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## UIS A.D. Jehlicka to resign in August

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**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

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University of Illinois Springfield Director of Athletics Rodger Jehlicka, who oversaw the athletic program's jump from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to NCAA Division II, has submitted his resignation effective Aug. 15.

UIS hired Jehlicka, 63, in December 2005.

In a two-line resignation letter to UIS Chancellor Harry Berman dated Jan. 21, 2011, Jehlicka wrote, "Please accept this as my written notification that I will be resigning from my position as Director of Athletics at the University of Illinois-Springfield effective (sic) August 15, 2011. Thank you."

Jehlicka was out of the office due to illness Tuesday and unavailable for comment.

UIS spokesman Derek Schnapp referred questions relating to the reasons behind the resignation to Jehlicka.

"It would be wrong or inappropriate to speak on his behalf," he said.

### West to UIS

Jehlicka came to UIS from Eastern Illinois, where he was an associate athletic director for 6½ years. He was athletic director and also coached at Adams State (Colo.) during the 1980s and 1990s.

The university underwent significant changes during Jehlicka's five years, including the switch from a junior-senior institution to a four-year school.

Athletically, UIS was granted full status in Division II in July 2010. It also joined the Great Lakes Valley Conference in 2009. The Recreation and Athletic Center, home of the men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams, opened in 2007 and cost \$16 million.

Under Jehlicka, UIS has added men's and women's golf, women's soccer and baseball. The athletic department also added to its staff an NCAA compliance officer and senior woman administrator. Jehlicka also started the UIS Director of Athletics Academic Honor Roll for student-athletes with a semester grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

### Department in disarray

During Jehlicka's stint, UIS paid \$200,000 to a student in 2009 to settle allegations of sexual impropriety involving a coach for the women's softball team, who resigned after the allegations came to light. In March 2009, softball and volleyball coach Joe Fisher and women's basketball coach and assistant softball coach Roy Gilmore both resigned. That same month, Jay Davis resigned as men's and women's golf coach at UIS after he had been placed on administrative leave. His resignation was not connected to those of Fisher and Gilmore.

After the resignation of the three coaches, a draft of a resolution for the UIS Campus Senators calling for former chancellor Richard Ringeisen to fire Jehlicka was circulated around the campus. The campus senate did not consider the resolution because a substitute resolution asked if the senate had confidence in the athletic director but took no stance on his job status.

Jehlicka's salary at UIS is \$86,145. Jehlicka is considered an academic professional.

"All academic professional contracts are renewable at the beginning of the academic year," Schnapp said. "It is a one-year contract.

"August 16th would be the first day of the new academic year or per se contract. A lot of academic professional contracts are renewed unless they're notified."

UIS will begin searching for Jehlicka's replacement "very soon" and a five-person search committee will include a student affairs administrator, a coach, an athletic administrator, a faculty member and a student-athlete, according to a statement issued by Berman.

Berman has designated Pinky Wassenberg, the dean of the College of Public Affairs and Administration at UIS, as chair of the committee.

Schnapp didn't provide a timeline.

"Our hope is to have that person in place by Aug. 16, the beginning of the academic year," Schnapp said. "We have six months to

complete that process.”

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