some men's tennis matches and both my son and my daughter took tennis lessons at Atkins.

Concerning participation of women and minorities in the intercollegiate athletic program, I have engaged in relevant research. Much of my research has been on evaluating the effects of equal opportunity legislation on both women and minorities, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. I have published many journal articles and book chapters on this topic. In one in particular, I evaluated the effects of Title IX (which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in sports) on women's earnings and occupations: Andrea H. Beller, "The Impact of Equal Opportunity Policy on Sex Differentials in Earnings and Occupations," *The American Economic Review* 72 (May 1982): 171-175. My research is widely cited, and I received the Senior Faculty Award for Excellence in Research in the College of ACES for my research in this and in other areas.

I have been a tenure track and tenured faculty member at UIUC for more than 30 years during which time I have taught more than 1000 upper level undergraduates in my ACE 476 (Family Economics) class. Over the years, I have had several athletes in my class (football, tennis, golf), and I have filled out the form on their academic progress. I was even invited to a football game by one who then met us afterwards so I could introduce my son. I am an economist (with a Ph.D. in economics), and I understand financial issues related to costs and revenues.

LAURENCE CHALIP (AHS)

I would like to nominate Professor Laurence Chalip, Professor and Head of the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism for appointment to the Athletic Board. Dr. Chalip is a nationally recognized scholar in sport management that was recruited last year from the University of Texas at Austin to serve as the Head of our RST department. Dr. Chalip has been a sport manager and coach and has led academic sport management programs for over 25 years. He has published research on the development systems for men's and women's sport in the United States, including intercollegiate athletics. Dr. Chalip has served as a consultant to several intercollegiate athletics programs. As Head of the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, he is knowledgeable about UIUC educational and academic objectives and he remains abreast of developments in those areas. Dr. Chalip has run sport programs and has taught various aspects of sport management and marketing at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to athlete welfare through his many years of research and service.

Sincerley,

Tany Gallagher, Dean
College of Applied Health Sciences

VICENTE DIAZ (LAS)

Please accept this nomination of Professor Vicente Diaz (LAS) to the Athletic Board. This is Vince's second year at Illinois in American Indian Studies and Anthropology, after having spent the previous decade at the University of Michigan. During his time at Illinois, I have come to appreciate the depth of knowledge and understanding Vince has of American sports culture, including intercollegiate athletics. Vince's current research in Native Pacific studies focuses on the intersection of sports, wellness, race, and masculinity. For instance, Vince has theorized around the phenomenon of Samoan and other Pacific Islander participation in collegiate and professional football, an interest he began developing as a youth football player on Guam, where he grew up (he would later go on to walk on to the football team at the University of Hawai'i). That work critically engages the ways in which stereotypes proliferate about Polynesian football players, but Vince takes his analysis further by, for instance, grappling with what is at play in Samoan American nose tackle Ezra Tuaola's coming out as gay in 2002 after retiring from the NFL. Vince's approach to sports and other research topics, it is worth pointing out, is deeply informed by his experience as a ocean-going canoe navigator. The philosophical, cultural, and ceremonial aspects of this physically-demanding rowing and sailing tradition provides insight into the deep roots of contemporary arenas of physicality, including intercollegiate athletics. Vince now teaches at least a module on sports in every course, challenging students to examine their connections to sports culture through critical examination of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation.

In my discussions with Vince, I have found him to be an unwavering and fierce advocate for student athletes and their well-being. His long record of teaching about sports and his own experiences as an athlete have given him a strong awareness of the vulnerabilities student athletes face even as they pursue the opportunities provided by participating in a Division I athletics program. He has strong awareness of the tremendous demands that high-level academic and athletic performance place on student athletes, and he brings critical perspective to bear on the need to balance the institution's stake in athletics with its core academic mission of serving students, including student athletes, and society through teaching and producing new knowledge. These demands can play out in particular ways for athletes of color, women athletes, and LGBTQ athletes, and Vince's awareness around issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation would serve the board well. Like most faculty members, Vince does not have management or oversight experience on anything close to the scale of DIA's budget, but I can tell you that he has worked with me on budgetary issues in our program as a member of our advisory committee and has also served with me as a council member of an academic association whose leadership deals with fiduciary issues on a regular basis. Vince's professional approach is deeply ethical, and I have found him to be a straightforward, trustworthy colleague. I have every confidence that he would be an outstanding member of the Athletic Board.

Sincerely,

Robert Warrior, Director
American Indian Studies

HARLEY JOHNSON (ENGR)

I believe that Harley Johnson is the ideal candidate to be a member of the University of Illinois Athletic Board. He embodies excellence in scholarship, teaching, service, and athleticism. He is currently professor and Associate Head of Graduate Programs in the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering. He is a highly regarded researcher, who studies the mechanics of electronic and photonic materials, the mechanics of nanostructures, and the optimal properties of materials. In a very short amount of time Professor Johnson has already garnered numerous university and national awards, such as the NSF CAREER award, the ASME Thomas J.R. Hughes Young Investigator award, and the Kritzer Faculty Scholar award. Having such a highly regarded researcher on the Athletic Board would serve as a keen symbol of the excellent research and scholarship that the U of I faculty is known for.

In addition to his stellar research, Professor Johnson also has extensive service experience. He is currently the Associate Head for the Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering. He has served either on the UIUC Faculty Senate or on Senate committees since 2009, as well as the Engineering Dean's Faculty Leadership Forum. This is a formidable resume of service for any faculty member, which attests to Professor Johnson's ability to handle multiple responsibilities and do so in a way that other faculty find constructive and supportive—skills that would serve him and the Athletic Board well.

As if this were not enough, he is also an award-winning teacher. He has made the "List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students" seven times. The comments made by his students about his teaching illustrate why he is so well regarded. Numerous students describe Professor Johnson, not only as a "great" professor, but also as one of the best professors they have ever had. In addition, one student describes Professor Johnson as "...a great guy, but one of the hardest professors I have ever had." Based on my interactions with our current coaches, I would bet that these words also describe people like John Groce and Matt Bollant. Professor Johnson would fit in quite well with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics staff.

Finally, and just as importantly, Professor Johnson is an experienced Division I student athlete. He competed for four years in track and field and cross country at Georgia Tech, was named to the Atlantic Coast Conference Honor Roll multiple times, and was a four-year varsity letter recipient. He also took time out of his graduate studies to coach high school cross-country and track. Professor Johnson to this day continues to compete in running. In fact, he is easily one of the top runners, if not the top runner in the Champaign-Urbana. He continues to run multiple marathons per year, including the Boston Marathon, where he reliably places in the top 1% of runner (out of 19 thousand participants). His athletic experience would give him unparalleled insights into the lives of student-athletes. He could not only represent the interest of the faculty while serving on the Athletic Board, but also bring critical knowledge of how policy decisions might affect the lives of student athletes, which arguably is one of the most important functions for a member of the Athletic Board.

In closing, I should emphasize that Harley is, as one of his students put it "a great guy." I have gotten to know Harley largely through running—not necessarily with him of course, usually well behind him. But, in pauses between sprints or down times between workouts, I have found Harley to be a paragon of congeniality, stability, good humor, and sound advice and wisdom. While his background, achievements, and skills would make him a formidable candidate for the Athletic Board, those factors combined with his personality make him an obvious choice.

Sincerely,

Brent W. Roberts, Professor
Psychology

STUDENT NOMINEES

MCKENNON BIERS (BUS)

I am interested in serving an additional one (1) year term on the UIUC Athletic Board because I believe that I can continue to help improve our athletic program. With a second term, the learning curve would be significantly less. I understand my role on the APEC Committee and feel comfortable with the position, as well as the people. I also understand roles on the Finance Committee, which I have had the privilege of sitting in on during every meeting. These levels of comfort would allow me to maximize the potential of the student appointee position. I believe that over the course of the past year, I have demonstrated a body of work that is desired of the student position. I have not missed a single meeting, and I have built relationships with many of the members across the athletic board. The relationship building aspect has helped me to feel much more comfortable in voicing my opinion. I am not the least bit intimidated, nor scared, because I believe in what I have to say, and understand that my opinion is valued by fellow members of the board. In short, I am extremely passionate about Illini athletics and I would like to continue to help the UIUC Athletic Board in every way that I am able so that others are able to discover their passion for Illini athletics as well.

NICOLE FREMAREK (AHS)

Participating in athletics teaches teamwork, dedication, and passion. Being a part of a team is something I have learned through my 15 years of athletic background. I want to be able to make a difference in the athletic board and assist the athletic department in improving both the academic and athletic aspects of the university. Having a strong discipline can impact both athletic performance, as well as academic standing. I believe that it is important for the athletes to be held to standards that can improve their future! It is important to encourage a balance between academics and athletics because life is unpredictable, and at any moment we may need to rely on our academic history to provide for life. I believe that as a leader in the academic community, I would be able to attribute leadership and coordination to the Athletic Board. Through my experience working closely with the faculty and staff of Applied Health Sciences, I have the resources and access to faculties' opinions and understanding of the athlete/academic relationship. Having valuable resources on campus can only enhance the experience the athletes have, and improve the quality of the Athletic Board. I strongly believe that working with people is a strength of mine that can be an asset to the board. Working with different levels of authority, it is important to be respectful, listen, and relay information in the most professional manner. I want to be able to impact the intercollegiate athletic program in a positive manner and serve as a positive advisory committee in regards to fiscal and operational aspects. I have learned through my experiences both at the university, as well as those listed in my resume, that collaboration and willingness to learn are the keys to success. I want to make a difference in the athletic department by strengthening academic standings for all of the athletes, as well as provide my strengths and experiences to the board.

IMRAN KAZMI (AHS)

My interest for serving on the UIUC Athletic Board dates back to when I first became a student at Illinois. As a member of the Marching Illini, being able to experience so many football and basketball games has fueled my interest of the University's athletic department. Last year, I was appointed to serve on the 2012-2013 UIUC Athletic Board. I have served on committees concerning student involvement as well as participating with the Chancellor and Athletic Director during Athletic Board meetings.

NISAR QURESHI (LAW)

There are a variety of reasons that I would be a good fit for a position on the University of Illinois Athletic Board. First and foremost, I have a great passion for University of Illinois athletics. This is evidenced by both my work with the student organization, Orange Krush, and my work as a student manager for the University of Illinois men's basketball team for the last four years. Second, I have a great deal of knowledge in the field of athletics. My major during my undergraduate studies was Recreation, Sport, and Tourism with a concentration in Sport Management. Additionally, I attained a minor in Business. After my undergraduate studies I enrolled in law school at the University of Illinois. Moreover, I am currently in the application process for the University of Illinois MBA program as well. All three of these areas of study are greatly involved in athletics and have provided me with great insight into the decision making processes that take place in athletics. In addition to my academic experiences, I have a variety of work experiences in all levels of athletics. I was a three sport athlete in high school and continued to exhibit my passion for athletics when I arrived at the University of Illinois by working with the men's basketball team. I also had the privilege of working for USA Basketball in the summer of 2011, exposing me to Olympic competition. During the summer of 2012 I was exposed to the professional side of athletics while working for an athletes representation firm in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Finally, I feel as though I would be a good fit for this position because I already have a good working relationship with Athletic Director Mike Thomas and Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director Jason Lener through my work with the men's basketball team. Overall, I have the academic and work experience necessary to be a successful fit for a position on the University of Illinois Athletic Board.