

# ASUN 2015-16 Year End Report

Submitted by

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April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## Executive Summary

ASUN had a productive year addressing sexual assault, mental health, environmental sustainability, and community relations. The campus saw more activism from the student body this year as well, ranging from new non-profit organizations run by students to the Black Lives Matter Rally. A main focus this year was community outreach and collaboration. Through our partnerships, ASUN was able to have a broader and more meaningful impact on campus.

The Graduate Student Assembly is now officially an entity under ASUN. Graduate students are now better represented and have the backing of the official student government sanctioned by the Board of Regents. The Executive Council of Multicultural Organizations was formed under the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs with a permanent seat for the President of ASUN. ECMO will grow in the coming years and ASUN's participation will help the organization stay in touch with students of color on campus.

ASUN Committees expanded partnerships with other campus and community organizations as well. The Government Liaison Committee held multiple voter registration events with the Student Athlete Advisory Council, members of the National Panhellenic Council, and Nebraskans for Civic Reform. FCLA and ELP were able to host many events educating their peers on important topics like modern day slavery, mental health, environmental sustainability, and dispelling stereotypes while collaborating with campus and outside entities to share costs and extend the reach of their message.

Student fees were increased this year, with the exception of the Daily Nebraskan, DailyER, and Newspaper Readership Program. However, these increases come with 1000 more hours of counseling from CAPS, a budget for the GSA, and \$46,000 for the Green Fund.

ASUN hopes to continue the progress made in community relations this year. Not only have we worked more with campus groups, but communication has begun with a city councilman and other student governments at colleges across Lincoln. We are confident that the actions taken this year will continue building a strong foundation for strengthening the student voice on campus and enhancing sense of community among students.

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## Appointments Board

The 2015-2016 Appointments Board consisted of Thomas H. Olson and Amzie Dunekacke, appointed by the 2014-2015 executive team, and Ignacio Correias elected by the Senate as Appointments Board Chair. The Board received over 150 applications for ASUN and University-wide positions, nominating more than 70 graduate and undergraduate students to serve in such positions and committees. With very few exceptions, all ASUN vacancies were filled in a timely manner, including all Senate seats with the exception of the College of Law seat, and all Committee for Fee Allocations and Technology Fee Committee openings. At least one graduate and/or undergraduate student was appointed to every University-wide committee, guaranteeing student input in the shared governance of the University. Furthermore, during the past year all application forms were revised, and new fillable PDF forms were created (including presidential and board-specific applications).

## Environmental Leadership Program

ELP has been very active this year. In the fall, we joined ESC for a morning of tree planting on East Campus. Among other events with ESC, including touring the landfill, we have established meaningful relationships with ESC mentors, which has greatly impacted ELP's experiences in this committee.

On November 10, we hosted our 4th annual Sustainability Roundtable at the Nebraska Union. Our topics for discussion included Sustainability Jobs & Majors, Consumerism, Politics, Faith + Climate Connection, Human Rights, and Environmental Psychology. Over 100 students joined the conversation and this event was a huge success.

The ELPs have been meeting with their ESC mentors throughout the year to assist them with developing ESC projects. This trains ELPs to practice writing legislation, filling out event paperwork, and making connections with campus administrators, student groups, and facilities. The work that ELP has contributed to ESC projects includes auditing Greek houses and campus classroom buildings on sustainability measures, producing and editing content for the [greenunl.com](http://greenunl.com) website, visiting RSO meetings to encourage them to make their events zero-waste, planning and organizing programming for Earthstock, and touring dining halls to measure composting accessibility in the near future.

Second semester, ELP decided to focus their attention on two campaigns that address a problem on campus: an overuse of disposable plastic water bottles, and wasting water by taking long showers. The first committee has come up with a poster to hang near vending machines informing passersby about the environmental effects of using disposable plastic water bottles instead of a reusable water bottle. They have also designed stickers to promote reusable water bottles for students to decorate their water bottles with. The water conservation group started planning a research project in which they will measure water usage in the HSS residence halls before and after they hang up two poster approaches: an emotional poster and a humorous poster. This group will access the water bills for these buildings to compare whether or not their posters made a difference in students' behavior toward water consumption in residence hall restrooms.

Both groups will be present at the Earthstock Block Party with booths explaining their projects, administering games/challenges, and passing out reusable water bottles and stickers to students.

Lastly, ELP volunteered at a park cleanup at Antelope Park in April to give back to the community.

## Government Liaison

Government Liaison Committee year end report:

1. Purchased TurboVote, in collaboration with Nebraskans for Civic Reform and the Center for Civic Engagement.
  - a. NCR contact: Bri McLarty, [bri.mclarty@nereform.org](mailto:bri.mclarty@nereform.org)
  - b. Civic engagement contact: Whitney Johnson, [whitljohnson@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:whitljohnson@huskers.unl.edu)
2. Hosted a half dozen voter registration drives, registering around 200 students. Most were co-hosted with groups like the PanHellenic Council, Center for Civic Engagement, and the Athletics student advisory board.
3. Passed bills lobbying against the removal of gun free zones and id.
4. Passed bills lobbying in favor of tax credits to recent Nebraska linked graduates and loan transparency.
5. Hosted a luncheon at the Capitol for Senators to meet with students and discuss their projects.
  - a. To reserve rooms contact Sally Grandgenett at the clerk's office:
    - i. [sgrandgenett@leg.ne.gov](mailto:sgrandgenett@leg.ne.gov)
    - ii. 402-471-0766
  - b. Send a save the date email to all offices at least three weeks in advance, send physical letters to offices two weeks ahead of time. One week before hand call each office that has not yet RSVP'd and check on their status, we had eight people tell us at this time they would make it.
2. Planned the DC trip to lobby federal officials.
  - a. Work closely with Michelle Waite on this. Ask her if she can set up a meeting with Matt Hammons, the federal liaison for the University.
    - i. [Mwaite1@unl.edu](mailto:Mwaite1@unl.edu)
    - b. For information on research priorities, reach out to the office of Prem Paul, Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development.
      - i. Mary Guest: [mary.guest@unl.edu](mailto:mary.guest@unl.edu)
      - ii. Better yet, have Michelle introduce you.

## Freshman Campus Leadership Associates

- first year having 24 associates (as opposed to 20)
- 9 projects already completed or coming up in the next couple weeks
- 83% of associates passed a bill through senate, a huge increase from last year
- 2 philanthropies - one bell ringing for the salvation army and the other cleaning up litter in the community for Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful
- 2 Leadership Retreats

## Graduate Student Assembly

### Key Points:

1. Transition of GSA under ASUN
2. Third Annual Midwest Graduate Career Fair hosted at UNL Innovation Campus in collaboration with UNL Career Services
3. Student Fee Allocation for GSA
4. Ongoing discussion with the Office of Graduate Studies to better graduate student life at UNL



## Environmental Sustainability Committee

My intent for chairing the Environmental Sustainability Committee this year has been to directly relate all committee projects and efforts to our specified committee objectives and goals. Upon appointment, my vice chair, Alyssa Cody, and I immediately identified the areas we saw a need for ESC to focus on over the course of our term based on these objectives. Areas included continuing projects such as Earthstock and the Greeks Going Green initiative, while also setting goals to explore the possibility of eventually becoming a zero waste campus through composting exploration, waste auditing in buildings, and general campus and community outreach. We also set a goal to develop a stronger, more comprehensive digital presence for sustainability at UNL and working to reach out to the greater Lincoln community on sustainability issues and other ESC projects. Structuring and developing the newly approved Student Green Fund was also a major project for ESC this year. This academic year, the mandate from University

President Hank Bounds to eliminate styrofoam from campus was also announced, which stemmed directly from ESC's Styrofoam Free UNL initiative from the 2014-2015 year. In the fall semester, ELP and ESC had the opportunity to participate in a tree planting service learning project on East campus. We assisted UNL Landscape Services in planting 16 trees at the north entrance to campus. Also in the fall semester, we organized a team retreat with the UNL Outdoor Adventure Center participating in a variety of their outdoor teambuilding activities. ESC and ELP were also able to hold a Spring overnight retreat at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE which facilitated both large and small group project work time and group bonding. Included below are project summaries of each of the ESC projects worked on this year.

### **Earthstock**

#### **ESC Members: Alyssa Cody, Jordan Brooks, Aubrey Schumake, Shelby Janke**

Earthstock, "Four Weeks to Learn and Grow," is an event and a movement modeled after the iconic Woodstock Music and Arts Festival. This project, in its third year, includes a series of events with the mission to educate and empower the Lincoln community to become involved in environmental activism. The diverse programming serves as a safe and inclusive environment where anyone from the surrounding communities are encouraged to engage in conversation with fellow allies and activists, and to become informed on how the Lincoln community can create a more environmentally sustainable culture. Earthstock comes to fruition through six events throughout March and April.

*Lorax Screening:* In this collaborative event, ESC and ELP partner with the University Programming Council to show Dr. Seuss' *the Lorax* on the Union Plaza Greenspace. Taking place on St. Patrick's Day, the screening encourages attendees to "go green" by being inspired by the environmental activism of the Lorax, while celebrating the countdown to April.

*First Friday Event:* This event, located at Crescent Moon Coffee invites students and community members to celebrate the arrival of Earthstock. The event features UNL undergraduate and

graduate students' artwork including wildlife photography, print work, drawing, painting, and films all of which have environmental and nature themes and will be displayed in Crescent Moon for the rest of the month. A live instrumental music artist is also featured during the event.

*Documentary Screening:* Annually, Earthstock screens a documentary at the Mary Riepma Ross Theater, this year featuring *Merchants of Doubt*. The film discusses how companies use media and journalism to promote pseudo-scientific ideas about climate change and other issues. There is a short, informal discussion following the screening of the film.

*Policy for the Plains Political Forum:* This year, Anna Wishart moderates the forum, featuring panelists Senator Ken Haar, Senator Adam Morfeld and Bold Nebraska founder Jane Kleeb. This event serves as an opportunity to educate and connect constituents with their public officials and includes an opportunity for attendees to ask questions, followed by a reception and refreshments to continue the conversation.

*Music Festival:* Earthstock celebrates local Nebraska talent featuring a lineup of folk indie/rock band the Hottman Sisters, Omaha hip-hop duo BOTH and alternative/soul band AZP. All proceeds from the event benefit the Lincoln Bike Kitchen, a nonprofit that empowers our community with a sustainable transportation alternative through refurbished bicycles. A collaboration with allows for a guided glow-in-the-dark bike ride from UNL's campus to the Haymarket as a method of transportation to attend the festival.

*Earth Day Block Party:* The block party is an interactive and inclusive event that occurs on Earth Day in the center of UNL's campus. Several RSOs and local organizations showcase their relation to sustainability in unique ways. The celebration includes Yoga on the Green with Lotus House of Yoga, the Carbon Footprint Challenge by Sustain UNL, a DJ set, voter registration, an upcycle craft party, Alpha Gamma Nu's philanthropy, an Ask-the-Expert panel, art from Prairie Pines, animals and much more.

## **Greeks Going Green**

### **ESC Member: Grace Evans**

Greeks Going Green primary goals for this year were to continue with the progress that had been made last year, and to create a more self-sustaining program for future years. New sustainability chairs were established in all 15 sorority chapters and 12 on campus fraternities. Nearly all of chapter representatives have received light switch plate stickers, encouraging chapter members to turn lights off when they leave rooms. Additionally, 27 of the 28 chapters with representatives have received recycling bins provided by the UNL Recycling Office. 300 "These Come From Trees" stickers for paper towel dispensers have been donated to the project by the company, and are in the distribution process. Work to eliminate styrofoam from chapters has continued, and has proven successful in half of the sororities and nearly every fraternity. Over the past year, the Greeks Going Green project has helped to empower fraternities and sororities to tackle

environmental initiatives on their own, at their own pace. Future goals of the project include aiding chapters in development of their sustainability chair role, as well as holding regular training sessions with all sustainability chairs.

### **Organic Waste Reduction and Composting**

**ESC Members: Lauren Klaasmeyer, Ben Rice**

The organic waste committee had the goal of setting the stage to implement composting in the dining halls due to the overwhelming amount of food waste the dining halls are currently producing. Research has proven that Selleck generates 200 gallons of food waste daily during the Fall and Spring semesters. Team members met with the head of dining, Ron Burke, who shared their view that it is important to begin composting in campus dining halls. Members also met individually with the managers of each of the dining halls and toured their kitchens. There was no opposition to begin composting from any dining hall. The dining halls are already fairly accurately and adequately separating compostable waste from non compostable waste, as food waste goes through a pulper after being thrown away by students, which essentially means that food waste is reduced to a semi-solid state, making composting much easier. Posters and PowerPoints were created to inform dining staff on the regulations of composting, such as what can be composted and what cannot, and where the composting trash bins should be located for pick-up. This will act as a training tool during an orientation that will be held with representatives from every dining hall, and will hopefully make the transition easier for staff.

### **Zero Waste- University Operations and Infrastructure**

**ESC Members: Alec Williams, Jackson Cutsor, Melissa Petersen**

In this year's agenda, Zero Waste was introduced as an overarching committee goal. To be a Zero Waste campus, 90% or more of waste needs to be diverted from the landfill. The first step was finding areas in which a significant portion of what is thrown away could actually be recycled. After realizing there was little credible data on waste at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, waste audits were conducted in Mabel Lee Hall, Nebraska Hall, and Jorgenson Hall to create a baseline of data which could be used in the future to measure progress. In partnership with Facilities Maintenance & Operations Custodial Services and Sustainability Coordinator Prabhakar Shrestha, students sorted through waste collected from student areas (primarily classrooms and common areas) to analyze how much could have been recycled, what could be eventually composted, liquid waste, and trash, by weight. In the future, after more data is compiled appropriate signage and bins will be implemented in these areas and buildings. Ideally, waste audits will be conducted after the implementation to see what worked, what didn't, and determine what will be worth implementing elsewhere.

Data from 12 audits are included below:

33.89830508	31.07344633	35.02824859	0.1837708831
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Total Trash %	Total Recycle %	Total Compost %	Total Other %
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## Zero Waste- Student Engagement and Outreach

### ESC Member: Cale Brodersen

This year a major focus of ESC has been the concept of helping UNL eventually become a “zero-waste” campus. One avenue we have taken to achieve this is through outreach to Registered Student Organizations and other student groups. Exploration of the university’s waste infrastructure has been a key component in this project and has helped the team understand what can currently be done to reduce waste. Educational materials on how student groups can host zero-waste events were created earlier in the year and a pledge for RSOs to take if they support the zero-waste initiative has been distributed to nearly NUMBER student groups. The conversation with faculty and administration about how we can improve the university’s infrastructure to divert a larger percentage of waste from the landfill has also been a major priority over the past year. This team was able to passed legislation through the 2015-2016 senate body that requires that all future ASUN events be zero-waste events, by diverting 90% or more of waste from the landfill.

## GreenUNL Website Development

### ESC Member: Carlos Velasco

The GreenUNL website that is a self-described ‘hub of sustainability.’ GreenUNL is a one stop website that includes articles on sustainability tips and tricks, news and events that are going on around campus and the community, opinion columns, and spotlights on businesses and organizations with sustainable practices. The website is also a place for ESC and ELP members to track progress of their projects throughout the year, communicate their projects through an online platform, and increase the transparency of what ASUN is doing for sustainability on campus. Specific examples of mini sites that have been created include a landing site for the Green Fund that, moving forward in the future, will also include progress and updates on projects funded with the fund alongside information on how to apply for funds. Earthstock also has a large presence on the website as a microsite. Green UNL is connected with existing social media efforts and is the culmination of the Green UNL brand that has been an important online voice of sustainability at UNL since 2014.

The website was developed on wordpress with Carlos Velasco from ESC as the Creative Director and two ELP’s, Corrin Bemis and Taylor Anderson, joining the team working as editors and writers. Development also included consulting with University Communications to see what could and could not be done in a website like this and also utilized new and emerging web development technology as it became available. Future development goals include expanding into interactive journalism with things like 3D video, Google Cardboard integration, and more. Going forward, it is important to outline the future of the GreenUNL website and

create a stable system for the website to be maintained in the future. It will be the responsibility of the ESC chair to check the content in the weekly set of articles to make sure that the voice, information, and content are passed through one final person before making it on the website, allowing there to be another check to the articles and content posted to the website. The development through wordpress provides an easy way to add and post articles. This year ESC and ELP members were able to write content, going forward it will be easier for them to log in as contributing authors to post content drafts which will then be reviewed by the GreenUNL team and the ESC chair before being posted.

## **Community Outreach**

### **ESC Member: Emily Hergenrader**

The Community Outreach team is rooted in the belief that youth, education, and community awareness, are three crucial aspects in building an environmentally conscious city and fostering the ideals of such. This committee has worked diligently on creating a powerpoint presentation that educates youth with the goal of increasing awareness among the younger generation of Lincoln. They have had the opportunity to present at Calvert Elementary School to an audience of over 100 K-5th graders. The presentation itself includes hands on activities to make learning about the environment fun, interactive, and meaningful.

## **Student Green Fund**

### **ESC Member: Cale Brodersen**

Following up on the 2015 ASUN election ballot question that rendered 78% approval by students to create a student green fund, this year will be remembered as a landmark for sustainability with the passing of the structure and bylaws for the University of Nebraska Student Green Fund. The green fund bylaws were constructed very carefully, taking into account what other university green funds around the country look like, and what would most greatly benefit our university. Beginning in the fall semester of 2016, \$1 will be collected from every student, per semester, to pay for projects of all types that will greatly enhance a culture of sustainability on this campus. This project is a great example of what can be accomplished at the crossroads of great collaboration and passion to make UNL a better place.

## Technology Fee Committee

During the 2015-2016 year, the Technology Fee Committee consisted of five at-large members, two senators, the ASUN advisor, the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, and the Director of Information Technology Services. First, the Committee reviewed how student technology fees were used throughout the 2014-2015 school year. The technology fee is allocated to colleges based on their size as well as money going to Information Technology Services, Academic Affairs, and the Libraries. After reviewing these allocations and finding them in compliance with the constraints of the technology fee, we began looking forward to three other projects: spreading Adobe around campus, working on the website, and beginning the conversation to transition from Blackboard to Canvas.

Instead of UNL providing Microsoft Office to students, UNL now offers Adobe and its programs instead. About 15% of students have registered accounts with Adobe. The Committee met with several Adobe representatives and determined a plan for the Adobe representatives to inform students they have this luxury.

Last year, plans were laid to create a website to fully publicize how student fees are being spent. The upcoming site will first feature the money spent from the technology fee, but the committee also looks to cooperate with other fee users to incorporate their expenditures as well. The committee hopes it will become a powerful tool for students to provide greater feedback for their money and to better connect with all the advantages that the fee can provide. UNL students from the Computer Science department are currently working on the website. An initial draft will be hopefully provided to the committee in May, and if not, soon after classes start in the fall of 2016. The website should be full-functioning by the spring of 2017.

Finally, Technology Fee Members worked on exploring a possible transition from Blackboard to Canvas. Committee members consulted with faculty, students in the pilot programs, and had a chance to test it out ourselves. There were very positive reviews for Canvas and most liked it better than Blackboard. The cost for Blackboard compared to Canvas is very similar, and students should expect a decision by UNL Administration soon.

Overall, it was a very productive year for the Technology Committee. We're excited to see where the 2016-2017 committee takes the projects we worked on.

## Committee for Diversity & Inclusion

This year Committee for Diversity and Inclusion consisted of eleven representatives: Mohammed AL-Abdullah - International Students Rep, Justin Collier - Veterans Rep, Gloria Kimbulu - Racial Affairs Rep, Emily Dickson and Olivia Bond- Women Students Rep, Raeda Anderson-Students with disabilities Rep, Grace Stallworth and Daniel Hauschild- LGBTQA+, Bryan Brunson, Brenda Gallardo, and Ashton Davidson and five members at large: Paula Sandoval, Leemah Nasrati, Audrey Beedle, Cassie Irwin, and Brittany Cash.

First semester we focused on supporting the groups of students represented by our Committee representatives and reaching out to the groups that we did not have any contact with.

We drafted a bill in support of the Dia de los muertos, which took place on November 2nd, 2015. The bill were passed through ASUN Senate to engage UNL students, staff, and faculty on issues of cultural traditions and engagement of community across the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

Senator AL-Abdullah and Senator Sandoval worked on getting more ideas, advantages and disadvantages on creating an International Engagement Resource Center. These senators believe that the best solution for the majority of the problems that international students face on campus will be the creation of an International Engagement and Resource Center for them with specialist employees that can deal with all the International students problem professionally. Nowadays, the University has a couple of employees specifically working with international students, but they are all spread out on campus. It will be easier to have these people in one specific place. The five Main Goals for International Engagement and Resource Center for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. (ISERC)

1. Provide excellent and quality services for all the international students since they arrived to Lincoln to the last day they graduate from the University.
1. The International Student Engagement and Resource Center can be the center to provide information for academic success and improve the involvement of international students in organizations on campus. These two are our major concerns since academic success is an important issue it needs to be cover and involvement is a key for professional development.
1. This center could be follow by an international committee that could be possible managed it and directed by the engagement director and advised by the Vice Chancellor for international Affairs. This will make the resource center stronger and provide more help for all the students. This committee should be composed with 10 students from different countries and one domestic student to bring inclusion and diversity. One of the main goals for this committee will be to plan all the main events during the year like International education week, international festival day, International sports day, Culture shock, and Food Bazar around the world.
1. Having one central point for international students at UNL is beneficial not only for international students; but also to the university. The creation of an ISERC promotes community

recognition, greater integration and success on campus, increased graduation and retention rates, and positive economic revenue for UNL, Lincoln and the surrounding area.

1. Services and programming that would be provided through the International Student Engagement Center:

- a. Academic support, resources and success networks
- b. Recruiting and Admissions counseling
- c. Access to the certification of benefits and scholarships
- d. International students mentoring and orientation program
- e. International awareness training for faculty and staff
- f. Collaborate and integrate with the Diverse and inclusive organizations on campus.
- g. Community partnerships with international services

For the second semester we drafted three bills. The first one for informational purposes took place at the Union on February 16, 2016. The second one, was a short video passed through ASUN senate to educate UNL students, staff, and faculty on methods to prevent racial discrimination on campus and create a more inclusive environment. The third bill supported Define America with a white documentary that took place on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Union Auditorium. This bill was passed through ASUN senate to engage UNL students, staff, and faculty on issues of intersection of race, immigration, and engagement of community across campus.

Vice-president Josh Waltjer and Senator Sandoval worked on modifying the bylaw of the committee for next year to improve communications and performances with other RSO's. Vice-president Josh and senator Sandoval believe this change will be helpful for the Committee since the participants will be working on the area of interest communicating frequently with the respectively campus unit and will help to enhance collaboration across campus.

Our biggest project this year was planning and executing the fourth annual Friends Beyond Borders program the weekend of March 4 - 6, 2016. The Friends Beyond Borders program connects international and domestic students of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and provides a unique opportunity to experience different cultures and create new friendships. American students signed up to host an international student, and international students signed up to be hosted. Each student gave the Committee some information about him or herself, including grade, major, campus involvements, and interests, and we matched them with someone with common interests. American students offered to host either one or two international students at their family home or in Lincoln. Prior to the weekend of the event, we held two full group socials. At these socials, the participants met and got to know one another. We also played



icebreakers and went over guidelines and suggestions for the weekend of the event. Approximately 36 students participated in this program last year. That number increased to 42 this year. The program was very successful and rewarding to the participants. Domestic students learned about a new culture from a primary source and gained a new friend.

This year was very successful for the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion especially with the completion of our crowning jewel - Friends Beyond Borders. I hope to see continued expansion of the Committee's communication with minority groups and programming.

## Campus Life & Safety

This year, the Campus Life and Safety Committee concentrated on raising awareness around issues that affect student health and safety.

Mental health awareness was a major focus during the school year. In September, we passed a bill to help host events for mental health awareness week. This included committee members holding a booth at the student union where students could sign a pledge to end the stigma around mental health. Currently, we are collaborating with Active Minds and the student advisory boards of the College of Architecture and the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts to host a mental health forum in late April. The goal of this event is to open dialogue about the student experience to better understand the issues students face in relation to mental health. Unfortunately, this event will take place after we step down from our positions. However, we are excited to see how it comes together.

Another focus for the committee has been raising awareness around sexual assault and sexual assault prevention. In the fall, we worked hard to implement a Week of Action for the It's On Us campaign against sexual assault. This entailed hosting events including an open mic night, a screening of the documentary, *The Hunting Ground*, as well as inviting Jamar Banks to speak to students about sexual assault prevention. We also held a booth at the union to encourage students to take the It's On Us pledge. Overall, the Week of Action was very successful. During the spring semester, we began creating an It's On Us video to share with the student body. We expect it to be completed fairly soon. Additionally, we passed a bylaw amendment to add It's On Us as a subcommittee of Campus Life and Safety. This will allow It's On Us to continue sharing its message to end sexual assault at the university. The subcommittee will be in charge of implementing a Week of Action each fall.

Several other bills and resolutions were developed and/or passed through Campus Life and Safety. In December, we put through a bill to support a Late Night Dish It Up event with OASIS to encourage conversations about inclusive language. We also passed a bill to support the Residence Hall Association's request to update the Overnight Guest Policy. We passed a resolution in January to grant the Government Liaison committee permission to lobby against LB769. Most recently, a number of Freshman Campus Leadership Associates' (FCLA) bills have gone through our committee including College Alcohol Profile, Breaking Barriers, The Breakfast Club, Unplug Cell Phones Day, and the 'She is Loved' Event. Each of these bills passed, and we feel they were effective in reaching the FCLA members goals.

## Communications Committee

The road of the 2015-2016 Communications Committee was a rather bumpy one, full of twists and turns. In the grand scheme of things, the committee as a whole has many accomplishments of which they can be proud, but there are still some aspects in which there was room for improvement that should be taken into consideration for future committees:

Perhaps the greatest hurdle that the committee never entirely conquered was finding a time for all committee members to be available for meetings. The committee struggled with reaching adequate numbers at meetings in both Fall and Spring semesters, though Spring semester was much stronger in its meeting turnout and efficacy. It was beneficial to have Co-Chairs for this committee, though there was lack of communication in the fall semester of what was being accomplished by the committee (which, unfortunately, was minimal).

The problem of committee member unavailability directly affected the amount of work that was accomplished throughout the year, especially in the Fall. By the time Spring came around, there was greater turnout and efficiency at meetings, which resulted in improved committee morale and productivity. Perhaps one of the greatest setbacks that we faced was having both senator committee members absent at all Spring meetings, so there was little opportunity for the senators to collaborate with other committee members on legislation.

Despite these setbacks, the Communications Committee still accomplished some wonderful things: having a strong and creative presence at both New Student Enrollment and Big Red Welcome, continuing the tradition of free hotdogs and drinks on Husker Game Days, scheduling programming and appearances at student involvement fairs throughout the year (LGBTQA+ Resource Fair, Student Involvement Fair, and the Student Athlete Involvement Fair, for example), establishing an official Instagram handle for ASUN Student Government, and collaborating with Johnny Carson School film students to produce two well-received videos (Campus Diversity and It's On Us).

Additionally, Communications established an official and well-utilized gmail account to serve as a clear and open channel between committees and the ASUN social media platforms as well as an archival Google Drive account to document all legislation and projects in which the Communications Committee was involved. The Google Drive and email account will also be integral to lay down information and ideas for the incoming committee to act upon early in their term.

The Communications Committee had some lofty goals this year: recreating the ASUN Mission Statement, getting funding for new film and new media equipment, and utilizing social media to facilitate greater transparency. Although some of these goals were not met, the Communications Committee is proud to end its term with a Social Media Takeover that will hopefully garner a greater social media following, build stronger understanding of the many facets of ASUN, and wrap up our term with a project that not only serves ASUN but the UNL student body.