

APPROVED BY SENATE

03/04/2024

CC.24.19
March 4, 2024

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

CC.24.19 Student Nominations to the 2024-2025 Athletic Board

BACKGROUND

The Athletic Board is the committee concerned with intercollegiate athletics (varsity sports) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This Board is responsible to the Senate for the intercollegiate athletic program as it relates to the University's academic and educational objectives as defined by the Senate. The Athletic Board serves also 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.

Two nominees for membership on the Board shall be elected by the Senate for each student position to be filled from the Senate. The Senate Committee on Committees shall propose nominees; additional proposals may be made from the floor of the Senate. Terms of students ordinarily shall be one year, and students may be appointed to a second one-year term.

NOMINATIONS

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

The following students are nominated to fill two student vacancies, with terms ending 2025. If no additional nominations are made, the nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor for selection of two.

Michael Burke	BUS
Brooke Covas	ACES
Heriberto Mendiola	LAS
Kayvon Tahmassebi	LAS

Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Whether from the Committee on Committees or from the floor, each nomination shall have the consent of the nominee (*Bylaws* Part B.5).

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
Chaya Sandler, Chair
Maya Crystal
John Dallesasse
Prasanta Kalita

Robin Kar
Hayden Noel
Carol Symes
Isaac Zipperstein
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

STUDENT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE

Michael Burke (BUS)

The nominee is very familiar with University of Illinois athletics, as well as the expectations of student athletes. He has had previous experience on committees in high school including Student Council. The candidate knows how important working with the NCAA, as well as Big Ten as a representative of the university. The nominee is knowledgeable of the university's educational expectations and objectives of intercollegiate athletes including being present and punctual to all classes, as well as maintaining at least a 2.25 GPA. He is also aware of the investment incentives into athletic facilities, financial awards for student athletes with academic progress, and other university financial motives. The nominee is dedicated to ensuring the forward progress of the University and its intercollegiate athletic programs. He knows the importance of intercollegiate athletes' needs and accommodations in order to perform at their full potential, while keeping in mind the university's expectations.

Brooke Covas (ACES)

Brooke is a competitive bodybuilder in a national club sport, has interned with the UIUC football and other athletic teams, and is pursuing a career working with and alongside athletes. On the executive board for Illini Barbell, as well as being female in a male dominated field, she has experience working to establish changes by understanding rules and regulations, as well as seeking areas for improvement that would better enhance the program. She also completed a social entrepreneurship where she gained knowledge into financial management, in addition to taking economic classes. She is fully invested in the intercollegiate athletic program, and in creating the best program possible for the athletes, because she has seen what a solid program looks like, but has experienced what it's like to not have that, and she is committed to establishing and developing the best program possible.

Heriberto Mendiola (LAS)

I have served on my old community college library committee. Being a transfer student I feel like I can bring a different perspective to the committee. I'm a huge sports fan and will do the best I can to learn and how to serve on the committee.

Kayvon Tahmassebi (LAS)

His experience is as follows: Clearway, Co-Founder - Identified and developed trusted NGO outreach, secured fundraising, and managed operations and supply logistics between partners. Iranian American Youth Group, 2015-2023, Member and Asst. Organizer - Helped organize, set-up, and facilitate the annual Persian New Year celebration at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Also connected Persian heritage to the local Iranian diaspora of nearly 100,000 Iranian Americans living in the Bay Area. CCOP CYO Basketball, 2018-2020, Center - Played basketball in a local competitive travel basketball organization. Logical Group Inc., 2019-2023, Asst. Property Manager - Researched, analyzed, and modeled financial statements using Microsoft Excel. Applied comparable multiples valuations and discounted cash flow valuation. The nomination has a diverse amount of knowledge of various sports including soccer, golf, rowing, and basketball. And understands the importance of making sure student-athletes meet the university's academic objectives by providing support and resources.