Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 11, 2024

**08**

Board Meeting

July 11, 2024

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 Jon Hale (EDUC), Mr. Trent Meacham (alumnus), Ms. Brooke Covas (student), Mr. Kayvon Tahmassebi (student), and Mr. Kenta Miyoshi (student athlete) are being proposed for appointment to the Athletic Board of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The chancellor also recommends the appointment of professor Brian Quick (Department of Communications) as Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) to the Big Ten Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The FAR also serves on the Athletic Board. Professor Quick will be filling the one vacant FAR position. (Biographical sketches for the nominees are attached.)

The Athletic Board is a committee of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate and serves in an advisory capacity related to the academic, administrative, educational, and other aspects of the intercollegiate athletics program at the Urbana-Champaign university.

The board consists of 19 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 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate. The slate of student nominees is provided to the chancellor by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate and the Student Athletic Advisory Board to fill one student position each. The slate of alumni is provided by a subcommittee of the University of Illinois Alumni Association. The chancellor reviews the lists of nominees and forwards recommendations to the president of the University of Illinois System for action by the Board of Trustees.

The University’s two FARs are charged with ensuring a close relationship between the DIA and the University’s faculty. One of the primary responsibilities placed on FARs by the NCAA is, in coordination with the Athletic Director, sports’ head coaches, and a student-athlete representative, to conduct an annual end-of-year review of each sport’s student-athlete time management plan to ensure compliance with required overnight and days off time away from the sport. Additional duties of the FARs include being active participants in DIA efforts related to academic integrity, student-athlete well-being and overall institutional control of the athletics program.

The Faculty Representatives shall serve at the pleasure of the chancellor, but for a period not to exceed ten years (barring extenuating circumstances as determined by the chancellor).

Under NCAA and Conference Bylaws, procedures and practices, the FARs also:

• Certify the eligibility of student-athletes to compete in intercollegiate athletics.

• Participate in the institutional reporting process for all NCAA infractions.

• Approve the submission of all eligibility waivers and petitions to the NCAA and conference.

• Approve outside competition for student-athletes.

• Request and/or appeal interpretations of rules from the NCAA Interpretation Committee.

• Return phone calls from prospective student-athletes and/or their family members.

• Participate in the NCAA Enforcement and Infractions process as well as any appeals related to infractions.

Serving as the DIA representatives to the NCAA and the Big Ten, FARs are responsible for formal communication between the campus and these two organizations, including reporting rules violations to these conferences. The FARs are commonly called upon to support student-athlete nominations for various conference and national academic awards.

In addition, the FARs are regularly informed by the Director of Athletics and the DIA administration of significant matters related to student-athlete welfare and they may, as appropriate, participate in program reviews and investigations regarding matters related to student-athlete welfare or academics.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval.

**Jon Hale (associate professor, EDU)**

Dr. Jon Hale is an associate professor of education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Moving back to teach at Illinois in 2020 after defending his dissertation from UIUC in 2009, Dr. Hale is seeking opportunities to continue to serve students and his alma mater. He is intimately familiar with competitive sports and may be seen running (slowly) around Champaign but is interested in serving on the board because it is a unique space to advocate for the values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. Dr. Hale has a deep understanding of the university's academic objectives and financial management through his service as the vice chair of the Senate Executive Committee and the director of the Forum on the Future of Public Education. Dr. Hale already has two years of experience on the Athletic Board and is excited about the possibility of completing a full term on the board.

**Trent Meacham (’08 AHS, EDM ’10 EDU)**

Trent was born and raised in Champaign, IL. Trent lived out a childhood dream by playing for the Fighting Illini men's basketball team from 2005‐09 and was awarded the Big Ten Medal of Honor. Trent earned his BS in Recreation, Sport, and Tourism in 2008 and his MS in Education in Human Resources in 2010. He represented the U of I as a professional basketball player throughout Europe for nine years (2009‐18) and continues to represent the university as a basketball analyst with the Big Ten Network. Champaign is home for him and his family ‐ wife, Theresa, and their four sons. Trent is also a realtor, youth basketball coach, and runs basketball camps in this community. He has lived and knows the power of athletics as a young kid, a collegiate athlete, a professional athlete, a coach, and in the business world. Trent is passionate about using sports for greater good.

**Brooke Covas (ACES)**

Brooke is a competitive bodybuilder in a national club sport, has interned with the UIUC football and other athletic teams, and is pursuing a career working with and alongside athletes. On the executive board for Illini Barbell, as well as being female in a male dominated field, she has experience working to establish changes by understanding rules and regulations, as well as seeking areas for improvement that would better enhance the program. She also completed an internship where she gained knowledge of financial management, in addition to taking economic classes. She is fully invested in the intercollegiate athletic program, and in creating the best program possible for the athletes, because she has seen what a solid program looks like but has experienced what it's like to not have that, and she is committed to establishing and developing the best program possible.

**Kayvon Tahmassebi (LAS)**

Kayvon’s experiences are as follows: Clearway, co-founder - identified and developed trusted NGO outreach, secured fundraising, and managed operations and supply logistics between partners. Iranian American Youth Group, 2015-23, member and assistant organizer - helped organize, set-up, and facilitate the annual Persian New Year celebration at the Pleasanton Senior Center; also connected Persian heritage to the local Iranian diaspora of nearly 100,000 Iranian Americans living in the Bay Area; CCOP CYO Basketball, 2018-20, center - Played basketball in a local competitive travel basketball organization; Logical Group Inc., 2019-23, assistant property manager - researched, analyzed, and modeled financial statements using Microsoft Excel, applied comparable multiples valuations and discounted cash flow valuations.

This nominee has a diverse amount of knowledge of various sports including soccer, golf, rowing, and basketball. Kayvon understands the importance of making sure student-athletes meet the university’s academic objectives by providing support and resources.

[**Kenta**](https://fightingillini.com/sports/womens-basketball/roster/adalia-mckenzie/13002) **Miyoshi (men’s tennis)**

Kenta is a Native of Japan. He will be a junior in 2024-25. Kenta is majoring in economics with a minor in media with a 3.11 GPA. He is a key contributor as the #3 singles player on our nationally ranked men’s tennis team.

**Brian Quick (professor, Department of Communications)**

Brian Quick is a professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He also holds an appointment in the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois. Professor Quick is also the director of the Online Master of Science degree in Health Communication.

Professor Quick’s research and teaching interests are in social marketing. His research employs various behavior change models to the context of public health, sports, injury prevention, financial stability, community engagement, and the environment. Together, Professor Quick and his associates strive to improve the quality of life for individuals. In addition to designing, implementing, and evaluating campaigns, Professor Quick’s work examines the role of cognition and emotion when processing promotional messages as well as explores how media portrayals create, change, and reinforce belief structures.