

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

CC.26.10 Student Nominations to the 2025-2026 Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights

**BACKGROUND**

The Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights (1) Provides advice, consistent with the values of the University, to the Office of the Chancellor on issues of social responsibility related to campus investment, licensing, and naming rights. Such issues may include licensing the University's names, symbols, and insignia; supporting workers' rights and fair labor practices; sponsoring products; and advancing corporate social responsibility. (2) Reviews proposals to name campus buildings, classrooms, or other physical facilities for donors or other honorees. (3) Fulfills the Senate's requirement to provide advice regarding eponymic renaming of academic units (*Statutes*, Article VIII, Section 4). And (4) Reports promptly to the Senate outcomes of its votes on eponymic renaming of academic units, anonymized as appropriate.

Three student members shall be appointed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, from nominations of at least two individuals for each vacancy made by the Committee on Committees and approved by the Senate. The three student members shall serve renewable terms of one year.

**NOMINATIONS**

The Senate Committee on Committees recommends approval of the following slate of nominees to fill three student vacancies including at least one undergraduate student and at least one graduate or professional student, with terms expiring in 2025.

Graduate/Professional Nominees

Shaan Akbar	GRAD
Carlos Menendez	GRAD

Undergraduate Nominees

Etienne Sirois	FAA
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If no additional nominations are made, the nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor for selection of three students to serve. Student members shall serve renewable terms of one year.

Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by the nominee's willingness to serve if elected and indicate the position to be filled, or the nominee's oral acceptance if present. A statement of interest limited to 150 words is also requested.

Alex Belanger  
Kent Choquette  
Linda Herrera  
Myles Johnson  
Prasanta Kalita  
Robin Kar  
Lilah Leopold  
Carol Symes  
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

## **STATEMENTS OF INTEREST**

### **Shaan Akbar (Graduate Student, GRAD)**

To Whom It May Concern: My experiences derive from understanding brand social and public optics via almost 20 years at Warner Bros Discovery. Defining content and brand strategies while working alongside business affairs and legal was one of my primary functions. I can serve this committee with my knowledge and expertise that could be a bridge between traditional approaches and new ones that involve omnichannel media and public outreach. Thank you.  
Shaan Akbar

### **Carlos Menendez (Graduate Student, GRAD)**

As an MBA student at the Gies College of Business, with a focus on Business Data Analytics and Mergers & Acquisitions, I am eager to contribute to the Joint Advisory Committee on Investment, Licensing, and Naming Rights. My professional background in financial services, entrepreneurship, and strategic business planning has equipped me with valuable skills in analytical thinking, relationship-building, and risk management that align with the committee's responsibilities. Through my role as a Gies Graduate Program Ambassador, I have gained a deeper understanding of the university's values and priorities, further strengthening my commitment to supporting its mission. My experiences have fostered a collaborative approach to problem-solving and an ability to provide thoughtful insights into investment strategies, licensing decisions, and naming rights. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the committee's important work by applying my diverse experiences and academic knowledge to help advance the university's goals.

### **Etienne Sirois (Undergraduate Student, FAA)**

I am interested in joining this joint advisory committee because I believe that the university's financial and naming decisions should reflect our values and long-term vision for the university. These decisions have effects that can last for decades, and I want to help ensure transparency and ethical investment practices in decisions that shape our campus identity. Serving on this committee would allow me to advocate for choices that promote accountability and sustainability across the university. In addition, my past experience in the Illinois Student Council has led me to pursue this opportunity and to once again be involved with responsible decision-making on campus.