

**ASUN Year End
April 3, 2013
President Eric M Kamler**

Thank you Kaitlin and Kyle. To say a simple thank you would not be sufficient for the gratitude I have for the work you have both forged, and the friendships we have built over this past year.

Fellow Cornhuskers, for the last year it has been my honor to serve as your Student Body President. It is hard to believe that a full year has passed since we here in this very room taking an oath to serve the student body and leave UNL a better and stronger place than how we found it. Tonight, with a thankful heart, I am taking this final opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts, and to showcase some of the accomplishments that we have made throughout this journey.

For my time in ASUN, it seems like just yesterday that this journey began. I recall sitting at one of the wobbly desks in my room at the old Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity house as a freshman in August of 2009. Our house president, who at the time was serving as an ASUN Senator, came into my room and tossed to me a packet and said “fill it out, it would be good for ya”. The title of

that packet read “Freshman Campus Leadership Association Application”. And so my journey with ASUN began.

Through FCLA, I had the chance to meet a young lady full of charisma and spice and whom of which hailed from the country of Brazil....the first Brazilian I had ever met....the population of people from that part of the world is quite slim in the Shickley and Geneva, Nebraska areas, so it was sort of a natural attraction friendship. I had the chance to meet a sometimes shy and quiet gal from the big city of Omaha whose dedication to getting a job done is insurmountable and her “Eric Kamler” tolerance levels are off the charts! I met another big city Omaha girl whose passion for number crunching is one I’ve never understood, but it’s a passion that has gotten her shipping out this summer to a corner office on the 48th floor of a New York City office building. And last, but not least of those FCLA’ers that have walked this entire ASUN journey with me for the last 3 years, I met an incredibly hard-working scholar and business leader from the country of Israel who if it he had his way, would have trees planted every 10 feet on campus and recycling receptors at every corner!

Since meeting these incredible student leaders and countless other selfless serving students over the past 3 years, I have evolved and grown as a person to

who I am today. For that I am forever grateful and truly humbled to have served alongside each and every one of you.

To showcase some of the dynamic leadership seen this past year in ASUN, I would like to highlight a few of the accomplishments from each of our committees that everyone in this room played a role in making possible. 2012-2013 has been a term of incredible accomplishment and I could not be more proud of the people I have served with this last year to make the following work and much more possible.

Starting with the Government Liaison Committee chaired by Senator Mike Wehling; Once again, the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony was extremely well attended and ran without a hitch. Being the second year this ceremony has happened, I hope that the tradition of honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our freedom and honoring and remembering those who lost their lives that day is carried forward in ASUN for years to come. During the Fall election cycle, members of this committee helped to organize events that brought both US Senate candidates Deb Fischer and Bob Kerrey to campus. The Government Liaison Committee has also been extremely busy these last several months in advocating for students at the Unicameral and at

our nation's Capitol next week as the ever increasing threat of the rising cost of college becomes more apparent in our daily lives.

Freshman Campus Leadership Association or FCLA led by Sam Koraleski and Alana Tucker has been an active group this year. In the fall, they assisted the Money Management Center make promotional videos designed to help students conserve and better manage their funds. The group also volunteered at Matt Talbot Kitchen and at the People's City Mission around Thanksgiving and Christmas. And just one month ago, FCLA took to the Big Red Road Show, a recruiting event held at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha for area high school students. Their mission was to help recruit incoming UNL Freshman to get involved with ASUN.

The recently formed Diversity Strategic Development Committee has been on a bender of accomplishments and progress these last several months under the leadership of Senator Kendra Haag. Along with hosting and sponsoring several events with featured speakers on diversity and culture issues on both a local and global scale, DSDC worked to form the "Friends Beyond Borders" program. This new program offers American students who live relatively close to campus the chance to pair up with an international student here at UNL for a weekend

to show them what their home life is like and give the international student an at “home” experience during their time in the United States.

Much progress has been made on the environmental front in the Environmental Sustainability Committee led by Senator Matan Gill. Coming up on April 22nd, ESC will be hosting their third annual Focus Nebraska Environmental Sustainability Conference on campus. Senator Gill and his crew also developed the “Love Food, Hate Waste” campaign designed to Partner with UNL Dining Services to reduce food waste at dining halls by educating students about the environmental impacts of food waste. The newly implemented Zipcar car sharing program was also a flagship accomplishment of the Environmental Committee. Zipcar was brought to campus to reduce the number of student owned cars on campus and encourage other green commuting methods. Environmental Sustainability Committee also developed and launched the Environmental Leadership Program which has a goal to empower passionate students to engage in environmental projects on campus and in the community. And last, but not least, ESC played an instrumental role in the creation of the new Student-run Organic Farm on East Campus.

Under Senator Reanna Nichol森's leadership in the Academic Committee, many projects were undertaken and accomplished this year. One huge accomplishment was the implementation of a 24-hour study space during Dead Week and Finals Week located in the Jackie Gaughan Multi-Cultural Center. Because of Senator Nichol森's tireless efforts in organizing the use of the space, conversations have now started amongst the administration to create a permanent 24 hour study lounge on campus. In addition to that accomplishment, a student bereavement policy created under the Academic Committee has been added and adopted to UNL's official Attendance Policy. Now in the event that a student loses a loved one or close family member, the work they may miss in class will be allowed to be made up while time is allowed for them to mourn and recover from the tragedy. The Academic Committee also took up the academic program here at UNL called "ACE" to review its effectiveness and usefulness to us students studying in the program. And the final of many major accomplishments of this committee, a review of the outdated 1968 UNL Student Code of Conduct was done and an updated and revised copy created by the members of this committee is currently in the process of approval.

Campus Life Committee Chair Derek Mettenbrink has kept his committee busy by working on the revamp of the UNL safety services, particularly the UNL alert messaging system. The committee also worked in cooperation with the UNL police department to potentially create an alert system application for student's smartphones, as well as an optimization process with the UNL Blue Light system. Some other projects that Campus Life Committee members have been active in include: the re-pavement of some parking and driving areas across campus and the continuing improvement of bike safety issues across campus as well.

One of the committees that always gets a lot of heat for what they do is the Committee for Fee Allocations and this year proved to be no exception. I could not have been more proud to have had Senator Kalby Wehrbein serving as the leader of this committee of truly dedicated individuals. The mass number of hours put in by this committee and the important work and research they do, make this group one that is the epitome of what ASUN should follow the example of. With this year's Fees committee consisting of a budget hawk or two, organizations that receive any portion of the annually allocated \$22 million in fees truly had to prove to CFA that they had either the plan in place to make most of their allocation or were responsible enough to handle an increase in fee

allocation. While at times very heated in debate, this year's CFA sent a strong message to any student fee users that run their departments irresponsibly or recklessly. Much work was done with our student newspaper in this committee, the Daily Nebraskan, to get their fiscal ship back on the right track and like many projects; this one will prove to be a multi-year journey toward the finish line.

The ever-evolving Communications Committee chaired by incoming Internal Vice President Kaitlin Coziahr had several broad ranging accomplishments this past year. The Ask Me About ASUN Campaign, a campaign to raise awareness of ASUN and what it does to help the student body kicked off this past year and is expected to gain even more momentum into the future. The Communications Committee also switched from live video streaming to live tweeting of the weekly senate meetings. And lastly, the Communications Committee developed a plan to revamp the ASUN website and make it more user friendly and accessible.

The sometimes unnoticed work of the Academic Fees Advisory Committee, or Technology Fees Committee as its better known as in the ASUN office was led this year by incoming External Vice President Jeff Story. Jeff led the committee

to maintaining the current \$9.35/student/semester fee into the next fiscal year while still allocating \$640,810 for special request technology projects across the campus.

The final committee's work I want to highlight is that of the Student Services committee chaired by Senator Frank Stroup. Although one of the smallest committees, Frank has made Student Services a fun, but yet effective time. The main duty of this committee is to review the constitutions, and approve or disapprove of student organizations applying for active status on campus. With the year-long help of Senator Dani Kerr, Frank has made many of us envy his job and the ease at which he approaches things to get the job done.

These committee summaries are only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what has been done this past year in ASUN. As always, many of our hard efforts go unrecognized. But I suppose if it were truly recognition we wanted, we wouldn't be in any kind of Government role.

Today marks my 1,098th day serving as an elected member of this body, serving students. And if there is one thing I have learned over the course of these past nearly 1,100 days is that real power means to serve as a servant to your fellow brothers and sisters.

One person that does not get nearly the recognition she deserves is our ASUN Director Marlene Beyke. My time in ASUN has not only grown me as a leader, but it has also grown me as a servant to the people through observing the ways of Marlene. ASUN has truly gotten to where it is today because of the constant guidance she has provided students for over 30 years at this institution and a simple thank you would be incredibly sub-par so Marlene and my fellow Vice Presidents would you please come forward at this time.

(Present Gifts)

You are a true servant Marlene and a person that I will always admire and look to for guidance! It has been the honor of a lifetime to work with you and you will always hold a special place in my heart as a treasure to this University.

Tonight I also find myself filled with gratitude for many people that have guided me on this journey. Some people that I owe the world to are my parents here tonight. Mom and Dad, without the support, hard work, and incredible opportunities you've helped open up for me back on the farm, I likely would not have ended up here at the best University in the nation and I thank you dearly for being my biggest fans and teachers in life!

I would be remorse if I did not thank my East Campus family tonight as well who have all stood with me through thick and thin and from day one. Dean of CASNR Steve Waller, “Momma” Sue Voss, Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture Dr. Ronnie Green and your constant guidance, Chancellor Perlman and members of the Board of Regents for welcoming me with open arms, “Momma” Christin Kamm and members of the Nebraska Ag Youth Council from the past 3 years, Nebraska LEAD Director Dr. Terry Hejny for pushing me to come to UNL in 2009, my family of brothers from the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and the unbreakable bond I have formed with many of you, Father Matya and Father Holdren of the Newman Center here on campus and many, many more that have become a part of my extended family. All of you have truly helped guide me and develop me over these last several years and I anticipate our friendships to continue to grow as we march forward in this journey of life.

Like all who have served in any elected office, I have experienced setbacks. And there are things I would do differently if given the chance. Yet I have always acted with the best interest of students in mind. I have followed my conscience and done what I thought was right. Many of you may not have

agreed with some of the tough decisions I have made, but I hope you can agree that I was willing to make the tough decisions.

ASUN can be compared to our nation; an organization that is a melting pot of backgrounds, cultures, and ideals. As we will all see once we move beyond this University, we will encounter people who disagree with us. This can also be the case in ASUN like we've experienced throughout this year. But what keeps us as both an organization and a people moving forward is the constant drive that we all must do to find that common ground that exists between all of us. As former State Senator Roger Wehrbein once said "Politics is the art of compromise", but never compromise your values.

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as your President. There have been good days, and tough days. But every day I have been motivated and inspired by the selfless acts of students throughout this campus. I have been blessed to represent this University and I will always be honored to carry a title that means more to me than any other title I've had while serving here: Student of the University of Nebraska. So for the final time to this body, good night; and may God Bless this wonderful university, the great State of Nebraska, the next leaders of ASUN, and may God Bless all of you. Thank you.