

**ASUN**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT



*2023-2024*  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

Association of Students of the  
University of Nebraska (ASUN)



Submitted by Paul Pechous | April 17, 2024





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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Paul Pechous

I was recently reflecting on a Nebraska Today story from the beginning of the year where I talked about how this year was going to be one of “new beginnings.” Looking back, I think that is a good reflection for this year. Since June, UNL has welcomed a new Chancellor, a new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, a new Athletic Director, and has been searching for a new system-wide president. We also welcomed 4,500+ new students to their Nebraska home, and we soon see 2,500 students commence into their next steps.

We started this year with goals of strong collaboration with our campus partners, students, and student organizations; intentional inclusion of our campus community; and strong transparency. I am confident that this report will showcase the progress we made toward these goals. And I am proud to say that this team and the members of ASUN left UNL better than we found it.

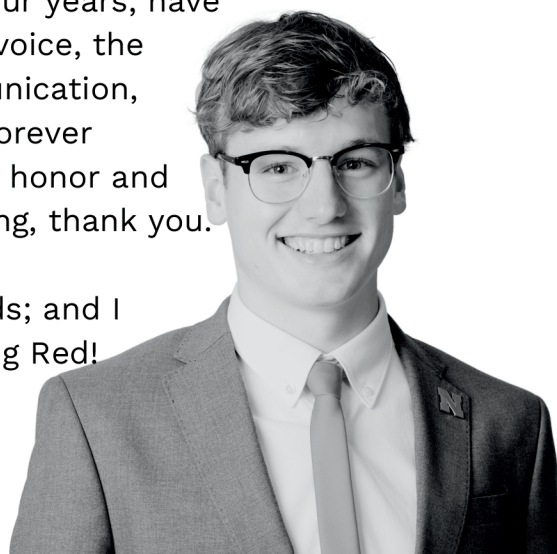
While this year was incredibly successful, I also want to take a moment to recognize some of the challenges we faced: a nearly \$60 million deficit at the system level, a search for the next leader of NU, an international conflict that has -- and will continue -- to affect many students, their families, and the University community, among others. However, what I have taken away from each of these challenges is there is an equally important opportunity. These challenges allowed us to think, learn, and make UNL better.

I am incredibly proud of the work that our ASUN team accomplished this year. This is a special group of leaders and friends. They have pushed me to do better, to learn, and to lead. This year, and the past four years, have taught me the immense power of the student voice, the importance of strong collaboration and communication, and the beauty in listening and learning. I am forever grateful for this experience, and it has been an honor and pleasure serving in this role. To everyone reading, thank you.

I am confident UNL and ASUN are in good hands; and I could not be more excited for the future. Go Big Red!



Paul Pechous, ASUN President, 2023-2024





# ABOUT ASUN

**“We give students a voice to be heard”**

The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) is the student governance organization at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Founded in 1965, ASUN strives to serve and support students in all facets of college life at Nebraska. Led by students and housed within the Division of Student Affairs, ASUN’s mission is based on student advocacy, providing student support and services, and leadership development.

While all UNL students are members of the Association, the leaders within are change-makers on campus who regularly meet with administrators, plan student-based programming, and provide students with services and financial support to enhance their time at UNL. ASUN strives to collaborate with campus partners to support UNL’s N2025 strategic goals and Student Affairs mission on connecting learning to life.

Throughout the year, the Association engages in several key activities:

- The ASUN President concurrently serves as a Student Regent on the Nebraska Board of Regents.
- ASUN members regularly meet with shared governance partners to provide student opinions.
- The Committee for Fee Allocations (CFA) makes annual recommendations for Fund A and B UPFF budgets and student fees.
- ASUN provides key student services including access to free attorneys through Student Legal Services, free access to news services through the Readership Program, and grants to student groups for programming, research, and projects.
- The Association also oversees several large-scale student programs including Homecoming, Earthstock, and the Big Event.



# ASUN STAFF



**MARLENE BEYKE**  
**Director of Administration**

Marlene joined ASUN as the Director of Administration in 1977 and is celebrating her 45th year at the University of Nebraska. During her time as Director, Marlene has provided operational oversight and has been instrumental in forming ASUN as it operates today.



**JESSIE MATTHES**  
**Administrative Technician & Treasurer**

Jessie has been the Administrative Technician for ASUN Student Government since 2000. In her role, Jessie oversees ASUN finances and operations, as well as regularly meets with students and student groups to approve RSO constitutions and execute ASUN-approved grants.



**JEFFREY WHITE**  
**Director, Student Legal Services**

Jeff is a 2013 graduate of the Nebraska College of Law. Joining Student Legal Services in 2014, Jeff oversees SLS's operation. He regularly meets with and represents students in and out of court.



**RANDI MOLVAR**  
**Assistant Director, Student Legal Services**

Randi joined SLS in August 2016 as a staff attorney. A 2016 UNL College of Law graduate, Randi consistently represents and provides legal assistance to UNL's student body.



# ASUN STAFF

**BAILEY PETTY**  
Staff Attorney

Bailey is the most recent addition to the Student Legal Services Staff, passing the Bar and joining the SLS team in August 2022. Bailey is a 2022 UNL College of Law graduate.



**SHARON WOJTASEK**  
Student Legal Services Office Manager

Sharon joined the SLS/ASUN team in 1999. Sharon oversees the day-to-day operations of the Student Legal Services office. After 25 years at the University of Nebraska, Sharon is retiring at the end of April 2024. We wish Sharon the best in her retirement and thank her for her service to UNL and SLS!



**RYAN LAHNE**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor & Advisor

Ryan Lahne has been the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Leadership in the Division of Student Affairs since 2022. Ryan is a two time graduate of UNL (2000 & 2019). In this role, Ryan serves as the official advisor to the ASUN student government and provides support to the ASUN and GSA Presidents and Executive teams.



**DEE DEE ANDERSON**  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Dee Dee Anderson is the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UNL. Joining the UNL leadership team in August 2023 from the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Anderson oversees the Division of Student Affairs, including ASUN Student Government.



# 2023-2024 SNAPSHOT

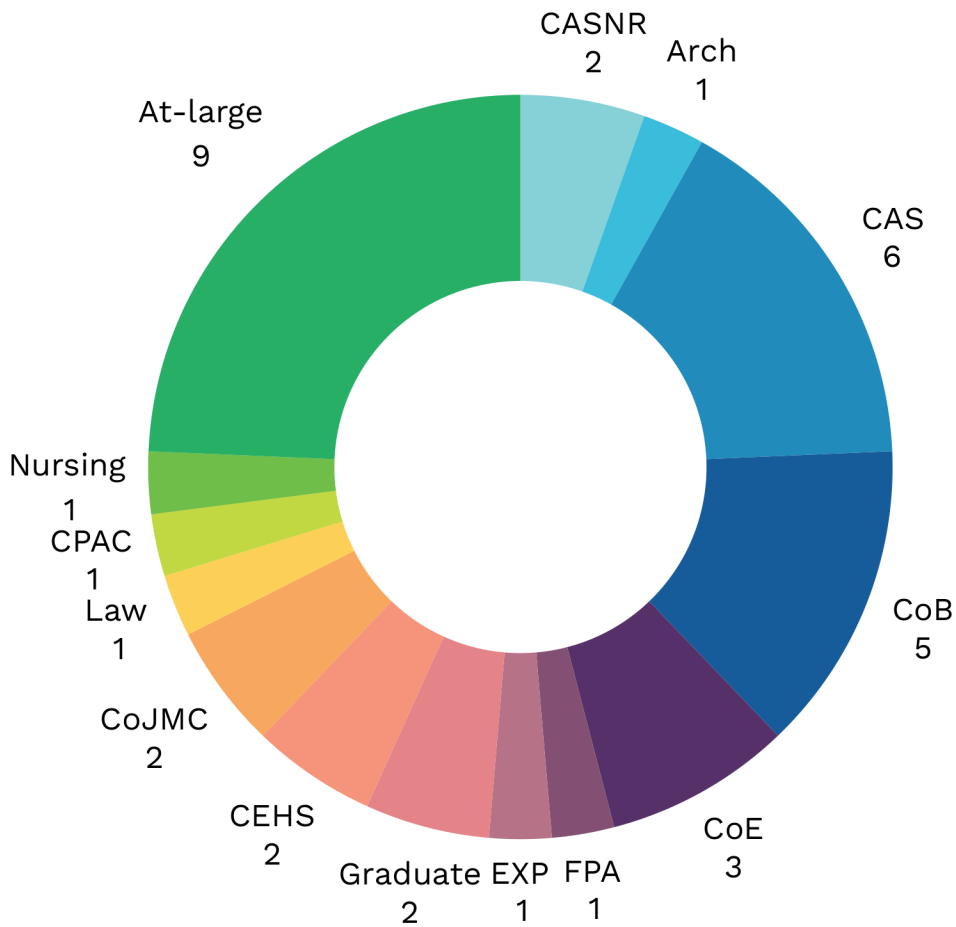
**150+**

Involved Students

**27**

Student-led Committees

## Senate Representation



**36**

Student Senators

**6**

Full Time Staff Members

**13**

Colleges and Groups Represented



# 2023-2024 SNAPSHOT

**3,000+**

Readership Program Users

**23,184**

Total Membership

**100+**

Student-led Projects

**\$729,156**

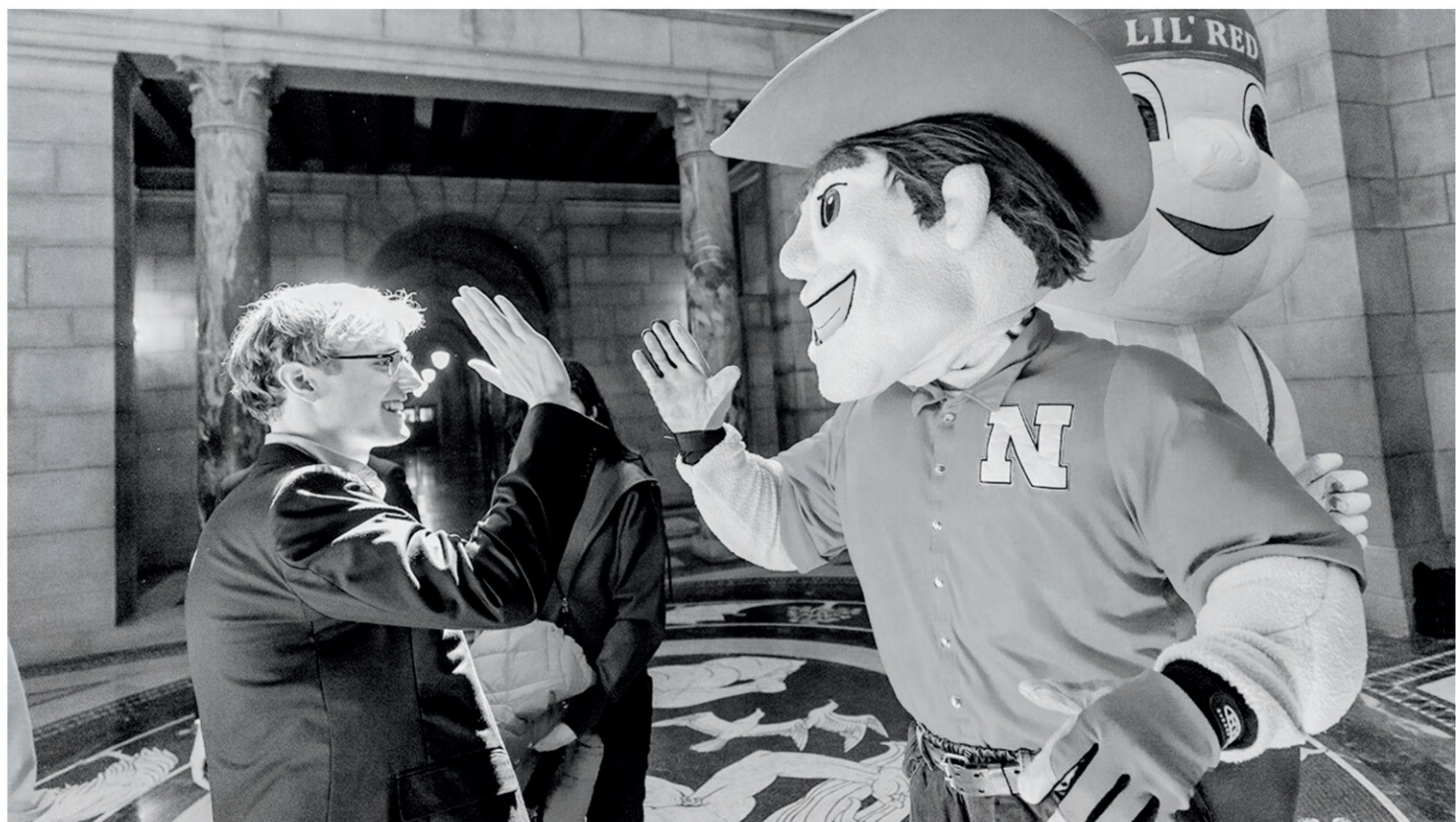
ASUN Operating Budget

**\$24.8 M**

Allocated to Student  
Fee Users

**307**

Cases Closed by SLS  
YTD





# EXECUTIVE TEAM



**PAUL PECHOUS**  
**President and Student Regent**

Paul is a senior special education and political science major from Elkhorn, NE. In addition to his role as Student Body President, he is involved in Mortar Board, the UNL Swim Club, the Teacher Scholars Academy, and NHRI. Paul formerly was the ASUN Chief of Staff, a Senator, and a member of FCLA. Upon graduation in May, Paul will be teaching special education in Elkhorn Public Schools.

**Contact:** [pechousp@gmail.com](mailto:pechousp@gmail.com)



**LAUREN KRUGER**  
**Internal Vice President**

Lauren is a senior biological sciences major with minors in biochemistry and humanities in medicine from Omaha, NE. Lauren has formerly served as the ASUN Speaker of the Senate and FCLA Co-Director. She is involved in Alpha Xi Delta sorority and Mortar Board. After graduating this upcoming May, Lauren will be working in the healthcare field in Omaha and applying to Physician Assistant programs.

**Contact:** [lakruger256394@gmail.com](mailto:lakruger256394@gmail.com)



**SHIVANI MUDHELLI**  
**External Vice President**

Shivani is a senior mathematics, computer science, and data science major from Omaha, NE. Shivani formerly served as a member and chair of the Committee for Fee Allocations. She is also a student in the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management and is involved in Mortar Board. After graduating in May, Shivani will be moving to New York City to work as a Project Manager at Mastercard.

**Contact:** [shivanimudhelli@gmail.com](mailto:shivanimudhelli@gmail.com)



# EXECUTIVE TEAM

## **NATALIE HOLE** Chief of Staff

Natalie is a senior political science and psychology major in the University Honors Program. Originally from Kansas City, she has served two terms in the ASUN Senate and Co-Chaired the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee. Outside of student government, Natalie is involved in the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues and her sorority, Phi Mu. Following graduation, Natalie will be attending law school at Boston University.  
**Contact:** natalia75hole@gmail.com



## **SAM SPETHMAN** Speaker of the Senate

Sam is a senior political science and communication studies major in the University Honors Program. Sam is originally from Lincoln, and has served in ASUN through various committees, directing the Environmental Leadership Program, and serving as a Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences. Sam is also involved in Mortar Board. After graduating in May, Sam will be attending law school.  
**Contact:** spethmansam@gmail.com



# EXECUTIVE PROJECTS

This year, the ASUN Executive team took on several large-scale and carry-over projects while continuing to provide support for the events that ASUN sponsors annually. This year, we looked at ways we can maximize student impact while capitalizing on ASUN's available funding to further stabilize the budget. The team looks forward to seeing many of these projects continue.

## ASUN Office Refresh and Record Digitization

Over the summer, the ASUN Staff and President Pechous took on a project of refreshing the ASUN Office. The ASUN space received new carpet, a new ceiling and lights, new paint, and updated furniture. The team also digitized thousands of pages of ASUN records spanning the years 1965-2021. These files are now easily accessible online. The physical copies were donated to University Archives and Special Collections available for public viewing.

## ASUN Recruitment and Big Red Welcome

In order to diversify and increase student involvement in ASUN, the Association attended and planned events around campus during Big Red Welcome at the beginning of the academic year. We hosted booths at university events such as the Street Fair, Wellness Fest, and Athletics Involvements Fair. During Big Red Welcome, ASUN reached over 5,000 students and connected them with services and resources including the Readership Program, student grants, Student Legal Services, and more. ASUN also designed some sick shirts to hand out.

ASUN also hosted an Open House for students and staff to network and share ASUN goals for the year. We also shared information about long-term ASUN projects and events. Each of these events connected students and staff to ASUN leaders, the ASUN office, and ASUN involvement.

## UPC Concert Partnership

The University Program Council, in collaboration with ASUN Student Government, began discussions in April 2023 to plan a large-scale concert for students during the 2023-2024 academic year. ASUN agreed to partner with UPC to provide \$50,000 in funding for this concert. After nearly a year of hard work by UPC, the ASUN Senate approved funding for NLE Choppa, a popular music artist. As part of the agreement and partnership, ASUN helped select the artist and plan the concert, which will occur on April 20, 2024. The goal of this long-term project was to increase collaboration between UPFF users with the hope that a similar collaboration could happen in the future using concert revenue.



# EXECUTIVE PROJECTS

## NU Student Alliance

During the Fall 2023 semester, in coordination with the Office of the President and the three other student regents, President Pechous convened the NU Student Alliance consisting of students across campus to spread the work of the University of Nebraska with external partners. This culminated in the annual I Love NU Day Celebration with a cookout where we served 200 hot dogs and a visit to the Capitol to say thank you to our state senators.

## 2023 Migration Game

Each year, ASUN designates one Husker Football game as the UNL Student Migration Game, per the ASUN Constitution. In coordination with Nebraska Athletics and the Division of Student Affairs, ASUN designated the Wisconsin-Nebraska game as the migration game. This year, ASUN worked closely with Athletics and Student Affairs to create highly accessible ticketing options for this game.

## ASUN Policy and Bylaw Updates

Throughout the Fall Semester, the Executive Team, with the help of the Senate, reviewed the ASUN Bylaws and Policies. This revision was aimed at decreasing barriers to joining and participating in ASUN, streamlining processes, and reflecting current practices in policy. ASUN also made sure to use the correct Bylaw revision process in line with Regent Policy.

## Study Week Policy Revision

In collaboration with our campus partners in Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, the executive team created an updated 15th-week policy proposal for consideration by the Faculty Senate. The proposal, which ASUN title “Study Week Policy” includes a standardization of the process to bring this policy in line with existing UNL procedures, and it gives agency to departments and colleges—rather than ASUN—to determine the best steps forward if a policy violation has occurred.

## Increased Internal Communication

At the beginning of the term, Speaker Spethman revitalized the weekly email Senators and Staff receive to prepare them for the week's meeting. He invested hours into developing and designing an email template that would excite, draw in, and get Senators excited for the Senate. Additionally, the new email template allowed for new accessibility in contrast, text, and imagery, and was well received both internally and externally.



# EXECUTIVE PROJECTS

## ASUN Accessibility Changes

Speaker Spethman changed the official font of ASUN to Aptos. The Aptos font is a Sans Serif font, meaning that it has simple letterforms, even strokes, and is easily readable. The Aptos font was carefully crafted to ensure optimal legibility, meaning that this font would help improve accessibility for not only our Senators and members, but also to students looking to get involved, read our meeting minutes, or stay up to date with ASUN.

## Shared Governance Advisory Boards

Throughout the year, members of the executive team served on many various committees and advisory boards:

- Academic Planning Committee: Chief of Staff Hole and President Pechous
- Board of Regents and Regents' Audit Committee: President Pechous
- Presidential Search Advisory Committee: President Pechous
- Dining Student Advisory Committee: IVP Kruger
- EVC Student Advisory Board: President Pechous
- UNL Parking Advisory Committee: EVP Mudhelli
- UNL Police Advisory Board: EVP Mudhelli
- Commencement Committee: President Pechous

## Equity Grant and Green Fund Update

President Pechous, with the help of Speaker Spethman, Green Fund Chair Williams, Equity Grant Chair Alsayid, and Morgan Hartman updated and standardized the process for applying for and approving grant requests for student groups. With a special interest in making the application more accessible while following applicable Regent and University Policy, we started from square one rethinking the entire grant process. Starting in 2026, grant funding will be more accessible due to a restructuring of the committee and streamlining of the application. With this change, we expect both the Green Fund and Equity Grant to grow in the breadth of application areas and number of approved grants.

## University Leadership Transitions

Coming into this year, ASUN leadership knew the university would be undergoing significant leadership changes at all levels. This year, an ASUN priority was welcoming and establishing strong, positive relationships with our new Chancellor, VC for Student Affairs, and interim President, and growing already established relationships to create more avenues for strong collaboration across UNL. This year, ASUN rethought what its role within UNL is and capitalized on strong relationships, especially throughout transitions.

# EXECUTIVE PROJECTS

## Patriot Day Recognition

On September 11, ASUN partnered with the Military and Veteran Success Center to host the annual 9/11 Patriot Day Memorial. This year, ASUN bought new flags, memorial signs, and expanded participation across City and East campuses. This year, volunteers placed hundreds of flags on green spaces across campus to remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

## Husker Shuttle Pilot Program

This year, the ASUN executives, in coordination with Parking and Transit Services, created a pilot shuttle program for students to travel to and from the Lincoln and Omaha airports before and after breaks. In the first year, we had nearly 40 individual RSVPs for students who traveled home over spring break. While this pilot was largely successful, the project needs adequately scaled for the amount of riders who would benefit from this service. Scaling this project back from a charter bus to a 12-passenger van would allow more flexibility in leave times, more possible trips, and cost efficiencies. The ASUN executive team hopes to see this project continue.

## Safe Ride Program Expansion

Continuing on the work of former EVP Alec Miller, EVP Mudhelli continued the work on finding a sustainable and realistic solution to bringing safe rides to campus. Extensive discussions with our partners within Student Affairs, Campus Recreation, Nebraska Athletics, and the University of Nebraska Office of the President were fruitful in gaining traction of scaling this project up. While an initial contract with Lyft did not come to fruition this year, we are confident that discussions with these stakeholders can and will result in an impactful, late-night, safe ride option for students soon. We hope these discussions continue with a student-first perspective.

## Initial Pilot Program Discussions

ASUN funded and discussed a number of "pilot programs" to understand how they could benefit the university. Examples include access to greater technology tools (including Grammarly and expanded New York Times subscriptions) and transportation services. The goal of these programs was to start discussions on new ways to help students and find potential campus partners to assist with future funding. These partners included Campus Recreation, Daily Nebraskan, Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Sorority and Fraternity Life, Athletics, and Libraries. After many productive discussions, ASUN is confident many of these programs will be continued in full effect in the coming years.

# EXECUTIVE REFLECTIONS

## A message from IVP Lauren Kruger

This role is so much fun and has the ability to influence the entire atmosphere of ASUN! Because you work so closely with the president and EVP, you're really a part of choosing what projects ASUN wants to pursue for the school year. I recommend that you understand what your role as IVP is pretty early on—my version of IVP was someone who provided a light-hearted presence to ensure that ASUN was as inclusive as possible but also upheld the more managerial aspects of my role. This included being timely with the roster, keeping voting records clear, memorizing Robert's rules, and being a supportive body during those large-scale projects that the executive team works on. What I do may seem a bit rigid, but this role can really be influential if you find a project that you're passionate about. I was a large part of the newly formed Dining Student Advisory Board. This group (formed by RHA and the university's main dietitian) focuses on making campus dining more welcoming and accessible.

Overall, I'm proud of the change we've enacted on campus for dining. I'm also proud of the friends and connections I've made through ASUN—if I can share one thing, it's that the cohesion of Senate essentially runs on how prepared and compassionate the IVP is. If senators feel motivated and welcomed, they're more likely to work on projects and feel like they can ask questions.

### Highlights

I have three highlights that come to mind. First, and most importantly, making ASUN a welcoming atmosphere for all our members. I also enjoyed a successful first year of dining student advisory committee and participating in FCLA Appointments Board.



### Recommendations

- Bring a good and welcoming atmosphere to Senate (even if you're having a rough day).
- Rely on your speaker—let them do the emails and work closely with committee chairs. Spend more of your time in your role as IVP.
- Stay on the Dining Student Advisory Board.
- Meet with FCLA often to help see projects to fruition and to support the co-directors.
- Support the president and offer assistance to them.
- Know your Robert's rules.



# EXECUTIVE REFLECTIONS

## A message from EVP Shivani Mudhelli

Serving as the External Vice President means I often found myself as many individuals' first introduction to all things ASUN and student government. There was a unique responsibility of explaining the goals of ASUN to newcomers and stakeholders, hoping they understand just how diverse, and passionate, of an organization we are.

Everything we do, the many resources, events, and projects, falls under one mission of improving the university, so it was absolutely necessary to educate myself on the status of student government and the university as a whole. I wore more hats than I was expecting—recruiter, event planner, program manager—all to best promote and improve ASUN presence on campus. On some days I was working with campus marketing and RSOs to draw attention to special events, and the next, I was having meetings with external companies and services about new products that could benefit students. Though the tasks were varied, my main focus was always ensuring students had a comfortable and exciting university experience to guide them into the next period of their lives.

## Highlights

The biggest success of the EVP role this year was connecting ASUN with groups and individuals who could provide us with resources to complete new projects and expand our network. I also enjoyed our recruitment efforts at Big Red Welcome, which allowed us to reach thousands of new students, many of whom became involved in ASUN this year. Having an Open House was great: we hosted students and administrators in our newly refreshed office space!

## Recommendations

- Set long-term goals for every initiative. Most likely, these projects will take a long time to complete, so setting goals early will help you keep track of progress and find others to help you achieve them.
- I also recommend collaborating as much as possible; knowing different perspectives and experiences is key. Talk to both internal and external contacts.
- Get creative: reach out to contacts around the university you think could help in ASUN. I found most people are open to working with you, as long as you ask!



# EXECUTIVE REFLECTIONS

## A message from Chief of Staff Natalie Hole

Very few students get the opportunity to serve in a role like that of Chief of Staff or any other Executive position during their undergraduate career. The time and effort associated with student organizations is a privilege that much of the student body cannot afford- let alone pursuing leadership positions. With these considerations, it is no surprise that the prevailing theme of my work as Chief of Staff was objectivity in representation. I feel very fortunate to have been in ASUN for all four years of college, but the importance of this principle never fully actualized until this year.

Whereas being a Senator provides a wealth of opportunities to represent special ideas and opinions, being an Executive mandates representing the interest of all. This requirement was especially evident in my work with the Academic Planning Committee during this year's budget reduction process and as the University's liaison for the Association of Big Ten Students. Unprecedented financial deliberations and nation-wide protests across college campuses required a dedicated effort to listen to student voices and represent them at every level. I am beyond proud of this administration's ability to seek out and represent opinions and interests beyond their own in order to fully optimize the privileged opportunity we were afforded by the student body.

### Highlights

Nothing was more emblematic of the ASUN experience than serving hot dogs to students and staff on the Union Plaza for I Love NU Day. Connecting with our University community to focus on the issues of importance and areas of success while unapologetically practicing our baseball game hotdog chants was a cherished moment. Going to Washington D.C. might have been a close second.



### Recommendations

- Disagree with your team. Effective work is a result of careful deliberation that can only be realized after considering all sides of an issue.
- Be flexible. Each administration comes in with grand ideas of what issues they're going to take on, only to be met with unpredictable issues that affect students.
  - Meet people where they're at. Host a booth, make a form, send a ton of emails- don't wait for students, faculty, staff, and collaborators to find you. Even if they don't respond, you can't say you didn't try.

# ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## A message from the Commission Director Nick Lauver

The Electoral Commission worked hard to promote fair and transparent elections. The commission is proud of the work done to reduce barriers to the ballot, improve internal documentation, and make timeline and rules improvements.

### Homecoming Election

The Electoral Commission held the annual Homecoming Royalty Election on October 25-26, 2023 and saw a voter turnout of just over 2,900 students. Of twenty homecoming royalty candidates, Hannah-Kate Kinney of Omaha and Preston Kotik of Hooper were elected as the homecoming royalty winners.

### Spring Election

The Commission's work culminated in the Spring Semester with the general election. This year, the commission moved the election back two weeks in an attempt to align the Board of Regents calendar with the ASUN transition. The election had a record number of independent candidates file and saw a voter turnout of just over 1,400 students. The commission also polled the student body on student fees and a constitutional amendment which ultimately failed.

## Highlights

The Spring 2024 Election went live, and the all-student email went out without any technical glitches on election day.

## Recommendations

It's important to fill the commission with student and faculty members early in the semester, so the commission can administer the homecoming election and have enough time to properly review the rules. We recommend maintaining this year's election timeline and signature requirements. We also recommend exploring tweaks to SEG naming standards, supporting independent candidate operations, and revising electronic and physical campaigning rules.

## Committee Membership

Nick Lauver  
Victoria Diersen  
Cristina Villa

With questions, contact Electoral Commission Director Lauver at [nlauver2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:nlauver2@huskers.unl.edu).



# GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

## A message from the Chair Luke McDermott

The Government Liaison Committee is excited to highlight the work of the 2023-2024 school year. This year, we faced a tumultuous political environment surrounding student life and higher education. Through proactive conversations and responses to pieces of legislation in the legislature, we advocated through one-on-one senatorial meetings and committee testimony on behalf of the student body at the state legislature on LGBTQIA+ inclusion, higher education funding, anti-DEI legislation, and anti-tenure legislation. Additionally, we represented the student voice on Capitol Hill by presenting an advocacy package to our federal delegation on campus safety, food insecurity, and accessibility accommodations in higher education.

### Testifying on LB 1330

LB 1330, a piece of legislation that seeks to ban requirements and public expenditures for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training in the NU System, Nebraska State Colleges, and Nebraska Community Colleges, was a focus of the GLC this year. Together with members Lennon Harris, Trey Quick, and Rylie Wright, we drafted testimony which was presented at the bill's public hearing by Lennon Harris on behalf of the student body. Through our testimony, we communicated to Senators the devastating impacts on minoritized communities and student retention of banning DEI initiatives.

### Testifying on LB 1064

LB 1064, which seeks to eliminate academic tenure for professors in the NU System, Nebraska State College System, and Nebraska community colleges, was an additional focus of the GLC this year. Together with members Lennon Harris, Trey Quick, and Rylie Wright, we drafted testimony which was presented at the bill's public hearing by Chair Luke McDermott on behalf of the student body. Through our testimony, we communicated to Senators the academic freedom and institutional viability consequences of this piece of legislation.

### Unify College Bowl

GLC promoted civic engagement among students by coordinating the University's participation in the Unify College Bowl and disseminating voting and advocacy resources. The Unify College Bowl is a political discourse program run by the Unify Challenge that aims to promote productive dialogue on the country's most contentious issues.

### Senator Research Projects

Committee members drafted power-mapping research on all 49 Nebraska Senators.

# GOVERNMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

## Continued

### Federal Advocacy Package

Three representatives of the Government Liaison Committee, Luke McDermott, Trey Quick, and Rylie Wright, along with other ASUN representatives, presented an advocacy package to our federal delegation on Capitol Hill on issues including campus safety, food insecurity, and accessibility accommodations in higher education.

### Highlights

Communicating the student perspective on critical campus issues pending in the legislature, namely, tenure and DEI bans.

### Recommendations

The committee recommends that for next year, proactive advocacy should start early in the fall semester, even before the session has begun. Issues will inevitably arise in the Spring semester, at the start of the session, that will detract attention from those priorities. The committee also recommends doing more one-on-one senatorial meetings earlier in the semester.

### Committee Membership

Abhi Karri  
Kym Dykstra  
Trey Quick

Lennon Harris  
Rylie Wright  
Eamonn Conway

Contact GLC Chairperson McDermott at [lmcdermott4@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:lmcdermott4@huskers.unl.edu).





# EQUITY GRANT SELECTIONS COMMITTEE

## A message from Chair Ahmed Alsayid

Welcome to the Equity Grant Selections Committee!, a pivotal force within our campus dedicated to supporting RSOs and Student Projects that promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We are very proud of the various events we have been able to support throughout campus, fostering a space where students of all backgrounds can feel welcomed. Our vision extends beyond just the allocation of grants; we aim to support a culture of empowerment within our students, ensuring that every member of our community feels capable of contributing to creating change on campus. As we move forward, we're excited to support future projects, and ideas, fostering innovation and collaboration that will address critical challenges and enhance the overall campus experience. Throughout our journey, we strive to not only meet the immediate needs of our diverse student body but also to lay the groundwork for sustainable development and inclusive excellence in all aspects of campus life. Our commitment is to nurture a vibrant, engaging, and supportive environment where every voice is heard and every initiative is given the opportunity to flourish. We invite you to join us, whether by submitting a grant application, attending our events, or contributing your ideas!

## Highlights

Our committee's biggest success would have been navigating all of the challenges that come with starting up a project as new as this, through all the trials and tribulations, we've managed to allocate over \$18,000 to various student projects.

## Recommendations

Next year, continue working on the structure of the Equity Grant. It will also be important to recruit members for the committee early to ensure applications can be processed quickly.

Contact Equity Grant Chair Alsayid at [aalsayid@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:aalsayid@huskers.unl.edu).



# FRESHMAN CAMPUS LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATES

## A message from Co-Directors Benjamin Morgan and Misha Jalali

Our curriculum consisted of ASUN education, introductions to RSOs, working on personal projects, volunteering, fundraising, and more to promote the 24 person cohort's leadership. So much effort was put into this group and into developing FCLA this year. Our focus was primarily on giving back to our community while forming strong bonds throughout the process.

### Community Service

FCLA volunteered more than 160 hours in the community with non-profit organizations including the Matt Talbot Food Kitchen and the People City Mission. FCLA also organized a fundraiser for the Husker Pantry.

### Safe Ride Program

Taryn Lauver, Tony Garrett, and Fernando Perez all passed legislation to make the campus a safer place by reinstating the UNL safe ride program which is accessible to all students.

### Garage Safety Bill

Kym Dykstra and Eric Haupt passed legislation to implement mirrors in parking garages across campus to increase the safety of students.

### Food Safety Bill

Maathir Basi and Kouther Al-Ghanemi passed legislation implementing training that requires changing gloves when handling different foods at dining areas across campus.

### Financial Literacy Bill

Rylie Wright passed legislation focused on strengthening the campus community through events and advocacy regarding financial literacy.

### Agriculture Day Bill

Olivia Vanderford passed legislation organizing an event where students can learn more about agriculture while also having opportunities to give back to Big Red Resilience and Husker Food Pantry.

### Agriculture Day Bill

Hamdiya Mumade passed legislation enhancing the light structures around campus to promote accessibility, sustainability, and safety.



# FRESHMAN CAMPUS LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATES

## Continued

### Diet Restrictions Bill

Halle Settles, John Jacobson, and Andy Nguyen passed legislation to focus on expanding dietary options in campus dining halls, specifically those with food sensitives, such as celiac and lactose intolerance.

### Cather Hours for Ramadan Bill

Zohaib Shaikh, Emily Frech, Abhi Karri, Alex Halvorsen, and Abba Yagub passed legislation to focus on extending the hours at Cather dining hall during Ramadan to honor the religious practices of Muslim students.

### Eating Disorder Nutritional Resources Bill

Zainib Al-Jayashi passed legislation for the support of ASUN to join her in destigmatizing the talk about eating disorders in the UNL camps, advocating for more free resources to students who struggle with this.

## Highlights

Our biggest success was maintaining retention with all 24 freshmen throughout the entire school year. In years past, the cohort shrunk in size because people discontinued showing up to meetings. The goal was to make our meetings fun and engaging, I would believe we achieved that.

## Recommendations

Next year, continue working to give back to the community; bill proposals, volunteering, and fundraising. We also recommend finding some way to keep consistency with how FCLA is run from year to year since there is a new appointments board, team of directors, and cohort annually.

## FCLA Membership

Taryn Lauver	Abba Yagub	Abhi Karri	Heather Lange
Rylie Wright	Anh Nguyen	Andy Nguyen	Zohaib Shaikh
Eric Haupt	Olivia Vanderford	Elizabeth Harding	Kouther Al-Ghanemi
Kym Dykstra	Hamdiya Mumade	Marlana Saalfeld	John Jacobson
Emily Frech	Maathir Basi	Halle Settles	Zanib Al-Jayashi
Alex Halvorsen	Jack Burchess	Tony Garrett	Fernado Perez

Contact Co-Directors Morgan and Jalali at [bmorgan18@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:bmorgan18@huskers.unl.edu) and [mjalali-naenii2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:mjalali-naenii2@huskers.unl.edu)

# LOW-INCOME STUDENT ADVISORY TASKFORCE (LISA)

## A message from Co-Chairs Laila Doyle and Madie Beasley

This task force is dedicated to working with and for individuals with diverse needs by holding events and spreading awareness. For the first semester, we focused our time on research and meeting with faculty in Student Affairs, Housing, and Dining to see what resources students used the most and what resources students didn't see enough of. We also completed training with the National Student Basic Needs Coalition. During the second semester, we worked to gain membership in our task force by creating an Instagram and worked on tangible goals, including our hat and glove giveaway, and working on legislation.

### Hat and Glove Giveaway

We made this event to give out free hats and gloves to students in need because Nebraska has extremely cold winters, particularly for out-of-state students who may not be used to the cold. We also surveyed nearly 60 students about their needs and what events would be most impactful. Co-Chair Doyle wrote the bill, presented it to the Senate, coordinated the Amazon orders, and created advertising. Co-Chair Beasley helped with the poster board advertising our task force and its values. She also worked at the booth; calling out to students and asking them to come over and learn about the Student Basic Needs Coalition.

### Highlights

Our biggest success was signing students up for SNAP benefits. Through our efforts, we got 6 students signed up unlocking \$2,000 in benefits.

### Recommendations

We recommend working continuing to work as a task force. This will allow us to work on pillars of inclusion, sustainability, and allyship for students in need of basic needs. We continue to recommend holding events related to budgeting and financial literacy.

### Committee Membership

Isabelle Droste

Madie Beasley

Laila Doyle

Contact Co-Chairs Beasley and Doyle at [ldoyle7@unl.edu](mailto:ldoyle7@unl.edu) and [mbeasley3@unl.edu](mailto:mbeasley3@unl.edu)

# HEALTH CENTER BUDGET ADVISORY TASKFORCE

## A message from Co-Chairs Owen Crone and Ashwin Mannur

This task force is dedicated to helping the University Health Center (UHC) resolve its budget crisis. Currently, the UHC sits in a 2.3 million dollar budget deficit. This is a result of declining enrollment, rising costs, and changes to insurance billing. In our first semester, we held many meetings with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Josh Overocker, and the Director of Primary Care and Clinics at Nebraska Medicine, Robbe Peetz. These meetings allowed our task force to gain a deep understanding of the problems the UHC faces and how changes to UHC offerings and policies can best fight them. In our second semester, we focused on presenting actual changes to the UHC budget to ASUN senators and the Board of Regents through the Committee for Fee Allocations (CFA) process. Members of CFA worked with Josh Overocker to work through and understand the new UHC budget request. The new request was presented at the CFA Town Hall in February and passed unanimously.

## Highlights

The new University Health Center budget request for the FY 2025 includes a 1.5 million dollar reduction of the budget deficit. This reduction was made possible by an increase of UPFF student fees of 650k and a 750k reduction of contracted services through Nebraska Medicine. This reduction places the UHC within striking distance of a neutral, breakeven budget. Looking forward to next year, the UHC will have to determine how to reconcile a 800k deficit,

## Recommendations

We recommend the UHC Budget Task force continue throughout the next school year (24-25). This is in part due to Nebraska Medicine's budget development timeline, which is set to conclude in late April. It is necessary for the Task Force to continue to advise university and Nebraska Medicine administration until the Health Center is able to meet sustainable, budget neutral operations.

## Committee Membership

Owen Crone

Ashwin Mannur

Peyton Strong

Dylan Kluthe

William Kafka

Contact Co-Chairs Crone and Mannur at [ocrone2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:ocrone2@huskers.unl.edu) and [amannur2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:amannur2@huskers.unl.edu)



# APPOINTMENTS BOARD

## A message from Chair Cristina Villa

I'd like to thank my Appointments Board team for dedicating their time and effort toward ASUN. They were crucial to the appointment process and were extremely thoughtful with their input, helped establish a welcoming environment for potential new members of ASUN, and helped recognize new leaders all across campus. Their dedication, consistency, and efficiency helped Appointments Board thrive this term, and has established a strong foundation for the future.

### Candidate Interviews

The Appointments Board members help interview and appoint most applicants for ASUN Student Government. Appointments Board conducts 15-minute interviews, asks questions, discusses applications, and proposes appointments to the Senate. This year, the Board appointed over over 50 students to various positions within ASUN.

### Highlights

Effectively running interviews and our consistency in contacting folks.

### Recommendations

The committee recommends that for next year to improve organization measures by maintaining a running document of all appointments and upcoming interviews. It is also recommended to use Calendly as a platform to schedule interviews quickly and easily.

### Committee Membership

Mimi Yu

Dawa Damdul

Grace Ellis

Contact Chair Villa at [cvilla-huerta2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:cvilla-huerta2@huskers.unl.edu).



# GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

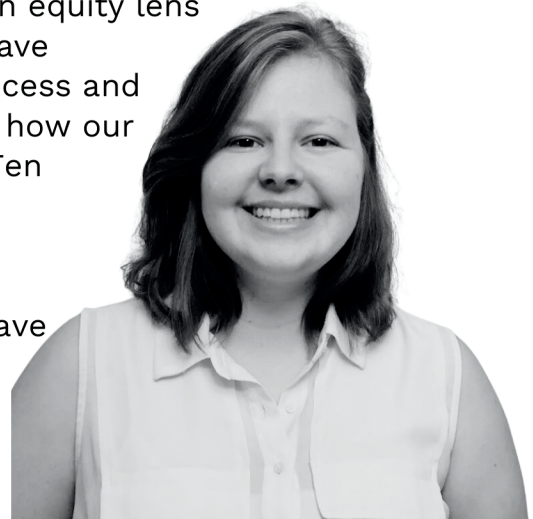
## A message from President Mowat

The Graduate Student Assembly represents “a unique population with roles as students, teachers, researchers, and/or staff.” We “exercise the student governance of affairs solely involving graduate students at the University, as well as collaborate with the ASUN Senate, executives, and committees on issues affecting the entirety of the University’s student body.” The GSA is made up of graduate and professional students from every department/program offered at UNL. These representatives both represent their constituents on issues and provide a conduit to relay information back to their fellow students.

I am very proud of the students who are willing to serve as representatives of their fellow students. GSA is only as strong as the students who choose to take on roles within it. I have seen how much the members of GSA this year have cared about the well-being of their fellow students. Through serving on task forces, meeting with fellow students to hear their stories, looking for ways to promote equity, and seeking to understand the situations of students with different backgrounds, the members of GSA have made an impact this year.

The GSA has seven internal committees: Academic Affairs, Quality of Life, Professional Development, Diversity and Inclusion, Social Events, Communications, and Graduate Travel Awards Program (GTAP). These committees have worked on multiple projects this year. Through these committees, GSA has worked to support events that foster connection and networking. From supporting conferences and a trip to see the sandhill cranes, social events with board games to watching a UNL baseball game, supporting the research endeavors of students across the campus, and serving on multiple committees that work to support students. Our committees met regularly with the professional development team in graduate studies and served on the Faculty Senate’s and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s D&I-related committees. Our committees also evaluated our bylaws through an equity lens and proposed changes. Lastly, our committees have dedicated time to understanding the appeals process and how students are both determined and updating how our numbers at UNL relate to numbers at other Big Ten universities.

Finally, the GSA officer team has worked hard to represent graduate students at all levels. They have done this by serving on the Academic Planning Committee (APC), Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, EVC Advisory Board, ASUN Executive



# GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

## Continued

Committee, ASUN Senate, health insurance task force, Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) Orientation Task Force, OGS Support Task Force, and review groups and search committees. At each of these meetings, officers brought the voices of graduate students to the table and advocated for them on issues that related in any way to graduate and professional students.

Furthermore, GSA officers took time to meet with the Chancellor, Director of External Relations, Chancellor's Chief of Staff, NU President's Chief of Staff, Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, the Office of Student Advocacy and Support, Dean of Graduate Studies, NU GSA Presidents, ASUN UNL student regent, Faculty Senate executive committee, the Vice President of Staff Senate, Big Red Welcome, and other Deans, Faculty, Staff, and Students throughout the university. At each of these meetings, officers brought graduate and professional student issues to the forefront. Conversations centered on graduate student support, stipends, mental health, representation, work conditions, empathy, communication, and the culture at UNL.

However, the GSA's work is far from complete on these topics. Going into the next year, I hope that the next GSA administration will build on the work that has been done this year and further the goals that were outlined at the beginning of the 2023-2024 GSA year. Connecting and providing awareness of issues is just the first step in coming up with plans, goals, and opportunities to further help students. Thus, I challenge each student, faculty, staff, and administrator to look closely at the culture at UNL and find ways to make a difference.

### **NU Graduate and Professional Student Showcase and Social**

The inaugural NU Graduate and Professional Student Showcase and Social was held on April 5th. It brought graduate and professional students from all four of our NU campuses to UNL for an afternoon. During this event students had a chance to meet each other, socialize, make connections, share both their research and personal interests, hear from OGS deans and associate deans from all four campuses, and eat food. This is the first event of its kind bringing together graduate students from across our NU system. The GSA Presidents from UNL, UNK, and UNMC and their teams worked together to make this event a reality. While around 170 people RSVP'd, about 100 people were able to participate on the day of the event. The GSA leadership hopes that this event can serve as an example of how our NU system can come together and collaborate. The GSA is also looking forward to continuing this event next year.



# GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

## Continued

### Appeals Process

Our academic affairs committee is working to understand and document the appeals process at UNL. Currently, if you ask a graduate student or professor, they typically cannot tell you how to resolve an issue that has gotten out of hand. While we do not have a final report yet, what we do know is that it has taken multiple graduate students who are well-versed in policy months to not figure out much. This shows that if graduate students who not currently having a problem are unable to determine how to handle a theoretical issue, then a graduate student who is feeling the pressure of reporting an issue will undoubtedly be unable to successfully navigate the complex university structure as it currently stands. This is also echoed by the graduate students whom we have discussed with who have navigated appeals processes before. While we have not accomplished documenting the appeals process, this has highlighted how imperative it is that GSA continue to advocate for a clearer way for students and professors to officially navigate resolving an issue when communication has broken down. We have held conversations on this issue with the Chancellor, Director of External Relations, Chancellor's Chief of Staff, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the Office of Student Advocacy and Support, Dean of Graduate Studies, NU GSA Presidents, Faculty Senate executive committee, and other faculty and students at UNL. So far, no solutions have been proposed, however, conversations about an HR, ombudsperson, or other office are being considered. The GSA will continue to push forward this issue in the coming year.

### Bylaw Amendments with Equity in Mind

The Graduate and Professional student population at UNL is very diverse. We have students that represent multiple countries, varying ages, different sexual orientations, dependents, are veterans, have different religions and cultures, and are studying in many different fields. Due to this great diversity, it is important to consider multiple situations and prospects when making decisions. With this in mind, our Diversity and Inclusion committee took time to go through our GSA bylaws. Their work resulted in three bills looking at general edits, our attendance policy, and committee restructuring.

### Support Professional Development (GTAP and SPGP)

The GSA through the Graduate Travel Awards Program (GTAP) and Special Projects Grant Program (SPGP) have supported around 20 students and groups on the UNL campus in professional development activities. These students have represented the university both nationally and internationally and brought back what they have learned to our campus.

# GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

## Continued

### Graduate and Professional Student Support

One of the biggest projects of the GSA this year was to look at the topic of support. This project was led by the GSA officer team. On this topic, the GSA talked with fellow students about working conditions, appeals process, advisor/advisee relationships, power differential, and other situations. The officers then took time to meet with the Chancellor, Director of External Relations, Chancellor's Chief of Staff, NU President's Chief of Staff, Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs, the Office of Student Advocacy and Support, Dean of Graduate Studies, NU GSA Presidents, Faculty Senate executive committee, and the Vice President of Staff Senate. At each of these meetings, officers brought the issue of support to the forefront among other concerns. This work has resulted in an Office of Graduate Studies task force focusing on support with representation across the UNL campus.

### Graduate and Professional Student Orientation

Another project that GSA tackled this year was the topic of orientation. This project was led by the GSA officer team. On this topic, the GSA talked with fellow students about their orientation experience both at UNL and at other institutions and before, during, and after COVID. The officers then took time to meet with the Chancellor, Director of External Relations, Chancellor's Chief of Staff, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Dean of Graduate Studies, NU GSA Presidents, and New Student Enrollment. At each of these meetings, officers brought the issue of orientation to the forefront among other concerns. This work has resulted in an Office of Graduate Studies task force focusing on orientation with representation across the UNL campus and conversations in student affairs about how to welcome graduate and professional students to the UNL campus.

### Stipends

During the 2022-23 school year, the GSA focused much of its efforts on improving the graduate assistant stipend to be more competitive with our peer institutions. This resulted in an increase from \$10,930 to \$15,000 per academic year in the minimum. Unfortunately, as stated in GSA Bill #5 (passed 2/7/2023), this still falls short of the cost of living as stated by the Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid and our Big Ten peers. Information regarding cost of living was then provided to the graduate dean along with Bill #5 and a written copy of the explanation that we gave Chancellor Green which resulted in the previous raise. GSA leadership strongly encourages the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to move forward on our recommendations as we believe graduate student research and teaching assistants will help us accomplish our research and teaching goals as set out by the Board of Regents.

# GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

## Continued

### Highlights

The biggest success that GSA saw this year was the start of two Office of Graduate Studies task forces. Each task force is focused on an issue that GSA brought forward and has representation from across campus. The first task force is looking at graduate and professional student orientation and the second is looking at graduate and professional student support. Both task forces have graduate student representation.

### Recommendations

Next year, I would recommend that GSA focus on policies that relate to student support, particularly in the areas of conflict resolution/appeals, overwork, and comprehensive exams. Additionally, they need to keep the momentum going on stipends and orientation. This is going to require the continued collaboration of GSA with offices, senates, committees, and advisory boards across campus. Lastly, it would be awesome to see the GSA continue to lead the university in system-wide collaboration as seen in the monthly meetings between NU GSA presidents that led to the inaugural NU Graduate and Professional Student Showcase and Social this year.

### Executive Committee Membership

Venn Jemkur

Connor Gee

Doug Rief

Alejandra Vasquez

Serenity Dougherty

Katie Kassler

Nosakhare Idiaghe

Faiza Hafeez

Emmanual Ani

Kat Jordan

Sara Hopkins

Akinbode Okunola

Ibukunoluwa Salami

Anureet Dhillion

Jerome Okojokwu-idu

Andrew Donesky

Deborah Minter

Marlene Beyke

Contact President Mowat at [kmowat2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:kmowat2@huskers.unl.edu)



# SENATE REFLECTIONS

## A message from Speaker of the Senate Sam Spethman

Hello! My name is Sam Spethman and I have been proud to serve as the Speaker of the Senate for ASUN in the 2023-2024 term. My job primarily consists of preparing legislation and communicating each week with the Executive Team, Senators, and Staff about what to expect each week at the Senate Meeting. I am responsible for formatting all legislation, compiling legislation, along with the agenda, meeting minutes, and other relevant documents, into a packet, and then sending them out in an email to prepare everyone for our meetings. Additionally, I meet with the executive team each week to discuss current projects, issues, and ideas that could be implemented on campus, and communicate these ideas with Senators. I essentially serve as a branch between the Executive team and Senators and act as a mentor for Senators. I regularly meet with Senators to discuss their projects and ideas, and help point them in the right direction for their projects!

Looking back on this term, I am most proud of the work that we have accomplished this term. With over 40 Government Bills, 15 Senate Bills, nearly 10 Resolutions, 14 Allocation Bills, and our yearly Bylaw Amendments, this group was able to present and pass over 80 pieces of legislation. The bills presented by ASUN consistently exemplify the unwavering dedication and fervor that our members possess for the betterment of not only the students enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln but also the holistic enhancement of the entire campus community.

### Highlights

I think the biggest success I am taking away from ASUN and serving as Speaker of the Senate is the ability of the Executive team to work together despite disagreements or outside conflicts. No matter the project, idea, or timeline, I believe that the Executive team always put 100% effort into ensuring that projects were completed, communicated to Senators, and were set up to succeed. It is not easy balancing personal projects on top of the responsibilities of our individual positions, but we managed to not only meet our responsibilities but also exceed them. I am so proud of all the work that was accomplished to make the University of Nebraska-Lincoln a better place!



# ACADEMICS COMMITTEE

## A message from Co-Chairs Summer Liu and Jillian Bierbower

During our 2023-2024 term, the Academic Committee had a record-breaking number of members, which demonstrated wonderful results. Throughout the school term, we have focused on our main responsibilities in overseeing the 15th-week policy, as well as actively engaging in new ways to develop academic integrity in collaboration with staff and faculty. We started off the year with a catchup meeting with the Dean of Undergraduate Education, where we brainstormed several ideas that we later pursued in the year. We met with the Director and Assistant Director for Services for Students with Disabilities to promote the live closed captioning feature available on Microsoft PowerPoint. We worked regularly with STAR Council to promote and structuralize affordable resources on campus, as well as continuing Open Educational Resource efforts. We assisted with several staff and faculty award evaluations and continued 15th-week policy regulations. We ended the year presenting several project ideas to Faculty Senate President Dr. Kopocis, where she was able to continue our ideas with other faculty and administration members.

### STAR Council Polling Booth

As a part of the Academic Committee and STAR Council collaboration, we planned to conduct student polling sites to help the council collect student data and feedback on affordable resources.

### University Bookstore Bluebook Reduction

Worked with University Bookstore employees and suppliers to eliminate future orders of blue books in the bookstore, only restocking with green books to support sustainability across campus usage.

## Highlights

Our committee's biggest success this year was through a diverse range of collaborations with various organizations and leaders within the UNL community. We take pride in not only reinforcing existing partnerships but also establishing new ones. As we look ahead, we are excited about the potential projects that may arise from these collaborations in the future.

# ACADEMICS COMMITTEE

## Continued

### Recommendations

The committee's recommendation for the upcoming year is to continue collaboration with the STAR Council as well as meet biannually with the Dean of Undergraduate Education. Additionally, the committee recommends scheduling a meeting with the Faculty Senate President at the start of the fall semester after formulating any project ideas pertaining to syllabi and policy have been developed.

### Committee Membership

Gideon Casimiro  
Raymond Danner  
Grace Hecke

Jack Maloney  
Amy Mattern

Contact Co-Chairs Bierbower and Liu at [ruoxi66@gmail.com](mailto:ruoxi66@gmail.com) and [jillianbierbower@gmail.com](mailto:jillianbierbower@gmail.com)

# CAMPUS LIFE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

### A message from Chair Kishore:

The 2023-2024 term was another successful year for the Campus Life and Safety Committee. Our team worked hard to tackle needs they identified on campus. We were able to continue the Green Bandana Project and the Husker Pantry Donation Project, two successful programs established by past CLS members. Many members brought fresh ideas to the table and made them a reality. I am so proud of our members and the impact we have had this year. From addressing gender disparity in campus recreational facilities to promoting transparency within ASUN, our members have really strived to cover all the bases. I feel privileged to have been able to serve in this capacity.

### Green Bandana Project

CLS continued the national Green Bandana Project at the University of Nebraska this year ordering 600 more bandanas. This project helps build awareness of mental health resources on campus by tying a green bandana around backpacks to signify you are committed to spreading mental health awareness on campus.



# CAMPUS LIFE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

## Continued

### Eclipse Day Wellness Fest

In collaboration with the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Committee, we were able to contribute to an effort to promote safety in the Lincoln community. At the UNL Wellness Fest, we will be handing out Green Bandanas to promote awareness of mental health resources on campus. Furthermore, we will be giving free drink covers and test strips to students.

### Campus Recreation Day

Senator Barry took matters into their own hands when they noticed the gender disparity at UNL's campus recreation facilities. They collaborated with staff from Campus Recreation to plan Campus Recreation Day. This was in an effort to help students feel more comfortable using facilities such as the Recreation Center and Outdoor Adventures Center. I am so proud of Senator Barry for working on this initiative!

## Highlights

The breadth of our reach was one of the committee's greatest successes this year. We were able to work with students and communities who are traditionally underserved. We addressed issues that go unnoticed. Finally, we put student voices at the forefront of our advocacy efforts.

## Recommendations

Come up with project ideas from the get go. Have everyone think about needs on campus. I would say focus on promoting existing resources. UNL has so many established programs that students do not know about. Lastly, I wish I had focused on menstrual equity, because you can definitely see this going unaddressed. Maybe talk to the gender and sexuality center and see what you can do to help make UNL 100% period product secure.

## Committee Membership

Logan Walsh  
Jacob Vanderford  
Trey Quick  
Tori Cocannouer

Ally Barry  
Alex Halvorsen  
Abdus Sami Chowdhury

Contact Chair Kishore at [Ikishore2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:Ikishore2@huskers.unl.edu)

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

As the academic year 2023-2024 comes to a close, the Communications Committee of the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) is pleased to present its end-of-year report. Throughout this year, our committee has worked tirelessly to enhance communication within the student body, amplify the voice of our senators, and establish robust branding standards for ASUN.

## ASUN Brand Guide

The Communications Committee embarked on a significant project this year in collaboration with Canva to establish comprehensive brand standards and streamline our visual communication efforts. This initiative included the development of:

- Brand guidelines outlining ASUN's visual identity, including logo usage, color palette, typography, and imagery guidelines.
- Creation of templates for various communication materials, such as event flyers, social media graphics, and promotional banners.
- Implementation of a content calendar to ensure consistent and timely communication across all platforms.

## Highlights

Through strategic planning and consistent content creation, we have effectively utilized platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to keep students informed about ASUN events, initiatives, and important updates.

## Recommendations

Looking ahead, we remain committed to further improving our communication strategies and initiatives, continually seeking innovative ways to effectively engage with and serve the student body. We express our gratitude to all members of ASUN and the broader university community for their support and collaboration throughout the year.

## Committee Membership

Jennifer Castle  
Naomi Delkamiller  
Benjamin Morgan  
Lily Farnam



Contact Jennifer Castle at [jcastle4@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:jcastle4@huskers.unl.edu).

# COMMITTEE FOR FEE ALLOCATIONS

## A message from Chair Tori Diersen

The committee members worked diligently throughout the year to gain a thorough understanding of UPFF budgets and fee usage across all users. The committee successfully voted on all 10 fee users' budgets and sent the recommendations to the senate to be voted on. CFA members continued to be mindful of increases in fees and the needs of students when making decisions, and this year, they were especially mindful of the University Health Center allocation.

## FY25 Allocation Recommendations

- University Program Council: \$278,657
- Daily Nebraskan: \$169,074
- DailyER: \$6,400
- Lied Center: \$210,000
- Association of Students of the University of Nebraska: \$535,929
- Campus Recreation: \$8,832,757
- Nebraska Unions: \$5,109,691
- Student Readership Program: \$105,000
- Transit Services: \$1,223,903
- University Health Center: \$8,333,526

## Highlights

The committee's biggest success this year was developing a thorough understanding of UPFF budgets and fee usage to make a confident recommendation for budget allocations for FY25.

## Recommendations

The committee recommends increasing student body interaction and engagement. Be proactive in creating projects to increase understanding of fees and communicating events and surveys. Future committee members should continue to search for options and alternatives for University Health Center Fees.

## Committee Membership

Tori Cocannouer  
Dylan Kluthe  
Ethan Dale  
Nolan Johnson  
Maddie Beasley  
Parker Barry

Owen Crone  
Gerald van Tassell  
Ashwin Mannur  
Lexi Bodlak  
Alexander Huddleston  
Kaylee Campbell

Contact Chair Diersen at [vdiersen21@gmail.com](mailto:vdiersen21@gmail.com).



# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

## A message from Co-Chairs Zein Saleh and Renata Cadena

DEI had a very productive and successful term. We passed 8 pieces of legislation, had over 10 ongoing projects, and worked collectively to improve our committee's presence within ASUN and to the broader university community. This year, we largely focused on improving communicative and collaborative relationships with multicultural RSOs and greek life chapters, revitalized ECMO, centered inclusive excellence in the ACE program, held events to address important global issues, and highlighted the contributions of women in STEM.

### **ACE Courses Diversity and Accessibility**

Senator Saleh worked with the Executive Vice Chancellor's Office and College of Arts & Sciences to advertise ACE courses that feature themes of cultural diversity and social justice ahead of priority course registration for Spring 2023-Spring 2024. The project was well-received by students and the administration. He is currently collaborating with the academics committee to gauge student input on the [ace.unl.edu](http://ace.unl.edu) website and improve accessibility and awareness about the purpose of the ACE program. He has passed three total bills relevant to this project.

### **ECMO Revitalization**

Senator Cadena revitalized ECMO, which falls under Student Affairs for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This group of individuals will serve as advocates for multicultural organizations on campus, and will collaborate with the University to enhance awareness and visibility for these RSOs.

### **Night of Listening**

Senator Ahmed worked with the Office of Student Affairs, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the ASUN Executive Team to host the Night of Listening. The event was a forum to listen to the concerns and requests of the student body in light of the events in Palestine and Israel and find ways each respective office can best support students in their capacity.

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

## Continued

### Women in STEM Banquet

Senator Cadena created an event for women in STEM, offering a platform for networking, professional development, and community building. There were featured keynote speeches and panel discussions focused on topics such as career advancement, leadership, and overcoming obstacles in STEM fields.

### Menstrual Product Access in Gender-Neutral Bathrooms

Senator Lindsey is working in collaboration with the Gender and Sexuality Office project that focuses on creating a map of bathrooms, specifically gender-neutral bathrooms, for the use of all students. Further, this project aims to extend available free menstrual products and update outdated gendered language within bathrooms across campuses. This project is in its early stages. Senator Lindsey anticipates continuing this work into the 2024-2025 school year.

## Highlights

Our highlights include connecting to administration & campus RSOs, serving as an open door to external ASUN liaisons, consistently implementing legislation, and maintaining a broad committee project scope.

## Recommendations

We recommend that the next committee maintains its newly established relationships with Multicultural RSOs, MGC chapters, the Gender & Sexuality Center, and Undergraduate Educational Programs (EVC).

## Committee Membership

Reem Ahmed  
Renata Cadena  
Ritsa Giannakas

Emma Lindsey  
Noah Morales  
Zein Saleh

Contact Co-Chairs Saleh and Cadena at [zsaleh4@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:zsaleh4@huskers.unl.edu) & [rcadena2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:rcadena2@huskers.unl.edu)

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## A message from Chair Adrian Cox

The Environmental Sustainability Committee is dedicated to promoting a more sustainable future at the University of Nebraska. Our primary function is to identify, design, and implement projects with clear objectives that aim to develop an area of campus life and/or operations in need of sustainable environmental improvement.

Our work this year would not have been possible without the support of the Office of Sustainability, Office of Student Affairs, Housing & Dining Services, Undergraduate Education Programs, and, of course, the entire ASUN office.

To all of ASUN, thank you for continued support of the Environmental Sustainability Committee! Your help in promoting a more sustainable future has made a lasting impact on our campus and our students. The commitment to making a positive impact on our campus community has been evident throughout our term.

### Residence Hall Glass Recycling

Committee member Lily Rippeteau has spearheaded our most successful project of the year. Beginning with a cardboard box in her floor's trash and recycling room, Lily began collecting glass to take to a local glass recycling plant. With proven interest through a full box, Lily decided that this was an unfulfilled need in our dorms. Through legislation, Lily obtained receptacles distributed 'Glass Recycling Representatives' on floors all around campus. Full bins have already been taken to the recycling plant, and have proven this project to be successful in fulfilling an environmental need on campus.

### UNL Unplugged

Working with housing, Committee member Rippeteau revitalized an program called UNL Unplugged, an energy competition that works to motivate students living on-campus to use less energy than the average for their hall. This event will run for the entirety of April, and the winning hall will receive a group prize party.

### ACE Course Student Input

ESC has collaborated with the DEI and Academics Committees to provide input to Undergraduate Education Programs on how to better highlight the variety of ACE courses available, especially related to diversity and sustainability.



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

## Continued

### Sustainability Promotion

Through "Student Sustainability Leaders Connect" meetings held by the office of sustainability, ESC has taken part in a sustainability collaboration between many campus sustainability groups. Additionally, ESC will be holding two informational booths at the Eclipse Day Wellness Fest and the Earthstock Block Party, to spread information about the effects of air and light pollution and how to get involved with sustainability on campus and in your personal life.

### Outdoor Adventure Center Scholarships

Lily has worked with the OAC to create scholarship opportunities for low-income students who would like to participate in travel experiences. This will make interacting with our environment in an engaging way more accessible to all students.

## Highlights

Our biggest success this year was strengthening our connections to the campus community. The bond between ESC and Housing and Dining Services will prove to be very beneficial for future projects, the "Student Sustainability Leaders Connect" group has been very effective in promoting communication and collaboration across campus groups, and the ACE student input group will continue to improve the ACE course promotion.

## Recommendations

We encourage the next ESC to continue working with Housing and Dining Services to create more sustainable living opportunities for the roughly 5,000 students who live on campus each year. We advocate for the increase in opportunities for students to engage with the outdoors is very important to increase environmental thinking on campus. Additionally, the promotion of ESC to highly motivated individuals will offer resources to students with amazing ideas that can further improve our campus.

## Committee Membership

Adrian Cox

Lily Rippeteau

Carter Grier

Eamonn Conway

Adam Messman

Contact Chair Cox at [acox27@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:acox27@huskers.unl.edu).

# SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION COMMITTEE

## A message from Chair Elizabeth Herbin

We are proud to be the inaugural Sexual Misconduct Prevention Committee. This year, we transitioned from a Task Force to a standing committee. We have worked on many projects, among them including expanding student access to drink drugging test strips by partnering with different organizations on campus. We also have worked on expanding test strips beyond campus and provided drink caps for a campus event free of expense to students. Among the projects we have worked on that have passed, we also still have projects in the works that we hope to continue working on throughout the next year and in years to come. Student advocacy about sexual misconduct has a place at ASUN, and we have shown that by establishing this committee as a standing committee. We would like to thank the Student Senate for giving us this opportunity to represent the student body for years to come!

### Test Strip Pilot Program

Last term, we worked on a project to partner with OFSL to distribute drink drugging test strips to students involved in Greek Life, as well as held a table to hand out strips to non-affiliated students. Senator Herbin spearheaded the expansion of this project, partnering with OFSL, CARE, GSC, and RHA to provide a pilot program that will, hopefully, continue to expand into more than a pilot program next year.

### Drink Caps

In collaboration with CLS and Senator Kishore, Senator Herbin worked on providing drink caps to students free of charge.

## Highlights

Becoming a standing committee and our test strip project, which provides for over \$1000 in funding to make test strips accessible to students was a semester-long project.

## Recommendations

Work on many events, legislation, and personal projects for next year. Collaboration with Faculty Senate, as well as working with the broader community.

## Committee Membership

Maggie Buettner

Elizabeth Herbin

Contact Chair Herbin at [eherbin2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:eherbin2@huskers.unl.edu)

# STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

## A message from Chair Essi Blazauskas

This is an amazing opportunity where I get to work with so many awesome RSOs to get them up and running and off to support students all around the UNL campuses.

## Highlights

The committee found great success in completing comprehensive overviews on constitutions for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs).

## Recommendations

The committee recommends frequent collaboration with the ASUN Director of Administration and Administrative Technician. They have been extremely helpful to the Student Services committee this year and have allowed them to reach more RSOs on campus!

Contact Chair Blazauskas at [eblazauskas2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:eblazauskas2@huskers.unl.edu)

# TECHNOLOGY FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## A message from Chair Peterkin:

A message from the Chair of the Technology Fee Committee. Each student pays around \$11 per credit hour in technology fees which help fund the network, IT support, hardware, and software that keep our campus connected. This fee helps support licenses and programs that are critical to an excellent education in a digitalized world. The Technology Fee Committee serves as a student voice in auditing and recommending how this fee should best be spent to optimize the experience and education of every student. The committee meets weekly to discuss the current state of technology on campus and have conversations with ITs administrators about what technology we would like the university to support in the future.



# TECHNOLOGY FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Continued

### Technology Fee Budget Reporting

One of the primary responsibilities of the technology fee committee is to collect budgeting reports from each of the colleges receiving technology fees and report that information back to the students. It has been a few years since this review was conducted, so my team reinitiated the process. The results from our review will be available to senators in the SharePoint. We will be submitting a bill in April to report these results to students on the ASUN website.

### Highlights

We collaborated with UNL's Chief Information Officer to add a student voice to the annual ITS survey. We were excited that this survey has over 3,000 responses so far which should be very helpful to guide the next tech fee committee!

### Recommendations

The committee recommends gathering reports from all of the colleges takes some time. Also, getting started early in the new year so the reporting can be done before the final budgeting decisions are made!

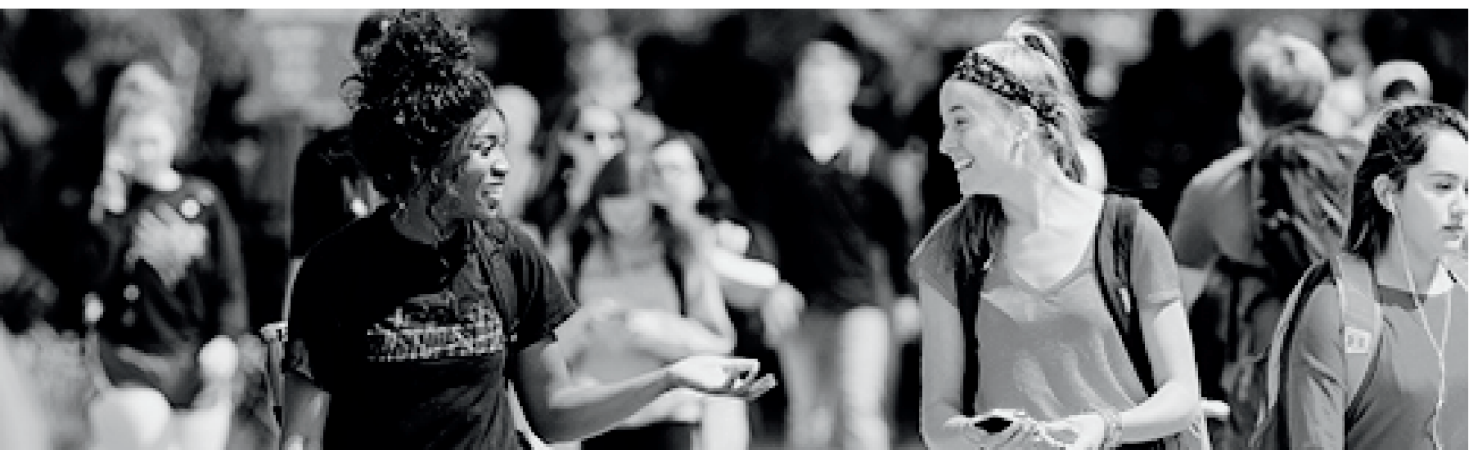
### Committee Membership

Bridget Peterkin

Nathan Ray

Garrett Mook

Contact Chair Peterkin at [bpeterkin2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:bpeterkin2@huskers.unl.edu).



# STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

## Overview

Student Legal Services (SLS) is a student fee-funded program out of ASUN that provides free legal advice or representation to enrolled UNL students. SLS attorneys can represent students in court in a variety of areas:

- Consumer cases
- Criminal misdemeanors (e.g., MIP, DUI, Maintain a Disorderly House, etc.)
- Divorces (uncontested; not involving children or real estate)
- Landlord & tenant disputes
- Small Claims Court appeals & removals

Additionally, SLS attorneys often meet with students to discuss legal options and offer advice or referrals on any legal matter. SLS also provides educational resources about the legal process and regularly meets with individual students and student groups on legal topics.

## Highlights

Since July, SLS attorneys have helped close 307 cases and had 3,685 contacts with students. Below is a breakdown of SLS's work from July 2023 to February 2024. During this time, the SLS team recovered \$23,367.61 and avoided \$17,861.55 in liability for students.

Case Type	Number of Closed Cases
Landlord/Tenant	68
Criminal	102
Family	43
Torts	17
Employment	13
Business/Corporate	11
Administrative	18
Miscellaneous	13

Service Offered	Number of Closed Cases
Advice Only	154
Litigation	73
Referral	7
Document Prep	48
Small Claims Court	0

Contact Student Legal Services at (402) 472-3350.

# HOMECOMING

## A note from Coordinator Chrissy Gulseth

A message from the Homecoming Events Coordinator: Homecoming Week is a celebration of Nebraska's flagship university, everything that the University of Nebraska does for the state, and the students, faculty, and staff that make those things possible. Being a Homecoming coordinator is very communication-focused. You are the main point of contact for students participating in Homecoming events, including organizing Royalty, the parade, and more, and are responsible for making sure they understand each event. Over the past two years, I've prided myself on being approachable and accessible for students to ask questions and providing the student perspective to faculty and staff when planning what Homecoming events will look like. ASUN exists to advocate for and represent students, which is exactly what this role does in regard to Homecoming and all the moving pieces that go along with making Homecoming Week a success.

## Highlights

Communicating with each other and students about events and how to participate in them.

## Recommendations

Give students your email and check it multiple times a day, as many questions and concerns are time-sensitive. Students are most comfortable coming to another student with questions, so you need to be approachable, helpful, and responsible so every student who wants to can participate in Homecoming. I also gave them my phone number, but I don't think that's necessary if you check your email often it's really just personal preference.

Contact Coordinator Gulseth at [cgulseth3@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:cgulseth3@huskers.unl.edu)





# THE BIG EVENT

## A note from Co-Directors Lily Rippeteau and Carrie Cave

The Big Event is a fantastic way for students to give back to the Lincoln community. Joining with friends, students can engage with Lincoln residents and provide them with much-needed services. Additionally, students experience a fun, inclusive event put together with support from offices across UNL. Both students and community members leave with a greater appreciation for the University and the community.

### Highlights

At the time of writing this report, over 200 individual volunteers have signed up to volunteer for the Big Event at nearly 80 sites across the city of Lincoln. We are looking forward to hosting a successful Big Event on May 4, 2024.

### Recommendations

Don't reinvent the wheel! Talk to offices who have helped with the Big Event in the past and re-use as many resources as possible.

Contact Co-Directors Rippeteau and Cave at [bigevent@unl.edu](mailto:bigevent@unl.edu).



# EARTHSTOCK

## A note from Chair Rachel Summers

Earthstock is an annual celebration of Earth Month (April) through a multitude of different events and activities. This event is a collaboration between all sustainability groups on campus to provide students with the opportunity to learn about and advocate for our environment and the sustainability of our campus, of Lincoln, of Nebraska, of the US, and of the world as a whole. Partners this year include: Sustain UNL, the most active student-led RSO devoted to promoting sustainability on campus; ASUN's Environmental Sustainability Committee, dedicated to promoting a more sustainable future at the University of Nebraska through student government; the Environmental Studies Student Advisory Committee (ESSAC), dedicated to understanding the student's perspective and input on many different aspects of their program; and many University administrative offices such as the Office of Sustainability, Office of Student Affairs, and University Housing & Dining. The Earthstock planning committee hosts two large events each year: the Earthstock Block Party, and the Earthstock Music Festival, based off of the 1969 Woodstock music festival, which is the inspiration behind the Earthstock name.

## Highlights

This year we had a team of four working on planning this event, which we found much more effective than a single chair or two co-chairs that has been standard in years past. An amendment has been drafted that would update the bylaws to reflect this new system of management, and will be introduced next term. Additionally, while planning the events, we have been documenting our process diligently so that we can later create a detailed planning guide, which we believe will make the process much smoother for the next team by eliminating some confusion.

## Recommendations

I would recommend to the next Earthstock planning committee to start working on this project as early as possible. A few things that we have learned that need to be prioritized more for next year are graphic making and advertisements, schedule finalization, and increased communication with partnering groups. We hope that the planning guide will highlight this as well.

## Committee Membership

Rachel Summers  
Adrian Cox

Carter Grier  
Kaitlyn Ritner

Contact Director Summers at [rjsummers@gmail.com](mailto:rjsummers@gmail.com)

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## A special thanks to...

ASUN could not complete the work that it does without the incredible support system throughout the University of Nebraska. We would like to especially thank our incredible staff members Marlene Beyke and Jessie Matthes, along with Ryan Lahne and the rest of the Student Affairs team.

We also appreciate the work done by the UNL faculty, staff, and administration in supporting us on this journey—and for supporting all UNL students. We truly could not do what we do without you all.

Thank you to Craig Chandler and the UComm team, Mike Jackson, and Christopher Dulak for the photos and design support in this report and throughout the year.

Most importantly, though, I want to personally thank each of the student leaders within ASUN. To Lauren, Shivani, Natalie, and Sam—thank you for always standing with me, being great leaders, and for being even better friends. Thank you to the Executive Committee who greatly contributed to this report, our senators, and the nearly 150 other students in ASUN. Your hard work makes the University of Nebraska-Lincoln better.

Thanks, also, to my family and friends. You all mean the world to me and I could not imagine the last year without you all by my side.

Finally, I want to shout out the many, many mentors who have advised and guided my team. Chancellor Bennett, Dr. Anderson, Ryan Lahne, Marlene Beyke, Jessie Matthes, Phil Bakken, Regent Clare and members of the Board, and so many others: thank you. Your guidance and friendships mean so much.

As I write this, I can't help but think of so many more people who have positively impacted my life—I wish I had more room! Thank you to all of you, too.

I would be remiss not to thank the most important group in this document: my UNL student peers. Thank you for making UNL the place it is. This student body is special and I am so proud to have been a part of it.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve in this position. Thank you.

Yours in service,



Paul Pechous, ASUN President







