

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

CC.21.16 Student Nominations to the 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 of the students appointed to the Athletic Board are appointed by the Chancellor from a slate of four candidates from the Illinois Student Government. Terms of students ordinarily shall be one year, and students may be appointed to a second one-year term. Student members of the Athletic Board with terms expiring are as follows:

<i>Daniela Sirott</i>	<i>AHS 2021</i>
<i>Nathan Tanner</i>	<i>GRAD 2021</i>

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 2022. If no additional nominations are made, the nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor for selection of two.

<u>Undergraduate</u>	
Bennett Melone	BUS
Michael Ryan	AHS

<u>Graduate/Professional</u>	
Noah Henderson	LAW
Shana Makos	LAS

Creen Ahmad
Rummana Alam
Laura Christianson
John Dallesasse
Abby Fogarty
Laura Garrett
Jeffrey Eric Jenkins
Sudarshana Rao
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.

STUDENT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE

UNDERGRADUATE

Bennett Melone (BUS: Finance)

As a student here at the University of Illinois, I have been fortunate to be a member of the cross country and track teams. This experience has allowed me to understand how athletics operates at our university, and how we could handle things better. Fighting Illini athletics has seen many changes over the past few years, and the results are starting to show with this, our objectives are changing, and expectations are raising. My studies as a finance major have given me the business and financial management knowledge to make educated decisions and recommendations regarding athletics. As a cross country and track runner, it is sad to see several schools cutting athletic programs due to poor financial management as of late. This outlook has given me an immense amount of passion surrounding the welfare of student-athletes, and I've become more knowledgeable about athletic budgets as I've experienced their effects.

Michael Ryan (AHS: Recreation, Sport, and Tourism)

My interest in serving on the Athletic Board stems from my passion for sport and the foundational and transformative power it can have. I'm currently in my third year as student assistant for the Women's volleyball team on campus, as well as coaching within the community. Similarly to the DIA and the University, I try to transform youth and student athletes into leaders in the gym and in their communities by sharing experiences and leading by example. I have previous experience overseeing budget and spending as the CFO of a non-profit organization run entirely by high school students; and career aspirations to direct collegiate athletics programs, requiring critical and strategic financial and business knowledge. I am and always will be an advocate for social justice, gender equality, and diversity and representation in college athletics, my community, and the world.

GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL

Noah Henderson (LAW)

Noah Henderson is a passionate advocate for student-athletes, with a particular interest in destigmatizing student-athlete mental health issues. Mr. Henderson is a former Division I NCAA golfer at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. During his tenure at St. Joe's, he was heavily involved in the athletic department, acting as a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) representative. In his senior year, he became a founding member of a first-of-its-kind, peer-to-peer student-athlete mental health coalition. Mr. Henderson's dedication to student-athlete advocacy pushed him to pursue a legal education. Within the University of Illinois College of Law, he serves as the 1L representative for the Sports and Entertainment Law Society. In addition to this role, he serves as a tutor for the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. Mr. Henderson will leverage his experience, education, and passion to facilitate meaningful change and discussion as a member of the University of Illinois Athletic Board.

Shana Makos (LAS: Communications)

Shana Makos, a 2nd year PhD student in the Department of Communication, researches stigma and identity in the context of athletics and fitness cultures. She investigates sexuality, gender, and ability issues as they relate to athlete well-being and the overall student experience. Shana is invested in the coaching and success of student athletes. One of her primary objectives is to support and develop athletes with minority identities, such as students of color, members of the LGBTQ population, or those with invisible health conditions. By elevating their voices, she hopes to positively contribute to the student experience and further the University's educational and academic objectives. Shana works with students in various capacities. She teaches a variety of undergraduate courses, each aimed at helping students develop skills to be successful during and after their college years. She previously served as a leadership coach who advised undergraduate fraternity and sorority members.