

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

CC.23.18 Student Nominations to the 2023-2024 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 2024. If no additional nominations are made, the nominees below will be forwarded to the Chancellor for selection of two.

Carson Bounds	AHS
Sarah Benevento	LAS
Nick Erickson	ACES
Leo Jimenez	BUS

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).

Christoph Aoun
Nicole Arnold
John Dallesasse
Virginia Dominguez
Shifra Ferziger
Joanne Kaczmarek
Prasanta Kalita
Hayden Noel
Jenny Roether, *ex officio*

STUDENT STATEMENTS OF INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE

Carson Bounds (AHS)

Having worked as a student video manager in both football and women's basketball, Carson Bounds understands the needs of all sides of programs here at Illinois. He hopes to help ensure an equitable and fair budget. He hopes to pass new, flexible recruiting standards which are effective in the transfer portal era. Bounds is for establishing educational standards that align with the Illini and Big Ten values. Formerly a business systems major before transferring to Illinois, he has a solid understanding of business and financial management in college athletics. Bounds wants to expand existing programs to help ensure positive welfare and mental health. Lastly, creating an environment where athletes can excel athletically and academically is critical to Carson. With the expanded travel commitments coming in a soon-to-be growing conference, helping establish additional programs to help athletes build time-management skills is vital. Lastly, Carson thanks everyone for their time and consideration!

Sarah Benevento (LAS)

Sarah has first-hand experience with collegiate athletics as a former Division I student-athlete. She comes from a disadvantaged background, and athletics was a "ticket" that provided her with an abundance of opportunity. However, she wishes there were more efforts to support athletes in professional and personal development outside of sport, one of the University's academic objectives. Student-athletes are under immense pressures to uphold their identity as an athlete, making it difficult to utilize community resources they may need (e.g., welfare, assistance programs, etc.) and address issues of discrimination and equity. As a former athlete and doctoral student in Communication, Sarah is well-positioned to connect with current athletes, understand their experiences, and accurately convey their experiences and needs to the committee.

Nick Erickson (ACES)

Student Athlete at Jacksonville University (2020-2021) Student-Athlete Advising Committee (2020-2021) Practice Player/Manager Illinois Women's Basketball (2022-Current) My knowledge from the student-athlete perspective as well as the student employee perspective would give new insight to the Athletic Board. I am also a unique candidate because of my experience in both Men's and Women's Basketball. On top of the prior qualifications, I am a Financial Planning major in the School of ACES, who understands the financial impact of sports not only for the University as a whole, but now the NIL perspective for all student athletes. I understand the challenges student athletes face in their day to day challenges of taking classes, having homework, but also having hours of practice, workouts, and contests weekly. I believe my experience and knowledge of college athletics would greatly benefit the Athletic Board.

Leonardo Jimenez (BUS)

I am a current member of the Athletic Board, Senate Committee on the Library, and Military Education Council. Being a member of these committees, I have learned much about how committees operate and how I can improve. I have garnered a greater interest in our sports because I was on the financial management committee for the Athletic Board. Dinner with the faculty and members of the board over the financial statements of our athletics and subsequently seeing our student-athletes in action fanned my interest. I also wish to increase NIL awareness and users among our athletes. Being a sophomore accounting major currently sitting on the board, I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue my service.