

**APPROVED BY SENATE**  
**09/19/2016**

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**  
**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**  
Committee on Committees  
(Final; Action)

CC.17.05 Nominations for Student Membership to the Athletic Board

**BACKGROUND**

The Athletic Board consists of two students appointed by the Chancellor from a slate of four candidates from the Illinois student government.

The nominations by the Senate and all appointments by the Chancellor shall be made with due regard for representation of those interested and knowledgeable in men's athletics, women's athletics, and minority participation in the intercollegiate athletic program, and knowledgeable of the University's educational and academic objectives, as well as those knowledgeable in business and financial management.

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

**NOMINATIONS**

The following students are nominated to fill two student vacancies unfilled during the spring 2016 elections for a one year term expiring in 2017. If no additional nominations are made, the four nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor for selection of two students to serve.

Oluseun Kayode Arowolaju	GRAD
Theopolies Moton III	GRAD
Yassir Siddiqi	GRAD
Alex Villanueva	LAS

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**  
Lisa Monda-Amaya, Chair  
Tim Flanagan  
George Gross  
David Hanley  
Tommy Justison  
Nancy O'Brien  
Annalisa Roncone  
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by the nominee's signed statement of willingness to serve if elected, and a statement of interest. The statement shall be dated and include the name of the position to be filled. If present, the nominee's oral statement will suffice.

**STUDENT NOMINEE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES****Oluseun “Sean” Kayode Arowolaju (GRAD)**

As an immigrant from Nigeria, sports were the only association Oluseun had with institutions of higher education. Using sports to fuel his academic interests, he embarked on a journey that would turn I-57 into an Orange and Blue Bridge, leading him from Chicago to Champaign. A bridge built by Illinois Athletics. A bridge that has been used as a medium to serve people of all walks. Oluseun received his B.S. Sport Management in August 2016 and will receive his M.S. Technology Management in August 2017. He has exercised student leadership by serving on the Black Greek Council and SORF Board, as well as Homecoming Court. He’s been involved in Illinois Athletics as a Varsity Football player, a Technology Services Consultant, and a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. With this valuable experience, he hopes to assist Illinois Athletics in their mission to, “provide a culture which fosters the development of our student-athletes for excellence academically, competitively and socially”. In this collaborative effort to support our students, athletes and employees, #WeWillWin.

**Theopolies “Theo” Moton III (GRAD)**

Theo is a doctoral student in the Education Policy, Organization and Leadership program with a concentration in History of Education. Theopolies received his B.A. in History and a M.A. in History from Southern University Baton Rouge. Prior to coming to the U of I, he worked as an educator and administrator in the Baton Rouge school system while serving as an adjunct professor of History. His research interest includes history of African American higher education, higher Education Law, desegregation and access.

**Yasir Aftab Siddiqi (GRAD)**

Yasir is a graduate student in the College of Business. He completed his undergraduate degrees in Agricultural Economics and Political Science this past May. As an avid supporter of Illinois Athletics, he served as student manager for the women’s soccer team for two years supporting student athletes in their endeavors on and off the field. In addition to his engagement in athletics, he is an active member of Illinois Business Consulting, a student run consultancy group out of the College of Business. After graduation, Yasir plans to build a career in the financial services industry while maintaining strong relations with the University of Illinois and the athletics department. As student manager with the women’s soccer program, Yasir has seen firsthand the work and dedication that our student athletes bring every day. He has also developed a strong appreciation for the coaches, administrators, service workers and students who work tirelessly to support these athletes.

**Alex Villanueva (LAS)**

Alex is a Senior studying History and Political Science from Plattsburgh, NY. Alex serves as the ISS Vice-President External, and Student Body Vice President. He is a Senator representing LAS-B. He is involved in many organizations across campus. He has held season football tickets since first coming to Illinois in 2013. He’s an avid fan of Illini athletics and a staunch supporter of student engagement in athletics and appropriate support mechanisms for student athletes. My passion for joining the Athletic Board stems from my love of Fighting Illini athletics, my involvement with the selection of a University mascot (helped me learn and appreciate many of the inner workings of Illinois’ and peer institution’s programs), and my desire to ensure that our scholar-athletes are being treated fairly and respectfully. Alex hopes to provide a clear administrative connection so that students and student-athletes with concerns about athletics (funding, administration, or treatment) can have their voice heard in the classroom, locker room, or the Chancellor’s Office.