



## **Justin Solomon 2010-2011 Year-end report**

### **ASUN Executives**

The current executives were elected to achieve a set of platforms presented to the student body before the general election. While some tasks were left undone, significant progress and inroads have been made on all of the platforms. Listed below are the most significant platform ideas for our administration.

### **Student Organization Representative Council (SORC)**

SORC was an idea brought to this administration from Texas Tech University. The inaugural SORC event was hosted during the first semester and featured over 150 students representing over 200 RSOs from across campus. SORC provides a forum for RSO leaders and ASUN representatives to engage in active conversation on issues across campus. SORC replaced an age-old bylaw mandate requiring Senators to meet individually with RSOs, often overlooked and unenforced. The SORC summit was met with incredible feedback and popularity. It is our strong recommendation to continue SORC throughout next term and to further develop the efficiency of the summit.

### **Career Development Resources**

ASUN has partnered with the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) to offer a 'tool-kit' of courses aimed to help students prepare for life after college. The courses are currently offered in two separate one credit hour courses. While the courses have been successful this past semester further marketing is needed. Also, developing the course into a three credit hour, ACE certified course would complete the platform. ASUN is great at serving students while they are enrolled but has not, in recent history, ventured into helping prepare students for life as graduates. These courses are an important step to holistically serving students from start to finish. Considerable work has been undertaken to develop an alumni directory for student networking. Partnering with the Alumni Association has been fruitful and should be continued.

### **Class Wait List Policy**

Likely the most controversial platform, but the one with the widest scope was the class waitlist feature for MyRed. While we knew this platform would take multiple years to complete we have

taken significant steps toward achieving this platform in the foreseeable future. We partnered with AFAC to make a strategic investment into developers for MyRed for two years. These developers are supposed to work on implementing the class wait list and future administrations will have to keep the developers accountable to complete the task.

### UNL Alert Opt-Out

UNL Alert's value was witnessed during multiple security issues this year. The Senate passed a Government Bill encouraging the administration to make UNL Alert an opt-out instead of an opt-in system. Dr. Franco and Chancellor Perlman have expressed support for this initiative and it is only a matter of time until completion.

### Student Bereavement

Currently, students have no rights in times of intense crisis. While faculty and staff have explicit protocol for sick and bereavement leave, students are left with no clear understanding or mutually agreed upon policy for leave. To increase student rights and to ensure fairness between classes we encourage further exploration on a policy. Dr. Ellen Weissinger, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, has expressed support for moving forward with the project

### **Campus Life Committee**

The Campus Life Committee, charged with issues of general campus students' wellbeing, equal student representation, and fundraising/community service projects, had a lot of successes and some failures this year. Here is a summary of what we did (and how we operate), along with our biggest successes, what could have worked better, and suggestions for future years.

#### Composition of the Committee:

The Campus Life Committee consists of any number of Senators (this year, 7, including the Chair), who serve in a voting capacity and are expected to undertake projects, and Advisory Representatives, representing specific populations or issues at UNL, who serve in a non-voting capacity. This year, we had 8 Advisory Representatives, out of a capacity for 9; however, because of some structural bylaw changes made at the end of the term, future Campus Life Committees will have the capacity for 11 Advisory Representatives.

#### Summary of our Projects:

In Campus Life this year, each Senator undertook at least one project. Here is a list of the projects we worked on:

- Look into the possibilities of a Diversity Scholarship
- Work on providing Employee +1 benefits for NU
- Work on routers in the Residence Halls (worked with student + administration)
- Work on alcohol-related issues, including a sober driver incentive program
- Wheelchair Basketball (which is coming up on April 17)

- Coordinating with the Environmental Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee on environmental issues and FOCUS Nebraska Week (the week of April 18)
- Cell Phone Donation Drive
- Work on Yes 2 Better Rec Centers Campaign
- Look into providing wellness classes at the university
- Begin organizing a picnic event targeted at non-traditional students at UNL
- Legislation concerning a student engagement month
- Attempted to institute a daycare service at Campus Recreation (unable to do so, due to space concerns)
- Graduate student engagement

In addition, our Advisory Representatives worked on a number of their own projects. However, their main task was to (re-)connect with Recognized Student Organizations that held a similar mission to their specific population or issue, which was met with mixed results. Here are some of their projects:

- Driver Incentive Program
- Connect with the Women's Center
- Primarily connect with RSOs on other more minor issues

Finally, Campus Life received two interns later in the term. They were able to complete several research projects, including:

- Employee +1 Benefits
- Ridership programs, such as ZIP Cars, etc.
- Environmental Issues Facilities at other Big Ten Universities
- Research on Diversity Scholarships at other Big Ten Universities

#### Greatest Successes:

- Engaging Advisory Representatives: they have historically been more neglected, and we found a lot of projects for them to work on this year. Unfortunately, though, some of them hit "roadblocks" when their corresponding RSOs did not offer up many suggestions.
- Wheelchair Basketball: the momentum for this event is growing and it's a fantastically coordinated event.
- Work with Yes 2 Better Rec Centers: we were not the primary organizers for this campaign, but many of the committee members worked very diligently on the campaign and it was very successful.

#### What We Could Have Done Better:

- Hold Senators to greater accountability on projects. Some of them floundered because they could not find a project they were passionate about or committed to, so that created problems for the chair "prodding" them and not getting anywhere.
- There is momentum from the Advisory Representatives to reinvigorate their positions, but it is still hard (especially for certain positions, like the Campus Safety Representative) to find a project/issue for his/her position.

#### General Advice from the Chair:

With a committee as large and diverse as Campus Life, it can be difficult to get everybody on the same page. We found that weekly meetings were not always the best way to keep up the pace on our projects; instead, we tried out one-on-ones and bimonthly meetings to some success. Really, it's more about the feel of the specific committee. The biggest issue we had was getting projects for the Senators, which is a combination of responsibility from the Senators themselves and the Chair. I would put more accountability on them for better results in the future.

Any questions/concerns: Contact Chair Justin Shilhanek at [justin.shilhanek@gmail.com](mailto:justin.shilhanek@gmail.com) or (816) 686.3787.

### **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee investigates issues and ideas that work toward better communication and understanding between the student body, registered student organizations, and ASUN. The Communications Committee is responsible for publicizing ASUN events and gathering information from the student body to aid in the decision-making processes of student government. Members of the Communications Committee are integral in supporting ASUN's involvement with many campus wide events and organizations including the Student Organization Representative Council (SORC), Alcohol Task Force, and The Shirt. Building on the momentum generated from the 2010 ASUN Election, the 2010-2011 ASUN Communications Committee sought to continue ASUN's efforts to better connect with and engage the student body.

#### **Project List**

- Alcohol Commission Committee
- ASUN Election Information Session
- ASUN Senate Meetings Broadcast
- ASUN Town Hall on Campus alcohol-related issues
- ASUN Website Re-design
- Campus Rec Center Referendum
- Constitution Day
- Environmental Resource Center Events
- Game day Tailgates
- Mueller Bell Tower Repertoire
- Registered Student Organization Involvement
- Rent Ping
- Student Organization Representative Council

#### **Alcohol Commission Committee**

History

Assistant to Vice Chancellor

Dr. Franco created the position, Assistant to Vice Chancellor, in order to examine and research alcohol related issues on campus. Linda Major was appointed to this position based upon her passion for improving social behaviors among UNL students.

### Designated Driver Program

Linda researched DUI offenses and examined numbers, last bars, BAC levels and ages. Based upon this information a discussion began about how to combat this issue. The reasons why people decide to drive after drinking were uncovered as not having someone sober to pick them up and/or giving up after impatiently waiting for an inefficient cab system. Through problem solving a campaign developed aimed toward rewarding positive behaviors and offering incentives for people who volunteer to be the designated driver for their particular group of friends. To assist with the marketing of the program, Clover Frederick, was then contacted to serve as the campaign's strategic marketing coordinator. A discussion was also started with Lincoln Police, Economic and Urban Development, bar owners and cab company owners about increasing the efficiency of the cab services in Lincoln, in particular high traffic nights downtown.

### ASUN Involvement

Linda contacted Jamie Dick, ASUN External Vice President, about coordinating a student panel in order to serve as a sounding board for campaign ideas. The hope was to make this campaign as successful as possible by gaining student feedback and developing the campaign based upon ideas from the students. The committee eventually grew to encompass representatives from ASUN Senate (2), Greek houses (2), Wesleyan University (5), and Southeast Community College (1). The committee continually met with Clover, the marketing coordinator, and Linda and discussed ideas for the campaign logistics and marketing tactics.

ASUN Sen. Katie Bauer served as a part of this panel, and continually worked with Clover Frederick and Linda Major on developing promotional tactics. She has reserved booths in the Union March 28 – April 1 in order to promote the program's launch on March 31. Katie also organized student ambassadors for the program to register students at the Union booths and in the participating bars

In addition to helping design and promote the designated driver program, Katie participated in meetings with Lincoln cab companies, Lincoln City Police, Economic and Urban Development, and bar owners to brain storm other ways to ensure people can easily receive safe rides home.

ASUN Sen. Matthew Boring has also been involved in this project through material creation and marketing efforts on campus and in the Lincoln community.

### Future

In order to see that this committee's progress continues into the future ASUN Student Senate passed a bylaw change to create a new permanent Alcohol Commission Committee, and the Committee Chair will be a part of the Executive Committee. Sen. Katie Bauer is currently

working on a strategic plan in order to help guide this newly created committee and will share it with ASUN upon its completion.

### Goals

- Uncover patterns in alcohol related behaviors on campus
- Maintain and improve My Turn 2 Drive Designated Driver program
- Problem solve alcohol-related issues on campus and develop innovative solutions in order to address patterns of negative behavior
- Develop new programs aimed at encouraging positive social behaviors and discouraging negative patterns related to alcohol issues
- Be transparent to the student body in uncovering alcohol-related behaviors and patterns and encourage feedback on this process
- Reach out to peers from Wesleyan University, Southeast Community College, UNL Graduate Programs, and Young Professionals
- Collaborate with community partners including, but not limited to: Lincoln Police, Economic and Urban development, and bar owners.

### **ASUN Election Information Session**

Each year the ASUN Communications Committee conducts an information session for registered and potential Student Election Groups. This session helps to inform campaigns of all election rules and policies as well as provide a forum for candidates to ask questions of current ASUN representatives and members of the electoral commission. An additional emphasis was placed this year on running ethical and environmentally sustainable campaigns. It is difficult to fully assess the impact of this session in a year with only one student election group, but future committees are encouraged to continue promoting ethical and sustainable campaigns.

### **ASUN Senate Meetings Broadcast**

In fulfilling ASUN's commitment to engaging all students in their student government, the ASUN Communications Committee led efforts for all ASUN Senate meetings to be live video streamed on the ASUN website. Funds to purchase new equipment for this project were secured from student technology fees and the broadcast now appears on a weekly basis. Future expansion of this technology to CFA meetings and other campus special events such as political debates is certainly possible. ASUN previously collaborated with RSO "NUNITED" on its video efforts, but made the decision to produce broadcasts internally with the assistance of an ASUN intern.

### **ASUN Town Hall**

The Communication Committee sponsored a Town Hall Meeting covering alcohol related issues on campus. This topic is relevant to many students on campus and was designed as a

presentation/forum event to hear student input on ASUN's recent efforts on alcohol issues. The two presentations scheduled were on the newly created campus-based diversion program and designated driver program, My Turn 2 Drive. Shelly Stall, Student Legal Services; Matt Hecker, Dean of Students; and Linda Major, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor were scheduled to speak about the campus-based diversion program and answer any questions student may have about the program.

Sen. Katie Bauer, External Vice President Jamie Dick, Sen. Kirsten and local bar owner, Heath Macomber, were all contacted and scheduled to speak about the designated driver program, My Turn 2 Drive.

The Town Hall Meeting was advertised through campus-wide posters, the Daily Nebraskan, and Next@Nebraska (an email produced and distributed by Student Involvement).

Due to numerous other events on campus, there were no student participants in this year's ASUN Town Hall Meeting. The chance for students to be informed on alcohol related issues on campus was created, but no one took this opportunity. Channel 8 News and the Daily Nebraskan were on hand to cover the event; and still reported on the designated driver program, My Turn 2 Drive, which included interviews with Sen. Bauer and Sen. Santos.

### **ASUN Website Re-design**

The communications committee recognized an important opportunity to communicate with the student body through the ASUN website was being underutilized. ASUN hired Drew Seyl to help coordinate the website overhaul and population of new content. Following the initial overhaul of major site content on 9/20/10, the ASUN website has had over 6,500 site visits and over 10,000 page views. With over 2,000 unique visitors, it is estimated that approximately 8% of the student body has accessed the ASUN website to find information, watch a Senate meeting, contact their Senator, or apply for an open position.

Future projects for the ASUN website include expanding ASUN's multimedia content, incorporating a virtual "accountabillabord" listing senator and committee projects, and optimizing the site for mobile viewing.

### **Campus Rec Center Referendum**

ASUN provided campus wide support for the Yes 2 Better Rec Center campaign and election. The Communications Committee worked with Campus Wellness ad hoc Committee Chair L.J. McElravy to develop a campaign that would both meet the needs for the rec center and generate positive support of the student body. With nearly 21% of the student body voting, the Campus Rec Center Referendum passed with 72% of voters supporting it. One element that likely led to the success of the referendum is the gradual implementation of student fees to cover each stage of the project's cost compared with a single large spike in fees. As ASUN and UNL students contemplate future student fee funded building projects like the UNL Health Center, this campaign can serve as a quality reference point.

### **Constitution Day / Environmental Resource Center**

ASUN has provided communications and marketing support for projects organized by GLC and the Environmental Resource Center this year. Constitution Day was organized in collaboration with the College of Law and featured a presentation from the ACLU and on the United States

Constitution. The Environmental Resource Center undertook several projects this year supported by ASUN including a game day recycling challenge and the Focus Nebraska week. Sen. Boring worked with GLC Chair Lane Carr and Matan Gill with the Environmental Resource Center to develop marketing plans for these events and to raise their awareness on campus.

### **Game day Tailgates**

One tradition the Communications Committee helps carry on is the game day tailgates before each home football game. Working with External Vice President Jamie Dick, the Communications Committee explored moving the tailgates to a new location with live music, expanded food options, and a more student-focused atmosphere. The new plan was scheduled to be piloted during several of this year's home games, but was cancelled shortly before the season started.

### **Mueller Bell Tower Repertoire**

Sen. Santos worked to expand the repertoire of the Mueller Bell Tower to include some seasonal and popular music to be played in between classes and while students and faculty walked on campus. Unfortunately, this idea was unable to gain traction with the UNL Departments responsible for the bell tower's maintenance and music.

### **Registered Student Organization Involvement**

ASUN Intern Michael Crelin was charged with creating a presentation about ASUN services and projects to be presented to RSOs on campus. A similar project during the 2009-2010 Senate term was successful in having Senators reach out to assigned RSOs to increase ASUN exposure and RSO communication. This project is best conducted early in the Senate term, preferably before the first round of appointments in the fall occur.

### **Rent Ping**

As ASUN's official off campus housing partner, Sen. Boring and Pres. Solomon met with Rent Ping to design a plan to raise the service's presence on campus. Sen. Boring designed materials for the off-campus housing fair and to be placed around campus. Drew Seyl continues to find ways of better integrating Rent Ping's services into the ASUN website as well.

### **Student Organization Representative Council (SORC)**

Sen. Boring served on the SORC committee helping to ensure its communication to the campus community. SORC is an important step in integrating the nearly 11,000 students affiliated with student organizations on campus, and one the communications committee should remain committed to.

### **Student Services Committee**

#### Projects/Assignments

1. Bylaws
  - a. Student Services continued to review, write, and recommend bylaws and bylaw changes to Senate for approval. This year, we recommended that the Senator/Executive who approached Student Services with a bylaw to attend our



meetings and work through the bylaw at the meeting. This way, we were able to speed up the process, and the Senator/Executive was able to explain their idea in person for clarity. I would recommend that the next chair only allow less than three bylaw changes per Senate meeting, due to the often-controversial nature of the changes, and the deliberation that ensues.

2. Constitution Recognition

- a. Student Services continued to review and recognize Student Organization constitutions.

3. Student Money Management Center

- a. Student Services acted in an advisory role to the SMMC, and reported to Senate matters and statistics that we thought were important.

- b. According to Senator Tucker, who was assigned to the SMMC:

“Over the course of the semester, I tried to help ASUN become more familiar with the SMMC and tried to get the word out about the Center by presenting a PowerPoint at one of the Senate meetings with information about the Center and all of the services they provide and how successful it has been.

The SMMC also has Student Advisory board, and they would like to always have a member of ASUN on that board as another person that can help the Center “advise SMMC representatives on program development activities, make suggestions for program improvements, assist in building awareness of the UNL Student Money Management Center and create opportunities for campus collaborations and partnerships.”

I specifically asked Erin Wirth, the Program Coordinator of the SMMC what she is looking for help with from the future ASUN member on the board, and this was her response:

- Help build awareness of the UNL SMMC among ASUN Members
  - She would like to see a PowerPoint presentation given at a Senate meeting every semester
  - Because this program is part of ASUN, it is important that all ASUN members can answer basic questions about the program
- Help build awareness of the UNL SMMC among the different colleges
  - Work to give short presentations about the program to all advisory boards
- Help publicize our workshops and events
  - Help publicize workshops and events through ASUN—let members know about events and answer questions about the events
  - Also work with ASUN to get suggestions for workshop and event ideas and ways to get students to the events
- Help develop a financial education event with ASUN
  - Work with ASUN to develop and execute a large-scale financial event, such as a financial speaker or financial movie night
  - This semester, they have lucked out with sponsors to help with execution, but that might not be the case in the future

- Assist with target market research
  - They are constantly collected data on the financial habits and financial interests of UNL students
  - The ASUN representative could help collect data through helping to distribute surveys to ASUN groups.”
- 4. Student Legal Services
  - a. According to Senator Daily:
 

“Another task was to contact student legal services and inquire upon their marketing plan. I learned that they are happy with their output of services, but would be even happier with an increase in students served and educated about Legal Services.”
- 5. Student Organization Representative Council
  - a. Senator Harmon worked with Internal VP Schulz to design the fall and spring semester SORC events. These events were designed at getting student organization leaders together, in small-facilitated groups to discuss their shared challenges, and give them an opportunity to create collaboration. Other ideas that were suggested for the future would be the creation of a Blackboard SORC group that would allow our Student Organization leaders to communicate year round.
- 6. 475-Ride
  - a. Senator Dailey worked to update the 475-Ride PowerPoint for the summer, and assisted in the revision/production of the 475-Ride manuals.
- 7. Other projects
  - a. Supported the Mobile Initiative by drafting a resolution that showed interest in mobile technologies by the student body, and directed the Information Services department to look into funding the Blackboard application.

### **Government Liaison Committee**

Projects worked on:

- Local
  - Placemaking Workshop
  - Neighborhood Association Contact
  - Contact with Councilmen/ILC
  - Night Downtown
  - Local Debate
- State
  - Debate
  - Contact with Senators
  - Luncheon
  - Legislation
  - Secretary of State’s College Student Advisory Committee
- National
  - Big Ten on the Hill
  - Income Tax Forum (An Inconvenient Tax)
  - Federal Legislation

- Veterans Day
- Constitution Day

### **All-GLC**

- Voter Registration/Deputy Registrars

Many members of the committee became Deputy Registrars, allowing the committee to have voter registration booths, pick up and distribute voter registration information. This allowed us to have many events and booths promoting voter education and registration. Total, we registered or re-registered 37 people and provided many

### **Local**

- Composition:
  - Garrett Mardock
  - Corinne Wardian
  - Taylor Royal
  - Matan Gill
  - Blake Rostine

- Place making Workshop

Local GLC asked to attend a city-planned place making workshop, a small group of local leaders, businesspeople, students and concerned citizens working to develop the space that will become a park near the “Starship 9” building. Our ideas were focused on how University students could use the space.

- Neighborhood Association Contacts

Local GLC contacted several of the near-University neighborhood associations to express our interest in hearing from them about student concerns. This is an important line of communication as many students live off campus in such neighborhoods.

- Contact with Councilmen/Internal Liquor Commission

Set up a breakfast with UNL’s City Councilman John Spatz. This is important to do EARLIER in the year, as a line of communication can be established immediately. Speaking with the Councilman, we were given the idea of having a student serve on the Internal Liquor Commission. This group is responsible for Downtown affairs including bars, transportation, and liquor enforcement. Most importantly, having contacts within the city’s office allows councilmen to reach out to us, and vice versa, when concerns arise.

- Night Downtown/Taste of Lincoln

This project is looking to engage Haymarket and Downtown business owners to create an annual “Taste of Lincoln” where students can come in, try their products, and explore downtown. It is NOT our intent for this to include alcohol, but rather restaurants, and other fun things downtown such as art galleries, shops, exhibits, etc. This also may be better suited for earlier in the year.

- Local Debate

City Council elections were held this year. In an effort to be engaged with city officials, we will be hosting a city councilmen debate for the city council candidates from East Campus and City Campus on April 12.

### **State**

- Composition:
  - Emily Carpenter
  - Eric Kamler
  - Elli Hoffschneider
  - Micah Wullschleger
  - Andrew LaGrone
  - Katie Kidwell
- State Legislative Debate
 

GLC hosted Senator Danielle Conrad (Incumbent) and Chad Wright for a District 46 legislative debate on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The debate focused on University issues, financing, Big Ten move, etc. Attendance was not what it could have been, but a few suggestions: Advertise and make it an even bigger deal with DN exposure, press releases, posters, contact all political science professors to encourage them to give extra credit.
- Contact with Senators
 

GLC made it our goal to be in contact with state senators. Our goal was to meet with all senators, however, after contacting them all and not receiving a response from many, our focus became the Appropriations Committee and the Education Committee. Our focus was on the University budget allocation, Innovation Campus, and other issues. We testified on many issues (Discussed Below). These contacts were critical for establishing rapport with the senators, expressing our concern over certain issues, and creating a relationship where they can contact us. The entire committee attended at least one meeting, and ASUN senators were used as well. Keep track of what each of these members say during the meeting as it is shared with University officials in their advocacy efforts.
- Legislation
 

GLC had a variety of state-oriented legislation. When presenting legislation to ASUN Senate, it's important to put together a one-page fact sheet simplifying the bill, explaining pros and cons, and discussing why this is important to students.

  - University Budget – GLC took a stance supporting a budget that would maintain critical University programs, and encouraging senators to prioritize education when considering appropriations.
  - LB 58 – GLC supported LB 58, which would provide for a study of Dual Enrollment within the state system.
  - LB 249 – GLC supported the passage of LB 249, which would allow for specially designated liquor licenses to be issued to entities within University campus. This makes it easier for these entities and the liquor commission that is frustrated by the number of special permits it gives.
  - LB 516 – GLC opposed LB516, which would have allowed for guns on campus for teachers and security officials.
  - LB 603 – This bill would exempt student organizations from paying taxes on events that charge admission. This bill was written by Micah Wullschleger and presented by Senator Danielle Conrad. Micah testified in front of the Revenue Committee.

- LB 605 – GLC supported this bill, which would provide for Election Day Registration. Katie Kidwell testified in front of the Government Affairs Committee.
- LB 657 – GLC opposed would repeal the area of Nebraska Statute more commonly known as the “DREAM Act”. This statute allows students, whose parents are illegal immigrants, to get in-state tuition. Chairperson Carr testified on behalf of students.

## **National**

- Composition:

- Laura Collins
- Matt Hilgenkamp
- Kate Geyer
- Jane Seu
- Miranda Norfleet
- Jessie Cleveland (Fall Semester)

- Income Tax Forum

National GLC teamed with the Nebraska Public Policy Center to bring a documentary and its filmmaker to campus in a public event. *An Inconvenient Tax* discussed the complexities of the Federal Income Tax. Our role was promotion and public relations.

- Constitution Day

Each school that receives federal dollars is required to hold an informational session commemorating Constitution Day on September 17. This included members of the committee dressing up as Constitutional figures with costumes rented from the theater department. We also had a hotdog feed, and mock Constitution for people to sign, along with voter registration.

- Veteran’s Day

National GLC coordinated a display for Veterans Day on November 11. We had the display in the Alcove where students could write a message to a Veteran. This display was then given to the Veteran’s Home in Lincoln.

- Legislation

National GLC took a stance on many issues. It is challenging to then put these stances into fruition when we are so far from D.C. However, calling federal Representatives has proven to be the most effective method of communication.

- FRPAA – GLC supports the Federal Research Public Access Act, which would make available research from entities that receive over \$100 million in research. This was also a Big Ten on the Hill federal legislative priority.
- Continuing Resolutions – This year’s federal budget was crazy as there were numerous continuing resolutions instead of a comprehensive “omnibus”- spending bill. As such, these continuing resolutions threatened federal funding to the Department of Education and their programs. GLC opposed such cuts to the Department of Ed, including Pell Grants, scholarships, and research funding.
- Big Ten on the Hill Legislation
  - FRPAA (See Above)
  - Opportunities for Grants instead of Earmarks

Promote federal funding oversight for For-Profit Colleges

### **Freshman Campus Leadership Associates**

Projects Undertaken:

- Exposed FCLA members to various facets of Student Government
- Informed FCLA members of resources and opportunities on campus
- Served as a focus group for various campus departments
- Represented ASUN Student Government at the Big Red Road Show
- Completed several philanthropies
- Began preparations for the 2011-2012 Homecoming Parade

### **Student Government Exposure**

FCLA members have gained an understanding of the structure of ASUN and its roles at UNL by attending senate meetings, being introduced to executives, and serving office hours in the ASUN office. These methods help members gain exposure to the organization and to discern if ASUN is a potential avenue for future involvement for each individual FCLA member.

### **Opportunities and Resources**

Through guest speakers and other means, FCLA members have been provided with numerous opportunities for campus involvement, as well as information on various departments on campus. Invitations have been extended to members to get involved in some opportunities (e.g. Big Event Operations Staff and/or Expansion Team, Student Advisory Boards, Nebraska Human Resources Institute, etc.) and members have also been made aware of the services of various departments on campus (e.g. Career Services, etc.)

### **Focus Groups**

By serving as a focus group for several things, including Blackboard, MyRed, and the Civic Engagement Institute, FCLA members have had the opportunities to make their voice heard on campus, and vocalize the thoughts of the freshman class as a whole.

### **Big Red Road Show**

FCLA served as the representation for ASUN Student Government at the annual Big Red Road Show, where FCLA prepared and manned a booth informing prospective UNL students about the opportunities available to them in FCLA, as well as the services provided by their student government. The booth this year was the most impressive and exciting design executed by an FCLA class in the last several years, and was very effective at drawing in prospective students.

### **Philanthropy**

The Philanthropy Committee on FCLA set up many opportunities for service this year for FCLA members, and the group volunteered several places, including the People's City Mission Distribution Center and the Malone Center after school program. Additionally, FCLA sponsored a benefit night at Noodles and Company, with the proceeds being donated to the Friendship Home. This year's FCLA class was very service-oriented and enjoyed participating in such philanthropies.

### Homecoming Parade

At this point in the year, preparations for the Homecoming Parade are under way. Roles have been selected for each member of the group, and the class is currently in the process of planning their respective tasks for the parade preparation. The Homecoming Parade is and will continue to be a major project of FCLA.

### Academic Fees Advisory Committee (AFAC)

2010-2011 AFAC undertook the following projects:

1. Purchase of a Senate Camcorder, Microphone, and Stand
2. Purchase of Cameras for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications
3. Funding of Two MyRed Programmers
4. Creation of a Technology Survey
5. Updating College Letters
6. Deciding Technology Fee Amount for the 2011-2012 Academic Year

### **Purchase of a Senate Camcorder, Microphone, and Stand**

Justin Solomon, the 2010-11 Student Body President approached AFAC early in the fall semester about a project that would benefit Senate. The spring before, Senate decided to live stream each Senate meeting to improve student awareness of Senate activities. However, these efforts were hampered by technology. Each week, someone had to check out a camera from the library and hope all the cameras were not already taken. Additionally, there was no microphone stand, so a microphone was taped to a trashcan in the middle of the Senate floor. Therefore, Solomon, on behalf of ASUN, came to AFAC and asked us to purchase a camcorder, microphone, and stand to help Senate with its resolution. We approved the project, and Senate purchased the required technology.

### **Purchase of Cameras for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications**

Early in the fall semester, the Senate hosted its first SORC meeting with the goal of obtaining input from RSO leaders on campus. One of our committee members, who were also a Senator, overheard a complaint from one SORC attendee. This individual was a student in the J-school and discussed the many difficulties that journalism students face when they need to complete projects. There was always a long waiting list to check out cameras because there were not enough cameras. Unfortunately, however, CoJMC did not have the necessary funds to purchase more cameras. The Senator brought this concern to AFAC and we completed a further

investigation. Dr. Franco and I met with the head technology individual in the J-school to better understand how AFAC could help. In the end, AFAC voted to allocate \$15,000 for the purchase of 5 new camera kits.

### **Funding of Two MyRed Programmers**

MyRed has been a hot topic on campus all year. Because MyRed is a technology consideration that affects every UNL student, AFAC felt comfortable spending \$300,000 to hire two programmers for two years to improve the website. Dr. Franco originally proposed this project and will continue to oversee its implementation by hiring two programmers and managing their work.

### **Creation of a Technology Survey**

AFAC decided to create a technology survey for UNL students. Hopefully this survey will provide feedback about the student technology experience at UNL, and provide future AFACs with ideas for projects. We expected this survey to be taken during an ASUN Special Election, but it was not. We hope that the survey will be offered this year so that the next AFAC has a clear idea from day one of important technology needs at UNL.

### **Updating College Letters**

These are letters that are sent to each college regarding their expenditures of the student technology fee for the previous fiscal year. We send letters to and receive reports from the following colleges:

1. College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources (ANR)
2. College of Architecture (ARH)
3. College of Arts & Sciences (ASC)
4. College of Business Administration (CBA)
5. College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS)
6. College of Engineering
7. College of Fine and Performing Arts (FPA)
8. College of Journalism and Mass Communications (JMC)
9. University Libraries
10. Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

This year, the college letters were a major project for us, and we have taken steps to make this a simpler process in the future. Because colleges send very varied reports and are not consistent with the amount of information they provide, Senate was not content with the college responses this year. Therefore, they passed a resolution encouraging AFAC to create a more structured reporting format. In addition to providing last year's letters, we will also be creating a new format for future AFACs. We would like each college to provide a general overview, like they have in the past. Additionally, we will be requesting a line-by-line report of every expense of the technology fee. This will help us catch any inappropriate expenses and provide a better



understanding of how the fee is spent. I will also create a sample response that can be sent to each college. We hope that this will allow for more consistent reports. Please refer to the special projects section of the transition binder for a more detailed description of the letters for next year.

### **Deciding Technology Fee Amount for the 2011-2012 Academic Year**

After reviewing our college responses and technology fee budgets prepared by Pam Holley-Wilcox, the 2010-2011 AFAC decided to keep the technology fee amount at \$7.35 per credit hour up to 15 credit hours. This amount will allow UNL to maintain its technology services at a superior level without overburdening students with fees. However, should enrollment continue to increase, we encourage future committees to consider a fee decrease.

### **Committee for Fee Allocation**

At the beginning of the year the Committee for Fees Allocation set out to keep Student Fee's as close to a zero dollar increase as possible while maintaining the services each Fund User is providing. After claiming an \$11.69 decrease in overall student fees for this upcoming year, the Committee for Fees Allocation succeeded in its goal of keeping student fees as low as possible while sustaining the services offered for each student. Below are the reports for each Fund User in both of the A & B categories.

#### **Fund A Users**

##### **ASUN (Student Government)**

ASUN played an integral part in our committee's theme of keeping student fees as close to zero as possible. With a better grasp of controlled ridership and an increase of T-Shirt sales from "The Shirt" within the 475-RIDE program, ASUN was able to reduce the student fee allocation from last year's student fee allocation. Included in the Management Letter to ASUN, areas of interest for next year's committee should cover more in depth statistics with 475-RIDE/"The Shirt", BIG 10 On the Hill information, "The Zone" Tailgate Committee, and expansion of the Big Event.

##### **University Program Council (UPC)**

After an increase of student fees in the 2009-2010 academic school year, UPC worked to keep their student fee at a flat increase for this upcoming year. UPC experienced great success with their increased entertainment budget and looks forward to bringing big acts like this year's Big Boi concert. The committee next year is encouraged to communicate with UPC about giving updates on UPC's website and calendar, the occupancy tax placed on tickets, relationship with the upcoming Arena, outreach to students, and advertisements for the UPC and their new logo.

##### **Daily Nebraska**

When the committee met with the Daily Nebraskan, the main area of concern was voter support in the previous year's student body election. With an underwhelming 51% of the student body's support as a recognized Fund User, the committee stressed the importance of reaching out to

students on both advertising and student input bases. The Daily Nebraskan did not receive their full request of an increase in student fees, but the committee stressed the need for them to be able to sustain within their budget request. Some ideas in our management letter included a report on mobile apps, printing increases, advertising new services, student approvals, and including a separate budget and packet for the Dailyer Nebraskan.

#### Dailyer Nebraskan

The Dailyer Nebraskan also approached the committee with an increase in their budget recommendation for this upcoming year. After meeting with the Dailyer Nebraskan, the committee came to a conclusion to discard the increase due to their decrease in student newspapers and their ability to sustain with the allocation they currently have. Included in our management letter to the Dailyer Nebraska were ideas that requested a separate budget from the Daily Nebraskan, a report from the editor, ethical journalism, and ideas for startup funding.

#### Lied Center

After year one of the Arts for All program, the Lied Center requested an increase in student fees for this upcoming year. After meeting with the Lied Center about their budget proposal, the committee concluded to grant the Lied Center with a portion of their increase because of their ability to sustain as a program without the full increase. The committee would have requested to see updates on the Arts for All program, unique users, accountability for actual students, and a better understanding of their budget requests for this upcoming year.

### **Fund B Users**

#### Nebraska Union

When the committee met with Nebraska Union, there were very minimal items of concern. The Union was in a transition period of renewing their contract with Imperial Palace, and expressed interest sustainability with their North entrance doors. With a flat increase in student fees, the committee has requested that the Nebraska Union provide next year's committee with an update on the North entrance, the Imperial Palace contract, space allocation, 24-hour study lounge, Gaughn update, and an EMS update.

#### Readership Program

With a flat increase in their budget request and approval, the Readership program looks forward to continuing their service with the same amount requested in the previous year's approval. The management letter for the Readership program is asking them to provide information on the budget to reflect move from the reserve during their request for next year.

#### University Health Center

After meeting with the University Health Center, they also asked for a flat increase in student fees. The Health Center is experiencing wear and tear, and is due for renovations in the future. Overall the space reallocation of the building seems to be of success and the Health Center committee is pleased with where they stand as a Health Center. Included in their management

letter for next year were ideas to give an update on facilities, evaluation of CAPS, and a continuation of student feedback for the committee to view.

### Transit

The Transit Fee User provided the committee with several areas of interest in this year's budget allocation. With the cutting of the Sunday Service Program, and the idea of moving parking permits to fund the Summer Ridership program, student fees were cut drastically in comparison to previous years. The committee suggests next year's presentation to include an update on summer service, the use of night vans, quantify graduate and international ridership, and Star Tran as a sole mode of transportation.

### Campus Recreation

After successfully passing the "Yes to Better Rec Centers" campaign early in 2010, Campus Recreation put a hold on an increase for this upcoming years student fees presented to CFA. Although the budget will reflect an increase due to the successful campaign, the committee was able to hold Campus Recreation to a zero dollar increase based on their presentation and request. For this upcoming year in our management letter to Campus Recreation, we asked them to provide an update on the replacement fund account, private funding methods, new construction timelines, parking for the new East Campus Recreation Center and any maintenance concerns.

Overall this year has been a success for CFA. The committee stuck true to its initial theme of keeping student fees flat in comparison to last year's and resulted in an \$11.69 decrease for each student (not including the new and improved Recreation Centers). This decrease will not only allow students to save a few extra dollars on student fees but will also allow students to receive the same services they currently hold within their student fees.

I encourage next year's CFA to continue to keep student fees at a reasonable level while maintaining the services each of the Fund Users provide.