

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
(Final; Action)

SC.21.09      Extension of the Term for the Athletic Board Faculty Representative to the Big Ten Conference, Christopher Span

**BACKGROUND**

In a letter dated February 4, 2021 from Chancellor Robert Jones to Senate Executive Committee Chair Rob Kar, Chancellor Jones requested the Senate extend Christopher Span's term as one of the Faculty Representatives to the Athletic Board by two years which would surpass the normal ten year term period.

Senate *Bylaws* Part E.1.c.1.a (Athletic Board membership) states:

The two Faculty Representatives of this campus to the Big Ten Conference, appointed annually by the Chancellor, following consultation with the Athletic Board. The Faculty Representatives shall serve at the pleasure of the Chancellor, but for a period normally not to exceed ten years. The Senate shall approve any extensions beyond ten years.

The justification for this request is two-fold. First, there are multiple high-level governance changes facing college athletics that will come to pass in the next two years, including but not limited to amendments to student-athlete name, image, likeness regulations, changes to transfer eligibility rules, and a major amateurism decision by the United States Supreme Court in the spring of 2021. Dr. Span has been heavily involved in the discussions around these developments and his historical knowledge will be beneficial to the University during this transformative period.

Secondly, extending Dr. Span's term will allow the two Faculty Representative appointment terms to be properly staggered on five-year increments. Tiffany White, Associate Professor in the Gies College of Business, currently serves as the other Faculty Representative. Dr. White was appointed in 2018 so she will have served the first of her five-year terms when replacing Dr. Span in 2023. This will allow Dr. White to move into the senior Faculty Representative role after five years and to acclimate a new Faculty Representative to replace Dr. Span at that time.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Senate Executive Committee recommends a two-year extension of Christopher Span's term as one of the Athletic Board Faculty Representative to the Big Ten Conference with his term extending through the 2022-2023 academic year.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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