APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ATHLETIC BOARD, URBANA

Action: Appoint Members to the Athletic Board

Funding: No New Funding Required

On recommendation of the Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System, Professor Caitlin Clarke (Kinesiology and Community Health), Mr. John Coady (alumnus), Mr. Steven Hall (Advertising), Ms. Shana Makos (student), Mr. Michael Ryan (student), and Ms. Shaylah Scott (student athlete) are being proposed for appointment to the Athletic Board of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. (Biographical sketches for the nominees are attached.)

The Athletic Board is a committee created by the Urbana-Champaign Senate related to the academic and educational aspects of intercollegiate athletics at the Urbana-Champaign university. The board also serves as an advisory committee to the Chancellor and the Athletic Director related to the financial management, personnel, and other operational aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program.

Pursuant to Senate bylaws, all appointments made by the Chancellor to the Athletic Board shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees. The board consists of nineteen members: two faculty representatives to the Big Ten; seven other
faculty members; four alumni of the Urbana-Champaign university; three students; and three ex officio members without a vote: a designee of the Chancellor, the University Comptroller or designee, and the Athletic Director. A slate of faculty nominees is provided to the Chancellor by the Urbana-Champaign Senate. The slate of student nominees is provided to the Chancellor by the Urbana-Champaign Senate, the Illinois Student Senate, and the Student Athletic Advisory Board to fill one student position each. The slate of alumni is provided by the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The Chancellor reviews the lists of nominees and forwards recommendations to the President of the University for action by the Board of Trustees.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs.
Caitlin Clarke – Professor, College of Applied Health Sciences, Kinesiology and Community Health

Growing up in Champaign-Urbana, Dr. Caitlin Clarke was interested in sports and athletics from as early as she can recall. She was a multisport athlete throughout her childhood and has 12 years of professional figure skating coaching experience. Over the past decade, Dr. Clarke has taught thousands of Illini (including hundreds of student athletes) and established a record of student engagement and positive interaction with student athletes, demonstrating her commitment to their success and wellbeing. Her research focuses on the sociology of sport and health, which includes a recent systematic review of mental health policies for the NCAA Power 5. She also collaborates with Athlete Ally, an organization concerned with global policy advocacy for LGBTQ+ athletes. Dr. Clarke believes student athletes need strong mental health advocates who understand the stresses facing contemporary college students as well as the unique social and academic struggles of student athletes.

John P. Coady – Alumnus, 1974, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

John is a retired circuit court judge from Taylorville who has taught (including a course on racial and ethnic diversity) at Lincoln Land Community College. During his 22 years on the bench, he was a member of the Illinois Judicial Ethics Committee for five years. He is currently second vice-president of the Illinois Judges Association. While a student at Illinois, John served on the committee that selected the student representatives to the Athletic Board. He has been a season ticket holder in basketball and football since 1970 and an I-Fund member since the 1980s. He is a past president of LAS Alumni Board and a member of the Department of Political Science Board of Visitors. John is a member and active participant in Illinois Connection and participated in the UIAA/Office of Admissions Alumni Service Program in the early 1990s. John is also a member of the University of Illinois Foundation’s President’s Council, and received the 2019 U of I College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Service Award.

Steven Hall – Lecturer, College of Media, Advertising

Steve Hall is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Advertising who teaches, mentors, advises, and provides professional development to hundreds of University of Illinois students. He’s received the University of Illinois Campus-wide Excellence in Teaching Award, Charles H. Sandage Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, and nationally recognized as a Distinguished Advertising Educator by the American Advertising Federation. Steve has made the “Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Students” list 14 straight years, with numerous “outstanding ratings.” He is a Faculty Senator and Public Engagement Committee Member. His campus committee service includes the Teaching Advancement Board, Campus-wide Career Services Council Chair, Illinois Leadership Coordinating Committee, and Senate Subcommittee on Undergraduate Student Conduct. He’s also an American Advertising Federation National Education Executive Committee member. Steve is an alumnus of the Gies College of Business and College of Media. He hopes to bring his experience, leadership, innovative thinking, and strategic insights to the Athletic Board.
Shana Makos – Student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Communication

Shana Makos, a second year Ph.D. 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.

Michael Ryan – Student, College of Applied Health Sciences, Recreation, Sport, and Tourism

Mr. Ryan’s interest in serving on the Athletic Board stems from his passion for sport and the foundational and transformative power it can have. He currently is in his third year as student assistant for the Women’s volleyball team on campus, as well as coaching within the community. Similarly, to the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics and the University, he tries to transform youth and student athletes into leaders in the gym and in their communities by sharing experiences and leading by example. He has 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. He is and always will be an advocate for social justice, gender equality, and diversity and representation in college athletics, his community, and the world.

Shaylah Scott – Student, Women’s Gymnastics team member

Shaylah is a minority female student-athlete who serves as her team’s representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She is a excels athletically, academically, and as a leader on her team. Shaylah has expressed strong interest in serving on the Athletic Board.