

Candidates for the Athletic Council September 7, 2016 Special Election

Staff Nominees

Denise Best – Business Services Specialist, Linguistics, College of Arts and Humanities

If elected it would be my honor to serve on the Athletic Counsel. As a Senator during our transition from ACC to the Big Ten I was privileged to be on several committees concerning the Athletic Department which worked directly with Kevin Anderson.

I have a rich background both as a player, coach, mother and fan -- I played on a co-ed adult softball team at the University of Maryland during the late eighties. I coached cheerleading for more than 25 years for the Lanham Boys and Girls Club, Bowie Boys and Girls Club, and Davidsonville, Gators. I was the Captain of the softball team, Co-Captain of the Varsity Cheerleading Team for three years at DuVal Senior High. I played for Lanham Boys and Girls Club on County AAA squads for basketball, softball, baseball and cheerleading from 1967-1982. All three of my children are athletes. My eldest son Jack is one of Sports Fit managers in Bowie, MD. He played football and lacrosse for DeMatha High School. My daughter Christina was on the Junior Redskins Cheerleader Team. She was the goalie and MVP award winner for Lacrosse at the Bowie Boys and Girls Club. My youngest son Joseph played Varsity Football at Bowie High School and Varsity Lacrosse for four years at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Several members of my family played professional sports. My cousin was the captain of the Washington Redskins cheerleading team, Captain of the Atlanta Falcons Cheerleading team and a member of the Washington Bullets Cheerleading squad. She is married to Stan White who works for ESPN and does the colors for Auburn University. Stan was the quarterback for the NFL New York Giants in the early 2000. He was also the quarterback at Auburn University. My husband's brother was drafted to the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team in 1968. And his grandfather was drafted to the original Washington Senators baseball team back in the 1920's by Walter Johnson. This committee totally peaks my interest on the future wellbeing of the Athletes and surrounding environment here at the University of Maryland.

Gloria Aparicio Blackwell – Director, Office of Community Engagement, Division of Administration and Finance

As the Director of Community Engagement, this opportunity will allow me to learn more about this critical function of this University. I have been at this institution for 19 years serving in various capacities and I believe I can bring different perspectives to the Athletic Council. As you may know, my current role at this university is to facilitate potential community based projects, and to engage the University with the surrounding communities. With this in mind, I would like to offer that knowledge and expertise to the Council as it continues its work towards the student athletes success and commitment to the land-grant mission and Greater College Park. Together we can make a difference and you will have champion of the good work you do for this University. Go Terps!

Andrea Dragan – Manager, Research Compliance Office, Division of Research

I am honored to be considered for the Staff position on the University Athletic Council. For the past ten years, the University of Maryland has acted as my home, family, and career. Starting as a student, I experienced the best of what this campus has to offer: an innovative environment to mature in knowledge and grow into a well-rounded member of a diverse community. There are few programs on campus that represent this mission greater than the Athletics Program. Our campus was well-known as a top institution, academically and athletically, while a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, but it has truly thrived over the last two years in the Big Ten Conference and its collaborating academic group, the Big Ten Academic Alliance (formerly known as the Committee on Institutional Cooperation). As our participation in these top athletic and research alliances expand, it is of the utmost importance that we continue to

develop and maintain the best athletic programs under the careful guidance of the University Athletic Council. I believe that with my knowledge of our athletic programs, student life, and research endeavors, I can be an excellent addition to the Athletic Council.

Currently, I am the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) Manager under the Division of Research. In my role, I have the privilege to observe and provide guidance for research studies carried out on campus every day by our faculty, researchers, and students. One of my responsibilities in this role is to participate in Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) meetings with other BTAA institutions regarding ways to promote greater academic engagement across the 14 institutions. I also serve as an Exempt Staff Senator on the University Senate and the Student Conduct Committee. In my roles on these committees, I have had the opportunity to reengage in student life, learning about how the Senate and its committees strive to provide the best atmosphere, facilities, and resources for students to thrive. It is essential that the University of Maryland has members on the Athletic Council who are dedicated to equipping current and future student athletes for their lives and careers during and after college through excellent academics and intercollegiate programs. It is my hope that with your support, I can bring my unique perspective and inexhaustible passion as both an alumna and employee of the University to the Athletic Council next year.

Brandon Dula – Assistant Director, Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy, Division of Student Affairs

I am a staff member at the Adele H. Stamp Student Union and have supervisory responsibility for management of the Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy (MICA) Office. I am currently a University Senator and in the past have served on the Senate Staff Affairs, Campus Affairs, Student Affairs, Human Relations and Transportation committees. I have over 20 years of experience and previous to MICA worked in the Office of Campus Programs and was charged with student co-curricular involvement programs such as the Pathfinder, the First Look Fair, Homecoming, the Pan-Hellenic Council and coordinated student recognition/award programs. In addition to my administrative duties, I teach two classes per year in the College of Education's Leadership Studies minor. Athletics provides all students opportunities to identify with the University and connect with others for a greater sense of community. While I have seen many student athletes in the classroom, I know that their time is limited for opportunities outside of their sport. I would like to serve on the Athletic Council to provide input in ways that we can further involve athletes in the life of the campus and ensure that they can access all learning opportunities that the University provides.

Stacey Sickels Locke – Director, Development, University Relations

I am pleased to be nominated for the Athletics Council. As a Senator, I believe strongly in the importance of shared governance. I understand that the role of the Athletics Council is not to set policy; however, an understanding of its important committees is something I can bring to the role including: Budget and Finance, Student Life, Academics, External Affairs. I have personal and professional experience that could contribute to all of these committees as well as experience as a past Chair of a Senate Committee, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. I would bring to a role on the Athletics Council a passion for athletics having been a competitive athlete myself growing up as well as the mother of two competitive children involved in soccer and lacrosse. My family has supported Maryland Terrapins Athletics for over 30 years serving as a member of the Terrapin Club and being season ticket holders. I have worked collaboratively with the Title IX Office at Maryland on several issues and understand the importance of Title IX in Athletics. Finally, as a fundraiser for the University of Maryland, I can bring an understanding of the importance of financial support for our athletes. I helped bring the gift for the new Iribe Center on campus and have brought several donors to the Cole Field House project. I also raise funds for scholarships and programs. As Chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee for the 2015-2016 academic year, I worked with my committee and the Senate Executive Committee to put forward several new policies for the Senate's consideration and vote including Nondiscrimination, Sexual Harassment, and the new Accessibility policy. Through that process, I learned about the role of the Senate Office, Senate Executive Committee, and the important ex-officio members of committees.

Appreciating the leadership structures and the governance process of the University Senate would be an important quality for any member of the Athletics Council.

Ronald Ziegler – Director, Nyumburu Cultural Center, Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy, Division of Student Affairs

It is my distinct honor to submit a statement of interest for your consideration, in my being placed on the ballot for a position on the Athletic Council. As a candidate for this vacant staff seat, I bring to you thirty-eight years of affiliation with the University of Maryland as a Graduate Student (1978 – 1983), Adjunct Instructor (1984 – Present), and Associate Staff Professional (1981 – Present). During my tenure as a proud Terp, I have served as a mentor, instructor, and friend to many student-athletes and alumni. Some of these student-athletes have gone on to professional athletic careers or became productive and important citizens in their local communities. Overall, I am equally proud of my campus responsibility in working with both student-athletes and non-student-athletes, who have achieved and excelled in their career endeavors.

Since May 2000, I have served in a leadership role as the Director of the Nyumburu Cultural Center within the Division of Academic Affairs. Between 1983 – 2000, I served as a Research Administrator in the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education. A few of my individual awards include the following: Minority Achievement Award—President’s Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues, Outstanding Student Employer of the Year, Diversity Appreciation Award, Faculty Teaching Certificate Acknowledgment(s) at Lacrosse Game, and Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA) Award for Outstanding Service. My most recent significant campus committee memberships include the following: Spirit of Maryland Award Committee, Campus Assessment Word Group (CAWG), Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) “Rise Above Campaign, and the Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA) Executive Committee Award. Please accept these credentials and experiences as qualifications for my serving on the Athletic Council.