

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES  
(Final; Action)

CC.22.17 Faculty Nominations to the 2022-2023 Athletic Board

**BACKGROUND**

The Athletic Board 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 in the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. The Athletic Board consists of seven faculty members, appointed by the Chancellor from nominations by the Senate. Two nominees for membership on the Board shall be elected by the Senate for each faculty position to be filled from the Senate.

Terms of faculty ordinarily shall be four years and faculty may be reappointed to a second term but are then ineligible for reappointment until a period equaling the length of their second term has passed. Michael LeRoy and Nikki Usher have terms ending 2022 and Brenda Lindsey, with a term ending 2024, has moved into one of the two Faculty Representatives positions. Faculty members of the Athletic Board and the expiration of their terms are as follows:

<i>Michael LeRoy</i>	<i>LER</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>Nikki Usher</i>	<i>MDA</i>	<i>2022</i>
Neha Gothe	AHS	2023
Barry Houser	FAA2	2023
<i>Brenda Lindsey</i>	<i>SSW</i>	<i>2024</i>
Caitlin Clarke	AHS	2025
Steven Hall	MDA	2025

**NOMINATIONS**

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

The following faculty members are nominated to fill two annual faculty vacancies, with terms ending in 2026 and one partial term ending 2024. If no additional nominations are made, the nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor for the appointment of three.

Christopher Kempf	LAS	Jon Hale	EDUC
Eric Larson	BUS	<i>Faculty Name</i>	<i>COLL</i>
Drew Sullivan	VMED	<i>Faculty Name</i>	<i>COLL</i>

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES  
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Virginia Dominguez  
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Jeffrey Eric Jenkins  
Prasanta Kalita  
Ari Kelo  
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

*Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by the nominee's signed statement of willingness to serve if elected. The statement shall be dated and include the name of the position to be filled. If present, the nominee's oral statement will suffice. All nominations must be in accordance with Senate Bylaws.*

### **FACULTY STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE**

#### **Christopher Kempf (Assistant Professor, LAS)**

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 MFA at Cornell, and a Visiting Professor now, will be a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the fall.

#### **Eric Larson (Teaching Associate Professor, BUS)**

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 where he proved to be a better student than athlete. Eric'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 PhD in Information Systems from the University of Minnesota. Prior to earning that PhD, Eric worked in industry and technology consulting for fourteen years.

**Drew Sullivan (Instructor, VMED)**

Dr. Sullivan grew up bleeding orange and blue watching Illini athletics with his grandparents, who have been loyal Illini fans for years as members of the I-Fund and Loyalty Circle. As he started his freshman year of undergraduate studies in Champaign, he was selected to join the Illini Cheerleading team. Drew experienced both the excellence of Illinois academics and athletics firsthand. Upon graduation, he continued his studies within the College of Veterinary Medicine gaining his doctorate. During that time, he served as an assistant varsity cheerleading coach. Drew then chose to pursue his MBA through the Gies College of Business, graduating in December 2020. His academic experiences/degrees from four colleges on campus and his experience with athletics as a student athlete and coach allows Drew to bring true value to the athletic board. He would be honored to serve the University of Illinois as a member of the Athletic Board.

**Jon Hale (Associate Professor, EDUC)**

Dr. Jon Hale is an associate professor of education at the University of Illinois at 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. Standing tall at 6' 6", 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 that 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 Americas Most Controversial Education Reform Movement* (Beacon Press, 2021) examines the history of school choice since the *Brown* decision. He 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*.