

# ANNUAL REPORT

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN)

**SUBMITTED BY PRESIDENT LIBBY WILKINS | APRIL 15, 2026**

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Association of Students of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
**ASUN**

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## From the President

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As I reflect on this year as President of ASUN, I would describe it as both ambitious and deeply rewarding, a year defined by meaningful progress and a commitment to leaving our campus better than we found it.

Throughout the year, our focus was on delivering tangible outcomes for students. One of our most significant accomplishments was the launch of the Uber Late Night Ride Program, which expanded access to safe, late-night transportation. At the time of this report, over 11,500 rides have been taken through the program.

We also made a deliberate effort to strengthen transparency and accessibility to our organization. By prioritizing consistent communication, particularly through social media, we grew our platform by over 75% since inauguration one year ago.

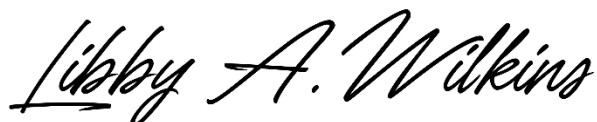
Engagement was a cornerstone of our approach from the very beginning of our term. Through our presence at New Student Orientation, the Fall and Spring RSO Fair, Party at the Union, and Street Fair, along with hosting a fall open house with over 150 attendees, we worked to build relationships. These efforts resulted in the largest applicant pool in FCLA history and the successful revitalization of ELP membership, which grew from having no members to becoming an active and engaged community.

Our commitment to service and leadership development was reflected in several hallmark initiatives. We hosted The Big Event, mobilizing over 200 volunteers, a more than 150% increase, to serve our local community. Additionally, we introduced the first-ever RSO Leadership Summit and organized an Elected Officials Retreat at Calvin Crest Retreat Center, both of which provided meaningful opportunities for collaboration and growth among student leaders both within ASUN and across campus.

At the same time, this year presented its share of challenges. We navigated a complex budget reduction process, during which we centered student perspectives through our Huskers Have a Say event. We also experienced a transition in university leadership at the Chancellor level, alongside a period of learning how to utilize a new co-advisor model following Marlene Beyke's retirement. These moments required adaptability and steadfast leadership.

These experiences shaped a year of both accomplishment and growth. In the following pages, you will see the full scope of our work, our initiatives, impact, and the individuals who helped us along the way. While no year is without its challenges, we are proud of the progress made and the foundation established for those who will continue this work in the years ahead.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby A. Wilkins".

ASUN President Libby Wilkins

## About ASUN

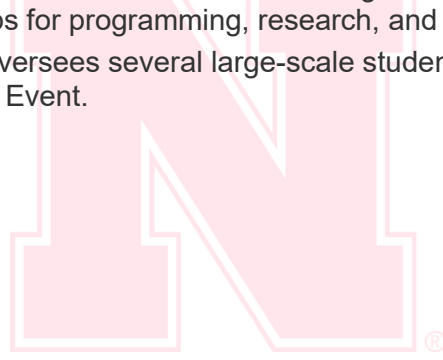
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The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) is the student governance organization at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Founded in 1965, ASUN strives to serve and support students in all facets of college life at Nebraska.

Led by students and housed within the Department of Student Life, ASUN's mission is based on student advocacy, providing student support and services, and leadership development. While all UNL students are members of the Association, the leaders within are change-makers on campus who regularly meet with administrators, plan student-based programming, and provide students with services and financial support.

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

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



## ASUN Staff

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### Jessie Matthes

#### ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNICIAN & TREASURER

Jessie has been the Administrative Technician for ASUN Student Government since 2000. In her role, Jessie oversees ASUN finances and operations, as well as regularly meets with students and student groups to approve RSO constitutions and execute ASUN-approved grants. Following the retirement of her longtime colleague and friend, Marlene Beyke, Jessie played a critical role in ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining the stability of ASUN under the Wilkins administration. In addition to her formal responsibilities, Jessie consistently stepped beyond the scope of her position, taking on additional duties to support both the executive team and the broader functioning of student government.

### Ryan Lahne

#### ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR & ADVISOR

Ryan Lahne has been the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Engagement and Success in the Division of Student Life since 2022. Ryan is a two-time graduate of UNL (2000 & 2019). In this role, Ryan serves as the official advisor to the ASUN student government and provides support to the ASUN and GSA Presidents and Executive team. Following Marlene Beyke's retirement, Ryan played an essential role in mentoring and advising the Wilkins administration, helping to ensure continuity, stability, and effective leadership during a period of transition.

### Dee Dee Anderson

#### VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT LIFE

Dee Dee Anderson is the Vice Chancellor for Student Life at UNL. Joining the UNL leadership team in August 2023 from the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Anderson oversees the Division of Student Life, including ASUN Student Government. In her role as Vice Chancellor, Dr. Anderson is a tireless advocate for students and has been a staunch supporter of ASUN and student advocacy.

### Jeffrey White

#### DIRECTOR, ASUN STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

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

### Randi Molvar

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ASUN STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

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

## Bailey Petty

STAFF ATTORNEY, ASUN STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

Bailey was added to the Student Legal Services Staff after passing the Bar in August of 2022. Bailey is a 2022 UNL College of Law graduate.

## Amanda Bulge

OFFICE MANAGER, ASUN STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

The most recent addition to ASUN's staff, Amanda graduated from UNL in 2019. As the office manager, Amanda helps the attorneys stay organized and takes care of administrative and operational tasks.

## 2025-26 At-a-Glance

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**120+**

Student Leaders Involved

**\$19,800**

Awarded in RSO Grants  
Equity, Green Fund & new Wellness Grant

**11,500+**

Uber Safe Ride Vouchers Used  
-\$115,000 in direct student savings

**600%+**

Instagram Engagement Increase  
1,000+ new followers gained

**405**

SLS Cases Closed  
9% increase year over year

**\$636,000**

ASUN FY27 Operating Budget  
Recommended by CFA

**\$97,139**

Financial Impact via Student Legal Services  
33% increase from prior year

**68%**

Student Support for Mobile N-Card Fee  
Passed on 2026 ASUN ballot

**200+**

Volunteers at The Big Event  
150%+ increase in recruitment

**\$25.9M**

Total Student Fees Allocated  
Across all UPFF Fund A & B users

## Executive Team Profiles

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### Libby Wilkins

#### PRESIDENT AND STUDENT REGENT

Libby Wilkins is a senior Agricultural Leadership major from Ainsworth, Nebraska. Before being elected president of ASUN and student regent in 2025, she held no previous roles in ASUN. Outside of ASUN, Libby serves as an NHRI Mentor, is deeply involved in the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, and is a sister of Chi Omega, previously serving as the Personnel Chair. After graduation, Libby will serve as a FOCUS missionary on a college campus in the United States.

Contact: [libbywilkins31@gmail.com](mailto:libbywilkins31@gmail.com)

### Benjamin Morgan

#### INTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT

Ben is a senior Architectural Studies major from Lincoln, Nebraska. Before his election as Internal Vice President of ASUN, Ben had previously served as a member of the Freshman Campus Leadership Associates (FCLA), a co-director of FCLA, and served as the College of Architecture's sole senator for two years. Outside of ASUN, Ben was a New Student Enrollment Orientation Leader, a College of Architecture Ambassador, and a brother of Sigma Chi. After graduation, Ben will join HDR's office in Omaha as an Architectural Design Coordinator.

Contact: [Benjamin.morgan.316@gmail.com](mailto:Benjamin.morgan.316@gmail.com)

### Misha Jalali

#### EXTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT

Misha Jalali is a senior Psychology major from Toronto, ON, Canada. Before her election as External Vice President of ASUN, Misha served as a member of FCLA, a co-director of FCLA, and as a Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences. Outside of ASUN, Misha works as a legislative intern in the office of State Senator Ashlei Spivey, and formerly worked as a research assistant and in the Executive Vice Chancellor's office. After graduation, Misha plans to attend law school.

Contact: [mishajalali12@gmail.com](mailto:mishajalali12@gmail.com)

### Emily Frech

#### CHIEF OF STAFF

Emily is a junior Marketing and Management major from Erie, Colorado. Before her appointment as ASUN's Chief of Staff, Emily served as a member of FCLA and as a College of Business Senator in the ASUN Senate. Outside of ASUN, Emily is a Lifting Lives Intern for the Academy of Country Music and is heavily involved in the Clifton Strengths Institute. Emily plans to spend her senior year at UNL continuing to invest and advocate for the communities that have shaped her time here.

Contact: [hello@emilyfrech.com](mailto:hello@emilyfrech.com)

## Ishani Karki

### SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

Ishani is a sophomore Political Science major from Omaha, Nebraska. Before starting her role as Senior Advisor to the President, Ishani served as a member of FCLA, an FCLA Appointments Board Member, a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Committeewoman, and served as a committeewoman for the DEI coalition for the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS). Outside of ASUN, Ishani is a peer educator for the Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education (CARE), serves as the director of Community Inclusion as a sister of Pi Beta Phi, and as a legal runner for Mattson Ricketts. In her junior year, Ishani will serve as a senator for the College of Arts and Sciences in the ASUN Senate.

Contact: [ikarki2@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:ikarki2@huskers.unl.edu)

## Madie Beasley

### SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

Madie is a senior Classics and Classical Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics major from Dallas, Texas. Before being elected the Speaker of the ASUN Senate, Madie served in FCLA and as a three-term senator for the College of Arts and Sciences. Outside of ASUN, Madie is heavily involved in the Resident Hall Association (RHA), serving as their President. Madie was the first Speaker of the Senate who concurrently served as both the President of RHA and Speaker in ASUN history. This summer, Madie will be working as a Summer Strategist with the University of Chicago in the Department of Housing and Residence Life.

Contact: [madiebeasley@icloud.com](mailto:madiebeasley@icloud.com)

## Members of the ASUN Senate

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**Mason Ain**

**Ken Bigba**

**Audrey Cherek**

**Eamonn Conway**

**Julia Haller**

**Morgan Johnson**

**Nathan Leibbrandt**

**Gavin Luthi**

**William McDavid**

**Caleb Peterson**

**Kurt Schneider**

**Alejandra Vasquez**

**Ban Zuerlein**

**Maathir Basi**

**Elina Carpenter**

**Tia Chism**

**Shelia Foley**

**Eric Haupt**

**Abhi Karri**

**Mackenzie Liakos**

**Ashwin Mannur**

**Delanie Ness**

**Kaitlyn Richards**

**Collin Stigge**

**Abba Yagub**

**Madie Beasley**

**Jennifer Castle**

**Reagan Choat**

**Madalyn Fox**

**Ezerina Hyseni**

**Taryn Lauver**

**Leonardo Luna-Duran**

**Carson Mau**

**Brittani Perez**

**Bella Ruda**

**Maryam Sule**

**Jacob Zitek**

## Executive Team Projects

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This year, the ASUN Executive Team took on several large-scale and carry-over projects while continuing to provide support for the events that ASUN sponsors annually. The team worked to maximize student impact and capitalize on ASUN's available funding to further stabilize the budget and expand services.

### RSO Leadership Summit

In September, ASUN organized and hosted the first-ever RSO Leadership Summit. The summit was a key promise of the Wilkins campaign during the election and became one of the crowning achievements of the Wilkins administration.

Through dedicated outreach to RSO leaders and university stakeholders, President Wilkins brought together more than 150 student leaders representing over 125 different RSOs for an evening focused on connection, advocacy, and communication of shared goals. The event connected student leaders with key UNL and University of Nebraska administrators, including then-Chancellor Rodney Bennett, University of Nebraska System President Jeffrey Gold, Athletic Director Troy Dannen, UNL Vice Chancellor of Student Life Dee Dee Anderson, and others.

Dr. Lindsay Hastings, research director for the NHRI program, delivered the keynote address, sharing a message centered on servant leadership, the dangers of poor communication, and the qualities of effective leadership.

This administration firmly believes the RSO Leadership Summit should become an annual tradition, continuing to strengthen connections with the student body and further establish ASUN as the central resource hub for RSO leaders across campus.

### Elected Officials Retreat

Over Labor Day weekend, ASUN hosted the first-ever Elected Officials Retreat. This marked a significant step toward strengthening institutional knowledge and leadership development within ASUN student government. It also signaled another step toward developing servant leaders, another promise of the Wilkins campaign. The retreat provided newly elected officials with a foundational understanding of ASUN's role, responsibilities, and internal processes, helping to ensure a more effective and prepared Senate from the outset of the term.

Throughout the retreat, elected officials received training on drafting and proposing legislation, the fundamentals of parliamentary procedure, and the broader function of ASUN as a representative governing body. The program also featured multiple guest speakers who offered insight into leadership, governance, and effective advocacy, as well as time for senators to begin developing ideas for future legislation and projects.

This administration strongly recommends that the Elected Officials Retreat continue as an annual tradition, as it plays a critical role in preparing student leaders, fostering collaboration, and setting a strong foundation for the work of the Senate.

## **UBER Safe Ride Program**

Building on prior years' work, the executive team continued efforts to establish a sustainable safe ride solution for students. Conversations with campus and external partners advanced significantly, culminating in the launch of the UBER Safe Ride program in January 2026. This initiative was made possible through an annual \$100,000 grant from Husker Athletics funded through alcohol sales and UBER's own infusion of \$50,000 through two \$25,000 grants for the Spring 2026 and Fall 2026 semesters. UBER's commitment to the success of the program cannot be understated.

Through extensive contract negotiations involving UBER, the University of Nebraska legal team, university administrators, and the Wilkins administration, the program provided all UNL undergraduate and graduate students with five UBER vouchers valued at up to \$10 each. The program proved to be a major success. As of the submission of this report, more than 11,500 rides have been utilized by students, translating to approximately \$115,000 in direct savings for the student body.

At its current usage rate, however, existing funding from Husker Athletics is insufficient to sustain a year-round model. This presents the next executive team with several options. A practical approach would be to limit the program's availability to peak demand nights, Thursday through Saturday, an approach successfully implemented at peer institutions such as the University of Wyoming.

Alternatively, the program could be adjusted by reducing either the number of vouchers per student or the value of each voucher. At the same time, ongoing discussions with Husker Athletics present an opportunity to secure increased funding. The next executive team should leverage ASUN's historic support for alcohol sales at major venues, including Memorial Stadium and Bob Devaney Sports Center, as well as the record-breaking alcohol sales during the 2025–2026 academic year, to advocate for a more sustainable long-term funding model.

## **Transparency and Connecting with the Student Body**

Another key promise of the Wilkins campaign was to connect with the student body in a way that ensured students felt heard, supported, and represented by ASUN. Chief of Staff Emily Frech and EVP Misha Jalali not only met this expectation but exceeded it by nearly every measurable benchmark.

A central component of this effort was meeting students where they are. Historically, ASUN has relied on outdated outreach models that limited meaningful engagement. Under Chief of Staff Frech's direction, the Wilkins administration prioritized a shift toward digital engagement, leveraging social media to communicate ASUN's accomplishments, recruit strong student leaders, and connect with the whole of the student body.

This strategy produced stellar results. Engagement on ASUN's Instagram increased by more than 600%, with over 1,000 new followers gained and hundreds of thousands of views generated throughout the year. This administration strongly recommends that the next executive team continue to build on this progress by further modernizing ASUN's outreach and communication strategies.

## Huskers Give Blood

After UNL won the inaugural Abbott and Big Ten “We Give Blood” Drive, securing \$1,000,000 to advance student and community health, ASUN organized a campus-wide competition to defend the title in its second year. The initiative, led by Director Jack Burchess, engaged Greek chapters and RSOs in a friendly but competitive effort, using cash incentives to drive participation and increase blood donations across the UNL community. While UNL ultimately fell just short of a first-place finish, the university earned a strong second-place result.

Despite not repeating as champions, the impact of the initiative was significant. The UNL community donated more than three times the amount of blood compared to the previous year, demonstrating both increased engagement and the effectiveness of ASUN’s organizing efforts.

This administration strongly encourages the continuation of this formal ASUN-led push. Looking ahead, there is a clear opportunity to expand the program’s reach by incorporating local Lincoln and greater Nebraska businesses into the competition, further strengthening community partnerships and increasing overall impact.

## Mobile N-Card Special Committee

Under the direction of Chief of Staff Emily Frech, the ASUN Senate approved the formation of a special committee to explore the feasibility of implementing mobile N-Cards as part of a broader effort to modernize the student experience. Chaired by Kym Dykstra, the committee was tasked with advancing this initiative and successfully placed a measure on the 2026 ASUN ballot asking students whether they would support a \$10 annual fee to fund mobile N-Cards.

The measure passed overwhelmingly (68% voting yes), demonstrating strong student support for a more streamlined and technologically integrated campus experience. This administration strongly recommends that the next executive team continue to pursue the implementation of mobile N-Cards and build on this demonstrated student backing.

## Shared Governance Advisory Boards

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

- Academic Planning Committee: President Wilkins
- Board of Regents / Regents' Audit Committee: President Wilkins
- Dining Student Advisory Committee: IVP Benjamin Morgan
- UNL Parking Advisory Committee: EVP Misha Jalali
- UNL Police Advisory Board: CAS Senator Mason Ain
- Commencement Committee: President Wilkins

## Selected Executive Team Reflections

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### A Message from Internal Vice President Benjamin Morgan



ASUN IVP Benjamin Morgan

As I approach graduation, I have spent considerable time reflecting on my four years at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. I still remember joining Freshman Campus Leadership Associates (FCLA) during my first month of freshman year, unsure of what to expect. That experience quickly became impactful to my college journey. FCLA not only introduced me to student government but also provided a meaningful platform for me to grow as a leader and become actively involved in ASUN.

During my sophomore year, I had the opportunity to serve as Director of FCLA. In this role, I organized volunteer opportunities, coordinated guest speakers from the Lincoln community, and developed a curriculum that included a philanthropic initiative benefiting the Husker Food Pantry.

I continued my involvement by serving as a senator for two years. During that time, I worked to advance several initiatives, including legislation supporting the Husker Food Pantry and efforts to improve accessibility within ASUN meeting spaces.

One of my key focuses was advocating for improved audio capabilities, resulting in the implementation of microphones to better support communication and inclusivity during senate meetings.

In my senior year, I sought to further contribute to ASUN by serving in an executive role. I ran for Internal Vice President alongside Libby Wilkins and Misha Jalali. The campaign process was both challenging and eye-opening, ultimately strengthening my resilience and deepening my understanding of leadership. After several weeks of campaigning, we were honored to be elected.

Serving as Internal Vice President has been one of the most impactful experiences of my college career. This role has taught me valuable lessons about accountability, the importance of showing up for others, and leading with consistency and integrity. I have learned that effective leadership requires trust in others to fulfill their responsibilities, as well as a commitment to treating people with respect and kindness, regardless of circumstances.

Throughout my time in ASUN, I have strived to lead with fairness, empathy, and a genuine care for others. I believe that choosing kindness and investing in people is always worthwhile.

As I close this chapter, I look forward to the next stage of my journey. After many late nights in Architecture Hall, I am excited to begin working in Omaha as a full-time Architectural Design Coordinator with HDR. I also plan to continue my education by pursuing a Master of Architecture degree in the near future. I am grateful for the experiences, relationships, and growth that ASUN has provided me. I look forward to seeing how future student leaders continue to build upon this work and help ASUN thrive in the years ahead.

- Benjamin Morgan, Class of 2026

## A Message from External Vice President Misha Jalali

Serving as External Vice President this past year has been one of the most meaningful and impactful experiences of my college career. This role has allowed me to strengthen connections across campus and expand the visibility and accessibility of ASUN in ways that will continue beyond this term.

**Expanding Student Outreach & Engagement:** One of my primary goals this year was to ensure that ASUN is not only present, but accessible and relevant to students. Through intentional communication strategies, we significantly expanded our digital outreach, most notably on Instagram. Over the course of this term, we grew our platform by over 1,000 followers, creating a stronger and more engaged audience. We prioritized informative and engaging content that highlighted student resources, senate actions and legislation, campus opportunities and events and by doing so, we made ASUN more transparent and approachable, ensuring students felt informed and connected to the work being done on their behalf.



ASUN EVP Misha Jalali

**Promoting Student Wellness & Resources:** A major focus of this term was increasing awareness of mental health resources on campus. In collaboration with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), we participated in tabling and outreach efforts designed to meet students where they are. Through these efforts, we increased visibility of CAPS services, encouraged open conversations around mental health, helped normalize seeking support, and made buttons!

**Strengthening Relationships with RSOs:** Another key priority was building stronger relationships with Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). By actively meeting with student leaders and organizations, we created space for honest conversations about how ASUN can better serve the student body. Through these discussions, we identified gaps in communication and support, gathered feedback on student needs and concerns, explored ways to improve collaboration for future years

Throughout this term, my focus has been on ensuring that ASUN is not just an organization students hear about, but one they actively feel supported by. Whether through expanding outreach or strengthening connections with RSOs, every initiative was rooted in the goal of better serving students. I am incredibly proud of the work accomplished this year and the progress made toward a more engaged and supported student body. While there is always more to be done, I am confident that the foundation laid this year will continue to grow and evolve in the years ahead.

Yours,

Misha Jalali, Class of 2026

## A Message from the Speaker of the Senate Madie Beasley

This past year has been one of the most rewarding, challenging, and transformative experiences of my life as Speaker of the Senate for ASUN. When I first began my journey in student government through FCLA, I never could have imagined that I would serve on the ASUN executive team during my senior year. At that time, those leaders felt larger than life. They seemed so accomplished, confident, and far out of reach. I remember wondering how anyone could ever measure up to the impact they made, and I certainly did not think I could be one of them.



Speaker Madie Beasley

What I have learned is that passion and heart will take you farther than you ever expect. You do not need to have everything figured out. You just need to care deeply enough to keep showing up, even when it feels difficult.

Now that I have reached the end of my ASUN tenure, I have spent a lot of time reflecting on what this experience has taught me. One of the earliest and most important lessons I learned is that you have to persist despite fear. I once read a line of dialogue where someone admitted they were scared, and the response was simple: then do it scared. That idea stayed with me all year. There were many moments when I felt uncertain, overwhelmed, or afraid of the outcome, but I kept going anyway.

There were bills I hesitated to write because I knew they would spark criticism or backlash. I knew they would be controversial and difficult. Still, I also knew they mattered. Some issues are important enough to cause discomfort. In fact, the pieces of legislation I am most proud of are the ones I had to fight for. They required resilience, courage, and conviction.

I am especially proud of the work we did to advance DEI efforts within the Senate. Supporting immigrant students and ensuring that students of color understand their rights on this campus is work that matters deeply. There will always be resistance to inclusion, especially during times when fear and misunderstanding are so present. Even so, I learned that progress is still possible.

This year, I faced pushback from people I expected would stand beside me. At the same time, I found unexpected allyship in individuals I had never considered close before. That contrast taught me an important lesson. Give people the benefit of the doubt, but never lose sight of what you believe in. Stand firm in your values, even when it would be easier not to.

Above all else, the most important lesson I have learned is the power of kindness. This year, at times, felt very unkind, not only because of the challenges of the role but also because of how people sometimes chose to treat one another. It is easy for others to forget that behind every title is a real person. We are not just Speaker or Senator. We are daughters, sisters, friends, and partners. It can be easy to criticize a title, but much harder to be unkind when you remember the human being behind it.

Kindness and empathy carried me through this experience. By truly listening to my peers, I have grown not only in knowledge but also in compassion. I have learned that leadership is not just about speaking or making decisions. It is about understanding and creating space for others to feel heard, valued, and respected.

Everyone deserves kindness. Everyone deserves empathy. And everyone deserves access to education and opportunities that allow them to grow.

Serving as Speaker has changed me in ways I will carry for the rest of my life. While this chapter is coming to a close, the lessons, relationships, and sense of purpose I have found here will continue to shape who I am moving forward.

- Madie Beasley, Class of 2026

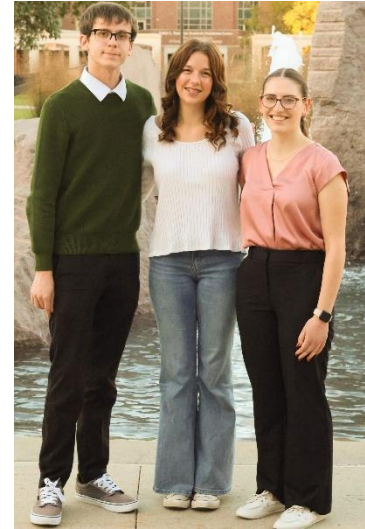


## Executive Committee Reports

### Electoral Commission

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JOEL HENSON

This year brought about both procedural change and notable outcomes for student elections and university traditions at UNL. The ASUN Electoral Commission implemented significant reforms, most notably the introduction of campaign spending limits following a record-breaking election cycle the previous year. Under the new rules, presidential and internal vice-presidential tickets were capped at \$600, external vice-presidential candidates at \$300, and non-executive candidates at lower thresholds, with modest increases permitted in the event of a runoff.



(From Left to Right) Executive Director Joel Henson, Commissioner Emma Whitcomb, Commissioner Lauren Sturgell

Importantly, the structure continues to allow Student Election Groups (SEGs) to pool resources across candidates, with each non-executive candidate contributing an additional \$20 in allowable spending. This framework strikes a deliberate balance: it prevents excessive, top-heavy spending while still enabling broad, coalition-based campaigns to scale their outreach through larger, more representative slates. In doing so, the rules incentivize coalition-building, student engagement, and organizational depth, ensuring that campaigns are driven not just by funding, but by the ability to mobilize and represent a wide cross-section of the student body.

The 2026 ASUN general election reflected both the impact of these reforms and broader trends in student engagement. The election featured two SEGs and only a few independent candidates. The Horizon ticket, led by President-elect Kurt Schneider and Internal Vice President Cassidy Bell, secured a decisive victory with 67% of the vote, while Horizon's Armando Monarrez was elected External Vice President with 70%. Horizon also established a commanding presence in the ASUN Senate, winning 100% of contested senate seats and sweeping nearly all committee positions. Despite the clarity of the outcome, voter turnout declined to 9.417% of eligible students, down from over 21% the previous year. Part of this reduction can be attributed to the decline in highly organized and visible SEGs and candidates, but the future commission should still focus proactively on increasing voter turnout.

Beyond the ASUN spring election, the Electoral Commission also oversaw the successful administration of Homecoming royalty voting, which saw strong student participation with 2,387 ballots cast, nearly 10% of the student body. The election resulted in a rare tie, with Ava Hollingsworth and Claire Kelly receiving an equal number of votes, leading to the unprecedented crowning of three Homecoming royalty members alongside Caden Connelly.

Collectively, this year's elections highlight a transition toward more regulated, equity-focused campaigning while underscoring the need to improve voter engagement. The Commission's work ensured fair, transparent, and adaptable electoral processes across both ASUN and Homecoming elections, laying a strong foundation for continued refinement in future cycles.

## Government Liaison Committee

CHAIR: LEXI BODLAK



GLC Chair Lexi Bodlak

This year, the Government Liaison Committee focused on strengthening the connection between students at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the public officials who represent them at the state and federal level. Through partnerships with other student organizations and nonprofits, civic engagement programming, and direct advocacy, GLC worked to ensure that student voices were present in policymaking.

One of the committee’s greatest strengths this year was the diversity of its members. From first-year students exploring public service for the first time to upperclassmen preparing for careers in law, computer science and business, each member brought insights and experiences that strengthened the committee’s work.

GLC focused on building meaningful partnerships across campus and throughout the Lincoln community. Members worked closely with the Husker Vote Coalition to host Deputy

Registrar Training, which provided the training that students need to be able to register their peers to vote and promote civic participation on campus. The committee also partnered with the Nebraska League of Women Voters to host a Lunch and Learn, which created an opportunity for students to engage with nonpartisan leaders who are working to expand civic engagement in Nebraska.

Another major accomplishment was providing students with multiple opportunities to experience the legislative process firsthand and connect with policymakers through events such as the Capitol Experience Day and a Senator Panel — both of which facilitated a deeper understanding of how government functions. Students were able to hear directly from elected officials, ask questions about current issues, and learn how public policy impacts our campus.

At the federal level, GLC members represented UNL during Hill Visits in Washington, D.C. while advocating for issues that matter most to students. In preparation for these meetings, the committee gathered feedback from senators to better understand the policy priorities affecting students and identified legislation in both the House and Senate that aligned with those concerns. During the trip, students had the opportunity to meet in person with Senator Deb Fischer and Senator Adrian Smith while building relationships with legislative assistants in the other congressional offices.

All of this work was made possible by the dedication of the students who served on the committee: Collin Stigge, Eli Calderon Palacios, Ethan Friedman, Fernando Perez, Nick Stefanik, Remyana Shammo, and Sarah Lange. Their curiosity, professionalism, and willingness to step into conversations about policy and public leadership made this year’s accomplishments possible. The Government Liaison Committee looks forward to continuing this work and expanding opportunities for students to engage with the democratic process in the years ahead!

## Grant Selections Committee

CHAIR: ARMANDO MONARREZ



GSC Chair Armando Monarrez

This past academic year was a productive one for the Grant Selections Committee. Over the course of this administration, we reviewed twelve applications. Of these, nine were Equity Grant applications, while three were submitted for the Green Fund. In total, we awarded \$19,800 of the \$30,000 designated for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) on campus. We are proud of the innovation and dedication students demonstrated in their proposals and are grateful to support the successful execution of their ideas through ASUN funding.

Reflecting on this year's accomplishments, one of the most significant developments was the creation of a third grant, set to launch in the next administration: the Wellness Grant. This new initiative will support projects that promote emotional, physical, and overall campus well-being, expanding the impact of Grant Selections across additional areas of student life.

Another major achievement was the increased engagement with the Green Fund. In the previous year, no Green Fund applications were submitted. One of our primary goals this year was to approve at least one Green Fund project. We exceeded that goal by receiving three applications, including one that became the highest-funded project approved by the committee.

Additionally, the committee established a meaningful partnership with Heart Club by providing funding to help revitalize the Cather Garden. This project encourages student involvement in creating a shared campus space, raises awareness about the importance of native plant species, and serves as a visible example of how students can make a positive environmental impact.

Overall, the Grant Selections Committee had a successful and impactful year. We look forward to seeing the continued growth of our initiatives, particularly the implementation of the Wellness Grant, and are excited about the future of student-led innovation on campus.

**GSC Members:** Claire Gangwish, Alex Halvorsen, Emma Heisey, Makayla Schmidt, Amilea Shotkoski, and Victoria van Dyke.

## Freshman Campus Leadership Associates (FCLA)

CO-DIRECTORS: MALLORY RINGENBERG AND COOPER MORGAN

Entering the year, the Freshman Campus Leadership Associates (FCLA) Co-Directors, Mallory Ringenberg and Cooper Morgan, set three major goals for the 26-27 cohort. These included having cohort members pass legislation in the ASUN Senate, completing a spring philanthropy, and giving the cohort professional development experience. All three of these goals were accomplished.



FCLA Co-Director Cooper Morgan

The first goal was to pass legislation in the ASUN Senate. Beginning in the fall semester FCLA members split into groups to brainstorm bill ideas. They were tasked with finding a problem on campus and creating a means to address it. Over the course of the next few weeks members met with university faculty and administration to discuss their ideas. These projects resulted in several pieces of legislation. One FCLA project aimed to reverse University Dining's meal plan policy. Their new policy would have prevented dining dollars from rolling over between the fall and spring semesters. FCLA advocated and passed a bill to work with housing to allow this rollover to occur. They were successful in this.

Another FCLA bill secured funding to put UNLPD's Safewalk Program number in all freshman year dorms. This was to raise awareness for the program that has seen declining use over the last several years. Along with several other bills, FCLA was able to advocate for students across campus.



FCLA Co-Director Mallory Ringenberg

The second goal of the year was to host a spring philanthropy. This year, FCLA hosted Pickle With a Purpose. A campus-wide pickleball tournament that raised money for the Husker Pantry. This idea was completely generated by the cohort. The final goal for FCLA was to participate in professional development. This had the cohort participate in discussions on personal leadership philosophies, mock interviews, time management exercises, and much more

**FCLA Members:** Jack Pohlmann, Nicholas Boon, Andrew Karolski, Jacob Lester, Kolby Cameron, Zhyar Maghdid, Anna Dunker, Graelyn Presswood, Cole Wilkason, Jada Frank, Betsy Janssen, Ningyun Hu, Sarah Lange, Ashley Caballero-Lazaro, Avery Lewis, Lexi Blaser, Antonia Carey, Lauren Rice, Emilie Strobl, Maddie Johnson, Peter Haas, Tatum Lewis, Nolan Wellensiek.

## Environmental Leadership Program

CO-DIRECTORS: CARTER GRIER & ASHLEY MERCER

The Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) is honored to share a reflection of this year’s work and impact. These initiatives represent a shared commitment to sustainability, innovation, and student-driven change across campus. More than individual projects, they reflect a growing culture of collaboration and responsibility, one where students are actively shaping the future of our institution.

This year, ELP supported the development and implementation of a laboratory pipette recycling pilot program, addressing one of the more persistent and overlooked waste streams in academic research. Through close collaboration with laboratory staff and sustainability partners, the program helped establish a practical system for collecting and diverting single-use pipettes from landfill and incineration. What began as a pilot initiative now serves as a foundation for broader conversations about sustainable research practices and long-term waste reduction on campus.

In addition, ELP supported the creation of a Farmers and Makers Market that highlighted student entrepreneurs and local creators. This initiative brought together sustainability, creativity, and community by providing a space for student-led businesses to share their work with the campus community. Beyond being an event, it represented an investment in student innovation and in strengthening the connection between local economies and campus life.

ELP also contributed to ongoing efforts to reduce single-use waste in campus dining systems by supporting the early development of a framework to eliminate single-use cups in dining halls. Working alongside campus dining services and sustainability leadership, ELP helped explore implementation pathways and gather student feedback to inform future transitions toward reusable systems. This work represents an important step toward shifting campus culture in a more sustainable direction.

Finally, ELP supported the growth of the Husker Produce Farm, a campus-based organic agriculture initiative dedicated to strengthening local food systems. Through student volunteer engagement and strategic recommendations, ELP helped support both the operations and long-term vision of the farm. This included advocating for greater integration of campus-grown produce into dining halls and retail locations, reinforcing the importance of local, sustainable food sourcing.

Together, these initiatives reflect a year defined by collaboration, purpose, and progress. ELP’s work continues to demonstrate that meaningful change happens through sustained partnership, student leadership, and a willingness to reimagine how systems can better serve both people and the environment.

**ELP Members:** Jacki Petrow, Anita Saakyan, Elaina Carpenter, Shogofa Jafari, Ramisa Rowshon, Samantha Stern, Cole Wilkason, Trevin Anderson, Zoe Ordway, Ella Jonas, Halie Schmidt, and Quinn Peralta Trejo.



ELP Co-Director Carter Grier

## Appointments Board

**CHAIR: MAATHIR BASI**

Throughout this term, the Appointments Board interviewed a large pool of applicants and appointed students to roles across ASUN, including committees like Campus Life & Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Academics, and At-Large Senate seats. These appointments helped maintain an active Senate and strengthen committees, while bringing in diverse perspectives that contribute to a more engaged and representative ASUN.

One of the most meaningful takeaways from this process is the importance of engaging with students from all different parts of campus. Each applicant brings unique experiences and perspectives, and being open to those differences helps strengthen both the decision-making process and ASUN as a whole. This highlights the value of building a more representative and well-rounded student government, while also recognizing that leadership can come from many different paths across campus.

Future Chairs should prioritize organization and communication from the beginning of their term. Establishing a clear system to track applicants and sending consistent updates can prevent confusion and delays. It is also important to set expectations with board members early, particularly regarding attendance and completion of evaluation sheets. Starting the scheduling process earlier than expected can help account for delays in responses. Overall, staying proactive and consistent will make the appointments process significantly more manageable.

**Appointments Board Members:** Maathir Basi, Sydney Kotz, Andy Nguyen



## Graduate Student Assembly

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### Reflection from GSA President Venn Jemkur

Serving as President of the Graduate Student Association this past year has been both an honor and a learning experience. It was a year defined by both challenge and progress, and one that tested our resilience as a graduate community.

This school year was particularly difficult for our university due to the budget cuts approved in the fall of 2025. We entered the academic year with great excitement, especially after securing the research grant through the Office of the Chancellor. That grant played a meaningful role in supporting graduate students by funding conference travel and research activities. It gave many students the opportunity to share their work, build professional networks, and highlight the University of Nebraska's innovative research.



GSA President Venn Jemkur

The initial \$25,000 allocation was fully utilized during the fall semester, demonstrating both the need for and the value of this support. We were grateful to receive an additional \$15,000 from Chancellor Ankerson after requesting further funding. At a time when many graduate students were feeling the impact of budget cuts, actions like this served as an important reminder that university leadership remains invested in our success and our academic pursuits.

As graduate students, our research is central to our work and identity. The university's continued support reinforces that commitment. Nebraska is part of our story, and wherever we go, we carry forward the excellence and reputation of this institution.

One of the most meaningful accomplishments of this year was our intentional effort to reach the broader graduate student population. Graduate students often exist in silos within their departments, and we learned that meaningful engagement requires us to go to them. By meeting students where they are, having conversations, and listening to their needs, we gained a clearer understanding of what matters most to them.

Through partnerships with departments and registered student organizations, GSA created opportunities for connection across disciplines. These collaborations brought together students who might not have otherwise crossed paths. Building a stronger sense of belonging and community among graduate students is something I strongly encourage the next executive team to continue prioritizing.

There are also important initiatives still in progress. Work on the grievance policy is ongoing, and I hope the next executive team will carry it through to completion. Change often

takes time, but continued advocacy is essential to ensuring the academic and personal well-being of graduate students.

In response to the budget cuts, we also established a temporary Legislative Committee within GSA. This was an important step in recognizing that advocacy does not stop at the university level. As graduate students, researchers, and innovators, we have a responsibility to engage with state legislators and communicate the value and impact of our work. The research conducted at this university contributes not only to Nebraska but to the broader national community, and our voices matter in those conversations.

We have built strong lines of communication with university leadership, and it is critical that these relationships continue to be nurtured. There will always be challenges and unmet needs, but the key is maintaining open, consistent communication so that leadership understands the realities graduate students face.

On a personal level, one of the most rewarding aspects of this role has been the opportunity to connect with students one-on-one. Whether visiting departments or having informal conversations across campus, those interactions provided valuable insight into the graduate student experience. Students consistently expressed appreciation for being heard. I encourage the next executive team to continue finding creative ways to engage directly with students and ensure their voices shape GSA's work.

### **Suggestions for the Next Executive Team**

As you move forward, I offer a few suggestions based on what we have learned this year:

- Continue prioritizing direct engagement with graduate students. Go beyond formal meetings. Visit departments, attend events, and create informal spaces for conversation.
- Build on cross-department collaboration. Strengthening connections across disciplines helps reduce isolation and fosters a stronger graduate community.
- Complete the grievance policy work. This is an important step toward ensuring accountability and support for graduate students.
- Maintain and expand advocacy efforts. The Legislative Committee is a strong foundation. Continue educating policymakers about the impact of graduate research.
- Protect and expand funding opportunities such as the Chancellor's Research Grant. These resources make a tangible difference in students' academic and professional development.
- Nurture relationships with university leadership. Open communication and mutual trust are essential for meaningful progress.

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to those who supported GSA throughout the year. Thank you to President Gold for engaging with us through listening sessions and helping secure the Chancellor's Research Grant. Thank you, Chancellor Ankerson, for your continued support of graduate students and our initiatives. I am also deeply appreciative of the Student Life team, Dr. DeeDe Anderson, Ryan Lahne, and T.J. McDowell, for their consistent

support and care. Thank you to Dean Hope for always being an advocate for graduate students, and to Jessie Matthes for your patience and assistance throughout the year.

We could not have done this work without you.

Serving in this role has been a privilege. I am confident that the next executive team will continue to build on this foundation and advocate for a stronger, more connected graduate student community.

- **Venn Jemkur**  
**2025-2026 GSA President**



## Standing Committee Reports

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### Academics Committee

CHAIR: LEONARDO LUNA-DURAN

This year, the Academics Committee demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing student success through strategic programming, policy advocacy, and collaboration with university leadership.

The committee successfully organized a Husker Hub FAFSA Drop-In Event, providing students with direct access to financial aid support. This initiative created an accessible space for students to receive assistance with completing the FAFSA, ask questions, and gain clarity on tuition, fees, and overall financial planning, helping reduce barriers to higher education access. In addition, the committee played a key role in promoting and reinforcing the 15th Week Policy, a critical academic safeguard designed to protect students from excessive coursework during the final week of classes. Through the passage of supporting legislation and a targeted awareness campaign across social media, the committee worked to ensure students are both informed of and able to benefit from this policy.



Academics Chair Leonardo Luna-Duran

To further support student wellbeing and academic performance, the committee hosted finals preparation events on both City and East Campus, providing resources and refreshments to help students stay energized and focused during a high-stress period. The committee also prioritized student outreach and engagement, including tabling at the Spring Transfer New Student Enrollment event. This effort introduced incoming students to ASUN, increasing awareness of available resources, representation, and opportunities for involvement in student government. At the institutional level, the Academics Committee facilitated ongoing, high-level conversations with university administration on pressing academic topics, including the use of artificial intelligence in coursework, syllabus transparency, and broader academic policy considerations.

Notably, the committee met with Amy Goodburn, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean, to initiate dialogue around these issues. This engagement represents a foundational step toward the development of a comprehensive AI policy and establishes a framework for continued collaboration between student leadership and university administration. Collectively, these efforts reflect a proactive and student-centered approach to academic advocacy, reinforcing ASUN's role in shaping a more transparent, supportive, and forward-thinking academic environment at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

## Campus Life and Safety Committee

CO-CHAIRS: MASON AIN & EAMONN CONWAY



CLS Co-Chair Eamonn Conway

This year, as Co-Chairs of the Campus Life and Safety Committee, we are proud of the work we've done to improve safety, awareness, and preparedness for the Husker community. Our focus has been on listening to student concerns, collaborating with university leaders, and turning ideas into programs and policies that make a tangible difference on campus.

A major part of our work has been advancing safety-focused legislation. We successfully authored and passed several Senate bills that address a wide range of campus safety needs. Senate Bill #20, the Fire Safety Awareness and Education Event, provided students the opportunity to participate in a smoke simulation training exercise, helping them learn proper evacuation procedures in a safe, controlled environment. Senate Bill #15, the Pedestrian Priority Zone Safety Awareness Pilot, addressed student concerns about scooters and pedestrian safety by installing educational signage in high-traffic areas and promoting voluntary compliance with mobility policies. We also organized Senate Bill #12, the ASUN Winter Safety Booth, which distributed winter essentials while educating students about safety and preparedness, and Senate Bill #1, Supporting and Outreach Huskers Don't Haze, which reinforced hazing prevention and offered support to student leaders across campus. Together, these initiatives reflect our commitment to proactive, practical, and student-centered safety programming.

Additionally, Mason contributed to the development of the University's first official "Run, Hide, Fight" safety video. This project provided a clear, accessible resource for students, faculty, and staff on how to respond in an active threat situation, complementing the committee's broader safety initiatives.

Overall, this year has been incredibly rewarding. Through legislation, events, and advocacy, we have strengthened student engagement, improved safety awareness, and helped ensure that the UNL community is better prepared to respond to emergencies. We are proud of the tangible impact our committee has made and grateful for the opportunity to serve our campus.



CLS Co-Chair Mason Ain

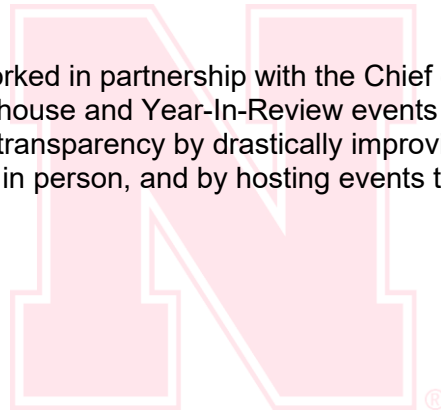
## Communications Committee

CHAIR: MORGAN JOHNSON

This year the Communications Committee helped uplift and support the overall transparency of ASUN to the students in many different ways. The most primary way we contributed to ASUN's transparency was through social media, tabling, and marketing efforts. The Communication Committee's primary task and goal for ASUN this year was to keep the social media as up-to-date and as interactive as possible. With weekly senate meeting reminders on the story as well as senate packets posted to social media the Communications Committee ensured students on social media were as informed as possible about the weekly operations of ASUN. We also made graphics and recaps of many of the events ASUN hosted this year, ensuring that students can see the tangible change we are creating on campus. Lastly, we worked to publish statements in accordance with our Senate Resolutions so that the information could be conveyed as early to students as possible.

The Communications Committee also supported the Appointments Board of ASUN by increasing awareness and accessibility to the organization. At the beginning of the term, the communications committee organized boothing in public spaces so that students had ample opportunities to be exposed to ASUN and what positions they could apply and run for within ASUN.

The committee also worked in partnership with the Chief of Staff and advisors to the president to support the open house and Year-In-Review events in the ASUN office. In review, we worked to increase ASUN transparency by drastically improving our social media engagement, reaching people in person, and by hosting events to educate people about ASUN and what we do.



## Committee for Fee Allocations

CHAIR: ASHWIN MANNUR

Over the course of this past year, CFA committee members worked diligently to gain a thorough understanding of UPFF budgets and fee usage across all users. The committee successfully approved recommendations for all nine fee users' budgets and forwarded them to the Student Senate for a vote, all of which were unanimously approved. CFA members were particularly diligent in ensuring that any and all fee increases came with a strong benefit to students. Ultimately, the committee reached recommendations that they were confident would further benefit students while not placing an outsized financial burden upon them.

### FY27 Allocation Recommendations

- UPFF Fund A Users:
  - Association of Students of the University of Nebraska: \$636,000
  - Student Media: \$176,074
  - Student Programming: \$1,429,952
- UPFF Fund B Users:
  - Campus Recreation: \$9,487,469
  - Counseling and Psychological Services: \$2,926,685
  - Nebraska Unions: \$4,546,857
  - Transit Services: \$1,306,963
  - Student Readership Program: \$105,000
  - University Health Center: \$5,949,054

### Highlights

This year, our biggest success was growing a deep understanding of UPFF budgets and fee user needs. Through our work with UPFF fee users, we were able to better understand how fee increases can be used to benefit students, as fee users continue to find ways to be more efficient and effective with their dollars. This ultimately allowed the committee to make informed recommendations for the 2027 Fiscal Year.

### Committee Membership:

Ashwin Mannur, Sophia Antinoro, Ruthie Barrett, Jennifer Castle, Drew Donovan, Mackenzie Liakos, Jack Nielsen, Caroline Phelan, Kurt Schneider, Ellie Weeks

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

CO-CHAIRS: TIA CHISM & BRITTANI PEREZ

Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Chism and Perez, this year was defined by meaningful progress in advancing student advocacy, fostering community, and strengthening partnerships across campus. Through strong collaboration and a shared commitment to ensuring all students feel heard and supported, the committee delivered several impactful initiatives.

The central focus of the committee's work was equipping students with the tools to advocate for themselves and their communities. Events such as How to Advocate for Yourself and Your Communities, the Know Your Rights informational event, and the Student Advocacy and Resource Pop-Up provided both educational opportunities and tangible avenues for engagement.



DEI Co-Chair Brittani Perez

These efforts increased awareness of critical resources, particularly for immigrant and international students, while strengthening connections between ASUN, RSOs, and community partners.

The committee also demonstrated strong coordination through initiatives such as Chapters for Change: A Woman's History Month Event and its support of Genoa Remembrance Day, reinforcing ASUN's commitment to inclusive programming and the recognition of Indigenous history and voices.

Additionally, the committee engaged in broader advocacy efforts, including involvement with the Divest for Humanity Act, reflecting a willingness to address complex global and ethical issues.



DEI Co-Chair Tia Chism

Overall, the Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion played a vital role in expanding ASUN's impact and creating opportunities for meaningful student engagement.

## Environmental Sustainability Committee

CHAIR: ABBA YAGUB

The Environmental Sustainability Committee spent the year working to make sustainability a more visible and actionable priority on campus. Rather than focusing on a single initiative, the committee approached its work through a combination of policy advocacy, student engagement, and project-based efforts. Much of this work was shaped by student concerns, particularly around waste, energy use, and accountability, and aimed at building momentum for long-term, institutional change rather than short-term wins.

A significant portion of the year was dedicated to policy and advocacy. ESC helped promote and build support for the university's Foam-Free Campus policy, while also identifying gaps in compliance and working to raise awareness among students and vendors. The committee also collaborated with the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) to explore a bylaw that would establish sustainability standards for student government-funded events. In addition, ESC supported initiatives highlighting the East Campus farm, emphasizing both its impact—producing approximately 30,000 pounds of food annually—and its potential to engage students more directly through volunteer opportunities and outreach.

Alongside this work, ESC developed several projects aimed at addressing environmental challenges on campus. The most notable was the light pollution initiative, which brought together campus departments, student organizations, and external partners to explore ways to reduce bird mortality caused by excessive lighting. This included examining lighting schedules, infrastructure changes, and student education efforts, and became one of the committee's strongest examples of collaboration. Other projects focused on reducing Styrofoam use, exploring LED lighting as a long-term energy solution, and promoting a culture of reuse through ideas like a campus thrift store and repair workshops, even when administrative barriers limited immediate implementation.

Collaboration was central to ESC's progress throughout the year. The committee strengthened relationships with groups such as the Office of Sustainability, Sustain UNL, ELP, and several student organizations, while also working with campus administration and facilities. At the same time, the committee encountered challenges that shaped its work, including administrative delays, existing contracts that limited flexibility, and communication gaps with key stakeholders. These obstacles often slowed implementation but also underscored the importance of building strong institutional partnerships.

Despite these challenges, ESC made meaningful progress in advancing sustainability on campus. The committee increased awareness among students, strengthened advocacy for more sustainable practices, and laid important groundwork for future initiatives. Moving forward, ESC is well-positioned to build on this foundation by focusing on policy alignment, strengthening partnerships, and continuing to develop projects that can create lasting environmental impact.

## **Sexual Misconduct Prevention Committee**

CHAIR: EZERINA HYSENI

We have accomplished lots of great things by collaborating, working together, working with different RSOs on campus, as well as other campus leaders. I am very proud of this committee and these committee members and the impact they have made on campus.

### **1. Connecting with different campus organizations and resources**

This has been a huge accomplishment considering that SMP is a very small committee, it is fairly new, and it started very small. Being able to connect with important campus resources such as CARE and CAPS has been a huge accomplishment and has helped us connect students to these resources as well as create a relationship between ASUN and these very important organizations.

### **2. Setting up a CARE 101 Training for all Senators**

At the beginning of the year, we passed a Senate bill that required all senators to attend a CARE 101 training and get educated about what CARE offers as an organization and spread awareness against sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence, etc. This training was helpful to connect our senators with leaders from CARE and educate and familiarize them with this resource. This has helped our relationship tremendously and has allowed us to collaborate with CARE on different events.

### **3. Voices of Hope Donation Drive**

Our committee member and senator, Madalyn Fox, just recently passed a bill setting up a donation box for Voices of Hope, which is an organization that provides confidential services to all genders who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and related forms of abuse. This organization plays an important role in helping survivors and spreading awareness around these issues. This donation box will allow students and various campus leaders to donate items to these organizations that can be used during their services.

## Student Services Committee

CHAIR: ABHI KARRI



Student Services Chair Abhi Karri

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Student Services Committee focused on improving the efficiency, accessibility, and transparency of processes that directly impact Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and student engagement across campus. Our work centered on streamlining existing systems while laying the foundation for long-term improvements.

One of our primary initiatives was the development of updated training resources for RSO officers. We created a series of detailed video presentations designed to guide new and returning leaders through their roles and responsibilities. These resources are intended to standardize training, reduce onboarding challenges, and allow RSOs to operate more effectively. By making these materials easily accessible, we aim to support smoother leadership transitions and increase overall organizational productivity.

In addition, the committee began work on revising constitution requirements for RSOs. These updates are focused on increasing transparency and accountability while ensuring that organizational structures remain clear and consistent. This effort is ongoing and will continue into the next academic year, with the goal of implementing more standardized and enforceable guidelines.

The committee also initiated a new project aimed at increasing student involvement in RSOs by developing a system to pair students with organizations that match their interests. This initiative is designed to address gaps in awareness and engagement within the RSO network. During this academic year, we completed the first phase of the project, which included creating an interest form and establishing backend data collection processes to assess current levels of student engagement. This foundational work will support future implementation and expansion of the program.

Overall, the Student Services Committee prioritized sustainable improvements that will continue to benefit students and RSOs beyond this year. By focusing on training, accountability, and engagement, we have established a strong framework for continued progress in the upcoming term.

# ASUN Services and Programming Reports

## Student Legal Services

DIRECTOR: JEFFREY WHITE

Student Legal Services delivered a strong and impactful year of service from July 2025 through March 2026, expanding both its reach and its measurable outcomes for students across the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Over this period, the office closed 405 cases, representing a 9% increase compared to the same timeframe last year, while also recording 6,141 student contacts. This growth reflects both increased demand for services and the office’s continued ability to meet that demand efficiently and effectively.



SLS Director Jeffrey White

Although many of the office’s services, such as criminal defense and housing advocacy, do not always translate into direct financial outcomes, Student Legal Services generated a total of \$97,139.50 in measurable financial impact for students, a 33% increase from the prior year. This includes \$41,684.52 in money recovered and \$55,454.98 in liability avoided, demonstrating the office’s tangible value in protecting students’ financial well-being alongside their legal rights. In support of this work, the office logged 1,217.22 billable hours, underscoring the depth and intensity of its casework.

The breadth of services provided spans all major areas of student legal need. Criminal defense remained the highest-volume practice area, with 113 cases, including 105 that resulted in students avoiding conviction through successful diversion completions or case dismissals. Family law was similarly prominent, with 103 cases involving matters such as divorce, name changes, estate planning, and protective orders. The office also handled 67 landlord-tenant cases, addressing issues like lease disputes, housing conditions, and security deposits, as well as 50 administrative law cases related to immigration, student discipline, and university processes.

Student Legal Services maintained a commitment to accessibility by serving students across all stages of their academic careers, from first-year undergraduates to graduate and professional students. This comprehensive approach ensures that legal support remains available to the full student body, reinforcing the office’s role as a critical resource in promoting student stability, success, and well-being.

Category	Total (YTD)
Cases Closed	405 (+9% vs. prior year)
Student Contacts	6,141
Billable Hours	1,217.22
Money Recovered for Students	\$41,684.52
Liability Avoided for Students	\$55,454.98
<b>Total Direct Financial Impact (+33% vs. prior year)</b>	<b>\$97,139.50</b>

## The Big Event

CO-DIRECTORS: RAEGAN ELMBLAD & LILA SCHWARZ

ASUN continued our tradition of community engagement through the successful execution of The Big Event, which celebrated its 20th year as the largest single-day student service initiative in the state. This year, approximately 200 student volunteers representing 31 student organizations completed service projects across 36 sites throughout Lincoln, strengthening the strong relationship between the university and the broader Husker community.



Volunteers at the 2026 Big Event

This year's event was a major success, representing an increase of over 150% in volunteer recruitment when compared to previous years, after a period in which the program had struggled to maintain engagement and visibility. Through renewed outreach, spearheaded by Raegan and Lila, and intentional organizing, ASUN was able to revitalize The Big Event and restore it as a cornerstone of who we are as Huskers. Former President of ASUN Paul Pechous (22-23) and Christopher Dulak from the Student Life Marketing team served an invaluable role in guiding Raegan and Lila, and we could not be more grateful for their service.

Student volunteers engaged in a wide range of projects including yard work, neighborhood clean-up, and community beautification. The event not only provided tangible support to Lincoln residents but also fostered a culture of service and civic responsibility among students, many of whom highlighted the importance of giving back and building meaningful community connections.

This administration strongly recommends the continued prioritization and expansion of The Big Event. As one of ASUN's most visible and impactful traditions, it serves as a powerful demonstration of student leadership, community partnership, and the university's commitment to service.

## Earthstock

CO-DIRECTORS: ASHLEY MERCER & CARTER GRIER



Earthstock Co-Director Ashley Mercer

Earthstock is a month-long celebration of sustainability, creativity, and community engagement held each April. It brings together students, campus partners, and local organizations to highlight environmental action through programming, arts, education, and large-scale community events.

The upcoming Farmers & Makers Market will feature student-run businesses and local vendors focused on sustainability, creativity, and community engagement. The event will provide a platform for student entrepreneurs to share their work, connect with peers, and promote local and responsible consumption. It is designed to strengthen the connection between campus sustainability efforts and local economic and creative activity.

A sustainable art showcase was organized to highlight local creativity centered on climate and environmental themes. The event brought together artists working across multiple mediums to explore sustainability, environmental justice, and ecological awareness through visual expression. It created a space where art and climate action intersected in meaningful ways.

Earthstock will feature a sustainable fashion show highlighting eco-conscious design, thrifted clothing, upcycled fashion, and student creativity. The event aims to challenge fast fashion culture while showcasing alternative approaches to style that prioritize environmental responsibility and innovation.

A campus-wide appliance and household goods drive will be held during student move-out to reduce waste and encourage reuse. Items such as microwaves, pots, pans, and other reusable household materials will be collected and redistributed to students. This initiative aims to reduce landfill waste while supporting affordability and accessibility for students.

The Earthstock Block Party will serve as a central gathering event featuring a plant sale, clothing swap, and participation from a wide range of sustainability-focused student organizations and campus partners. The event is designed to showcase ongoing environmental work while creating an accessible, high-energy space for community engagement and education.

Earthstock will conclude with a music festival featuring student bands and music groups. This event highlights student talent while bringing the campus community together in celebration of Earthstock's mission. The festival also integrates sustainability-focused planning and campus engagement efforts throughout production and execution.

Earthstock continues to grow as a campus tradition rooted in collaboration, creativity, and environmental responsibility. Each event contributes to a broader effort to make sustainability visible, accessible, and engaging for the entire campus community.

Through both completed and upcoming programming, Earthstock reflects a commitment to empowering students, strengthening partnerships, and building lasting cultural change around environmental action.

## Special Thank You to Marlene Beyke

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There are very few people in the history of ASUN who can be described as foundational.

*Marlene Beyke is one of them.*

For 46 years, Marlene was *the* supportive force that made ASUN into what it is today. Through generations of student leaders, institutional changes, and moments of both challenge and growth, Marlene's steady leadership and unwavering belief in students shaped ASUN at every stage of its evolution.

More than her title as our Director of Administration, Marlene's legacy lives in the people. Thousands of students walked into the ASUN office uncertain about what they were getting themselves into, but time after time, and student after student, they left more confident, more capable, and more prepared to lead because of her. Many of those students have gone on to serve as mayors, state legislators and public officials all across the country, a testament to the lasting impact of her mentorship.



ASUN Director of Administration (1977-2025) Marlene Beyke

Even for those students that didn't go into public office, Marlene's warmth, generosity, and dedication to developing good people have indelibly marked the lives of anyone who had the opportunity to work with her.

Her retirement marks the end of an impressive era. It is impossible to fully measure what she has given to this institution, but it is certain that ASUN, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska System, and Nebraska as a whole, are undeniably stronger because of her life's work.

This administration extends its deepest gratitude to Marlene for her extraordinary service and her lasting impact. We wish her continued strength and healing and nothing but happiness and joy in her retirement. ASUN will move forward, but it will do so built on a foundation that Marlene Beyke spent nearly five decades creating.

## Acknowledgments

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The 2025–2026 ASUN Annual Report would not be possible without the tireless dedication of hundreds of student leaders, staff members, campus partners, and supporters. President Wilkins and the entire ASUN Executive Team extend their deepest gratitude to the following:

### **ASUN Staff**

Jessie Matthes, Jeffrey White, Randi Molvar, and the entire Student Legal Services team for your unwavering commitment to student success.

### **University Administration**

Former Chancellor Rodney Bennett, Interim Chancellor Kathy Ankerson, Vice Chancellor of Student Life Dee Dee Anderson, and the many deans, department heads, faculty, and staff across UNL who supported student government throughout this year.

To Ryan Lahne, T.J. McDowell, Alexis Blasko, Tony Rathberger, and Jordan Foreman-Black, thank you for your guidance, mentorship, and dedication to developing each member of the executive team into more effective leaders.

### **ASUN Senators and Committee Members**

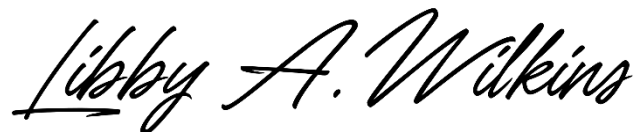
To every student who gave their time and voice to serve their peers, this report is a reflection of your hard work. Thank you for your commitment to making UNL better.

### **The Students of UNL**

Everything we do is for you. Thank you for your engagement, your trust, and your belief in student government.

**It has been an honor to serve as your Student Body President and Student Regent.**

**Thank you, Nebraska.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Libby A. Wilkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "W".

**ASUN President and UNL Student Regent  
2025-2026**