



# 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

UNMC Student Senate





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## Mission Statement

The UNMC Student Senate serves as an enthusiastic voice for the student body by promoting their interests and welfare, addressing and developing lasting solutions to student issues, and advocating on behalf of all students to NU system faculty, staff, administration, and the general public.

## Preamble to the Constitution of Students of the University of Nebraska Medical Center

We, the students of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), with the consent of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, do hereby ordain and establish the Constitution for the administration of student government.





## Reflection by the 2021-2022 UNMC Student Body President



**Taylor Kratochvil**

Student Body President & Student Regent  
UNMC College of Medicine, Class of 2022

As we passed the two-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, I thought a lot about human resiliency. It isn't a unique thought, but the idea that "one doesn't know that they are living through a historic time until it is passed" really captured my imagination.

The last two years have rewoven the fabric of the human experience globally, exposing the injustice of systemic racism, conflict in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and the fragility of systems, governments, and ourselves in the face of a global COVID-19 pandemic. It is a tremendous privilege that in these objectively monumental times we have routines that keep us grounded in normalcy. Groceries need to be purchased. Clothes need to be folded. Exams need to be studied for.

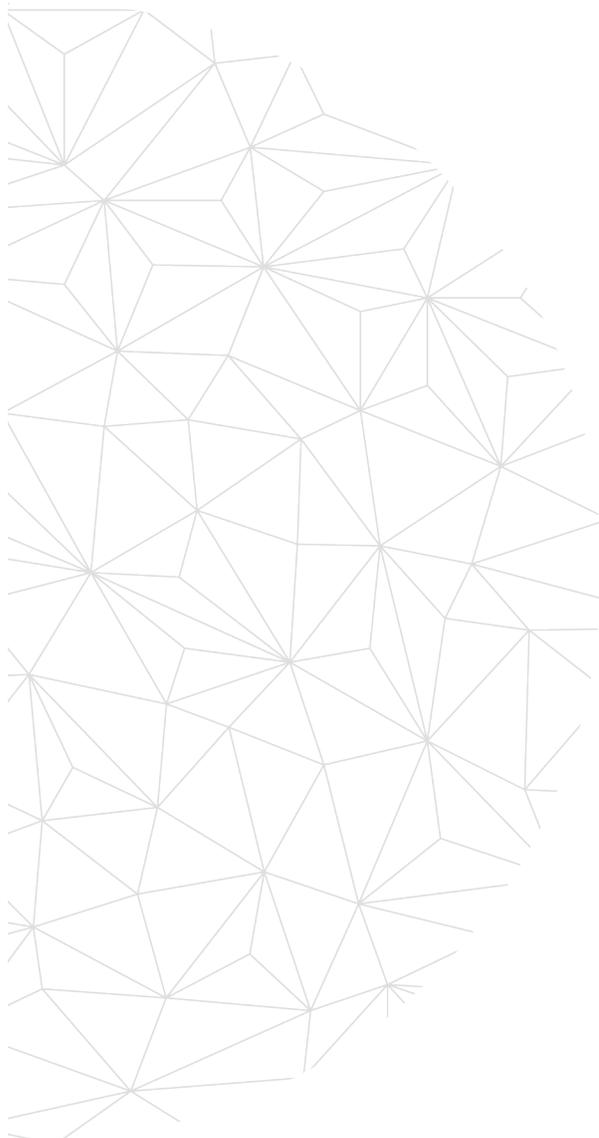
I attribute much of the normalcy that I've experienced this year to the work carried out by UNMC's Student Senate. Although events needed to be held outdoors to limit viral spread, the activities hosted through Student Senate's Green Space Series have injected life into campus by bringing people together over music, food, and activities. While students have experienced a historic toll on their collective mental health, Student Senate has spearheaded an opt-out counseling pilot program in the College of Pharmacy that is rapidly gaining momentum and has received the full-throated support of Chancellor Gold for future expansion. In an era of isolation and reduced social interaction, the Senate has made a conscious effort to amplify its communication streams by launching a Twitter account, improving the format of the student email newsletter UNMC Vitals, and expanding UNMC Vitals to become a daily newsletter and more nimbly communicate with students.

The student leaders comprising UNMC's Student Senate have risen to the occasion and have remained headstrong in supporting the student body amidst challenging times. Not only was the Senate able to maintain the momentum established by the body's predecessors, but we have been able to build new and meaningful programs whose impact will be felt for years to come.

Although social norms have evolved rapidly over the past 24 months, I don't think we have given ourselves the space to recognize the seismic events we are living through. In truth, I haven't found this year to feel terribly abnormal beyond the inspiring work I have seen amongst my peers and the leadership by our UNMC administrators. Be it the human condition or the work of UNMC's Student Senate, I feel fortunate to have felt a part of a thriving community here at UNMC.

Taylor Kratochvil

Student Body President & Student Regent  
UNMC College of Medicine, Class of 2022



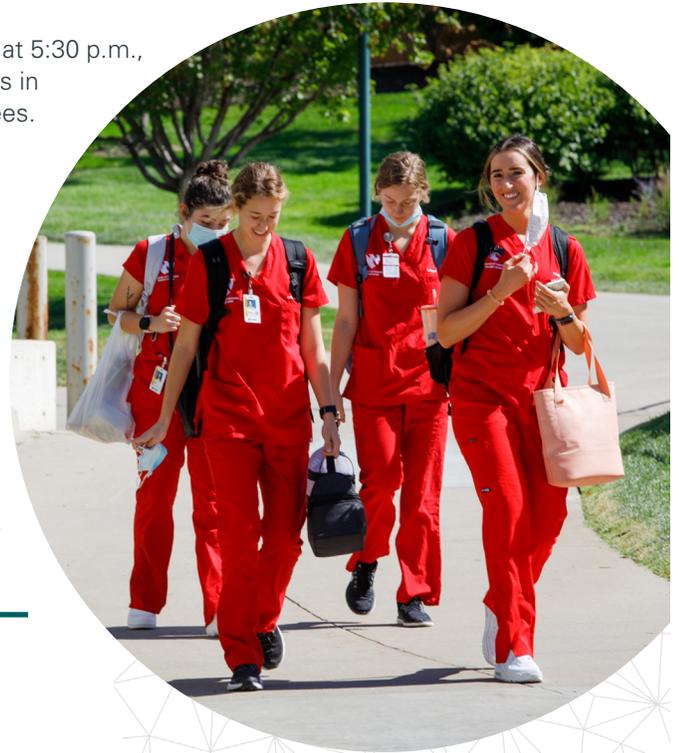


# UNMC Student Senate Organization & Structure

## Overview of the UNMC Student Senate

The UNMC Student Senate meets once every two weeks on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., alternating between At-Large Meetings and Committee Meetings. Students in attendance are provided with a catered dinner funded by Fund A student fees. This year, in order to comply with social distancing requirements, students were instead given a \$10 GrubHub gift card to encourage attendance and support students during the dinner hour. In light of the mental toll that the pandemic has taken on students, at the beginning of each meeting, Student Senate’s Health and Wellness Liaison (Alyssa Spartz) sent out a live survey for students to anonymously rank their current mental health status on a 1-5 point scale. The goal of this survey was to illustrate that not everyone is feeling in tip-top shape, to reduce the feeling that “only they” are feeling overwhelmed, and that it is okay to ask for help.

During At-Large Senate meetings, in the spirit of information sharing and improving communication between university administration and student leaders, a guest speaker was invited to speak to the body and give an update on their work. This year, speakers included:



### Office of Interactive E-Learning

Peggy Moore, Director

### UNMC Ombuds Program

David Carver, MD, Director

### Gender and Sexuality Resource Center

### Title IX Office

### EMPOWER

### UNMC Faculty Senate

Aaron Mohs, PhD, President

### Chancellor’s Office

Jeffery P. Gold, MD, Chancellor

### Academic Technologies

Melissa Diers, Director

### Division of Student Success

Krysta Larson, Communications Specialist

### UNMC Facilities

Heather Kock, Director of Planning & Project Management

Jerrod Bley, Sustainability Manager

### UNMC Alumni Relations

Laura Olson, Alumni Engagement Coordinator

### Business Services Center

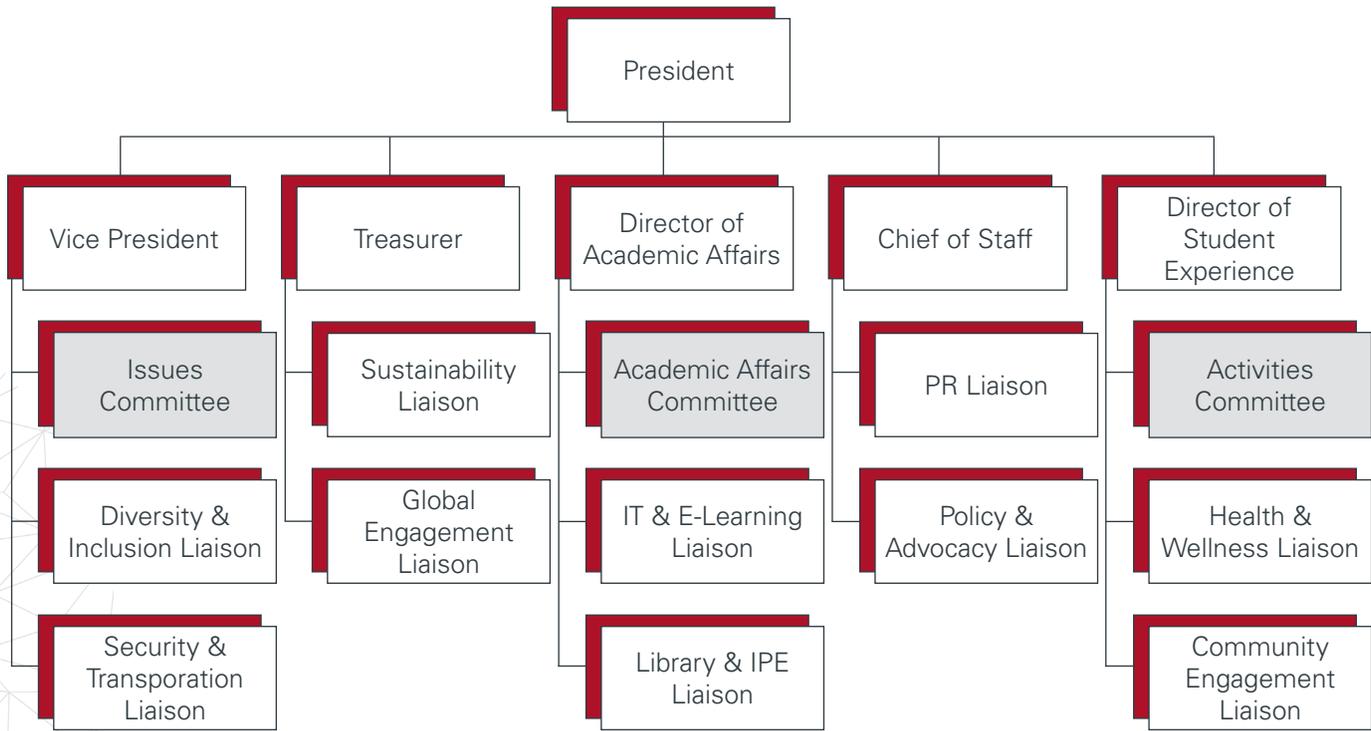
Lisa Bazis, Chief Information Security Officer

After their presentation, a UNMC Student Senator in a Senate Leadership position would share a Liaison Report. These prepared remarks outlined the leader’s position responsibilities at a global level and shared their big-picture initiatives. Next, the Senate moved through reports from each committee and leadership position to share an update on work carried out since the last meeting. Finally, the body revisited old business that was discussed at the previous meeting and began discussion on new business for the Senate to explore. This time historically includes discussing proposed initiative resolutions (e.g., voicing formal support for the University’s American Rescue Plan Act funding request from the Unicameral) or funding resolutions (e.g., funding events hosted by the Student Senate Activities Committee, like the Green Space Series).

During Senate Committee Meetings, all Student Senators meet as a large group and carry out an abbreviated At-Large meeting to share time-sensitive updates or vote on time-sensitive resolutions. At its conclusion, senators break out into committee small groups to discuss committee-level initiatives. All UNMC Student Senate meetings during the 2021-2022 academic year were hosted virtually, in line with campus event safety guidelines. With COVID-19 case rates declining, we hope that in the 2022-2023 academic year we will be able to resume a majority in-person meeting format with remote students still being offered the opportunity to attend virtually.



# 2021-2022 UNMC Student Senate Organization and Members



Position	Name	College
President	Taylor Kratochvil	Medicine
Vice President	Hannah Tandon	Medicine
Treasurer	Estefania Lanza Rodriguez	Public Health
Director of Academic Affairs	Anthony Stephenson	Medicine
Chief of Staff	Katie Schultis	Medicine
Director of Student Experience	Shaker Dukkipati	Graduate Studies
Diversity & Inclusion Liaison	Adrien Honcoop	Graduate Studies
Security & Transportation Liaison	Samuel Johnson	Graduate Studies
Sustainability Liaison	Casey Jurczewsky	Dentistry
Global Engagement Liaison	Benjamin McIntire	Medicine
IT & E-Learning Liaison	Nicole Kent	Medicine
Library & IPE Liaison	Hannah Nelson	Medicine
PR Liaison	Tommy Stormberg	Graduate Studies
Policy & Advocacy Liaison	Aubree Ford	Medicine
Health & Wellness Liaison	Alyssa Spartz	Public Health
Community Engagement Liaison	Linda My Huynh	Medicine



## Issues Committee

**Hannah Tandon**  
*Committee Chair*  
Medicine

**Kaitlyn Duerst**  
Nursing (Omaha)

**Samuel Johnson**  
Graduate Studies

**Ethan Roby**  
Nursing (Scottsbluff)

**Austin Clark**  
*Vice Chair*  
Nursing (Omaha)

**Megan Vetrovsky**  
Pharmacy

**Adrien Honcoop**  
Graduate Studies

**Casey Jurczewsky**  
Dentistry

**Jennifer Davis**  
Allied Health Professions  
(Omaha)

**Hoai Tam Nguyen**  
Nursing (Kearney)

**Nicole Hollander**  
Nursing (Lincoln)

## Activities Committee

**Shaker Dukkupati**  
*Committee Chair*  
Graduate Studies

**Kirsten Wagner**  
Nursing (Kearney)

**Krysten Vance**  
Graduate Studies

**Paul Lovell**  
Graduate Studies

**Theodore Blum**  
Pharmacy

**Estefania Lanza  
Rodriguez**  
Public Health

**Sophia Kisling**  
*Vice Chair*  
Graduate Studies

**Shelby Rose**  
Dentistry

**Kayla Johannes**  
Nursing (Omaha)

**Linda Huynh**  
Medicine

**Sara Rahmanzai**  
Nursing (Omaha)

**Conor O'Neill**  
Public Health

**Jenna Boyd**  
Allied Health Professions  
(Kearney)

**Kim Gollhofer**  
Pharmacy

**Madalyn Houlden**  
Nursing (Omaha)

**Cassandra Van Oeveren**  
Nursing (Omaha)

**Cole White**  
Nursing (Omaha)

## Academic Affairs Committee

**Anthony Stephenson**  
*Committee Chair*  
Medicine

**Katie Schultis**  
Medicine

**Tommy Stormberg**  
Graduate Studies

**James Vermilion**  
Nursing (Scottsbluff)

**Susan Greni**  
Medicine

**Morgan Staver**  
Graduate Studies

**Nicole Kent**  
*Vice Chair*  
Medicine

**Aubree Ford**  
Medicine

**Brady Caverzagie**  
Pharmacy

**Skyler Maclean**  
Pharmacy

**Md Shafikur Rahman**  
Graduate Studies

**Kobe Slaughter**  
Nursing (Omaha)

**Livvy Vander Harr**  
Allied Health Professions  
(Omaha)

**Payton Allen**  
Nursing (Norfolk)

**Benjamin McIntire**  
Medicine

**Case McNally**  
Dentistry

**Josh Madsen**  
Dentistry



# Budget and Expenditures

## Internal Spending (Senate Initiatives)

### Activities Committee - Total Expenses

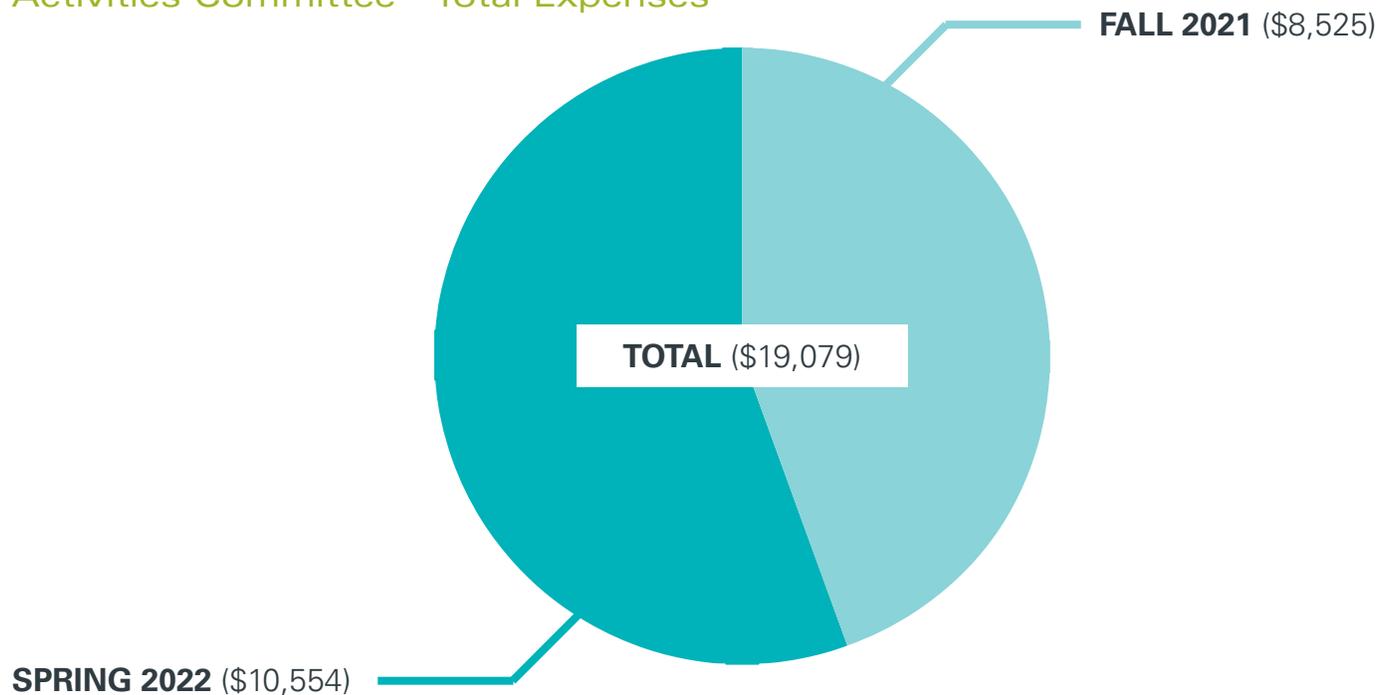


Figure 1: Total spending per semester by the Activities Committee

## External Spending (BOSS Proposals)

### BOSS Proposals - 2021 Summary

Applicant	Student Organization	Expediated Review?	Amount Requested	Review Status	Approval Status	Amount Approved
Tiffany Truong	UNMC Racquet Club	Yes	\$964.00	Review Complete	Approved	\$640.00
Seth Woods	Student Alliance for People of All Abilities	No	\$1,100.00	Review Complete	Approved	\$1,100.00
Justin Engberg	Climb. Relax. Adventure. Gather.	Yes	\$900.00	Review Complete	Approved	\$900.00
Sydney Greer	Student Delegates	Yes	\$381.00	Review Complete	Approved	\$381.25
Chase Petersen	American Pharmacists Association Academic of Student Pharmacists	Yes	\$10,405.96	Review Complete	Approved	\$1,063.72
<b>Total Approved</b>						<b>\$4,084.97</b>

Table 1: Summary of student organization BOSS proposals

# Leadership Reports

## President: Taylor Kratochvil



### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The role of UNMC's Student Body President bears two responsibilities: President of UNMC's Student Senate and UNMC's Student Regent.

In response to the experience of prior Student Senate leadership, this was the first year that the Vice President transitioned to serve as the coordinator for all At-Large Senate meetings. Instead, the Student Body President served to help guide the vision of UNMC's Student Senate. For example, the President is responsible for facilitating goal-setting for Senate Leadership and leading Senate Executive Committee meetings, which include director-level Senate leaders and Student Senate's faculty advisor, Phil Covington, EdD (associate vice chancellor for the Division of Student Success). Further, the position is responsible for facilitating discussion on policy proposals at the institutional, university system, and local government levels (e.g. LB 1007, Board of Regents CRT Resolution, Student Access & Success Fee).

As Student Regent, the position is responsible for representing the student voice as a de jure nonvoting member of the NU system's governing body, the Board of Regents. The Board is composed of eight publicly elected Regents and four student regents from the four University of Nebraska institutions (UNO, UNL, UNK, and UNMC). In addition, the position attends and facilitates University events on behalf of the UNMC student body, which this year included the opening ceremony for the Wigton Heritage Center, the Investiture of UNO Chancellor Joanne Li, the Presidential Medal of Service Award Ceremony, and various graduation/commencement ceremonies.

Finally, this position actively communicates with University leadership to promote communication and collaboration. This includes twice-monthly individual meetings with the Chancellor and monthly meetings with the Vice Chancellors/Faculty Senate President.

### Goals for 2021-2022

Our primary goal for Senate this year was to support the health and wellness of our students at UNMC. As students returned from remote education in 2020-2021, we recognized that many students may have health-related needs that went unaddressed and needed proactive solutions.

Second, we sought to grow Student Senate's programming footprint by offering community-building events for students to foster relationships beyond the classroom and clinic. In speaking with students, there was a clear desire for COVID-safe opportunities to interact with other community members.

Third, as our rising second-year students had almost the same amount of exposure to on-campus education as our incoming class, we sought to identify and build novel means to better share resources and opportunities available to UNMC Students.

### Major Accomplishments

Throughout this report, you will find the many accomplishments of this body over the 2021-2022 year. I am proud to share that no accomplishment was achieved by me alone, but rather through a coordinated effort amongst the many members of our Senate. I will leave the opportunity for these individuals to expand on these accomplishments themselves; however, I wish to highlight a few which align well with our three overarching goals.

In supporting student health and wellness, the body piloted an Opt-Out Counseling program (page 11, Hannah Tandon, Vice President), approved the funding of additional staffing for Counseling and Psychological Services (page 37), and worked with our clinical partner Nebraska Medicine in establishing a UNMC student lounge in University Tower. One of our areas of greatest growth as a Senate this year was in our offerings for student programming (page 19, Shaker Dukkupati, Director of Student Experience). Briefly, these included weekly "Green Space Series" events in the Ruth and Bill Scott Student Plaza with free food and activities, in addition to a number of destination events throughout the Omaha & Lincoln areas. Additionally, we worked alongside the office of the Chancellor to establish regular food truck offerings over the lunch hour on the east and west ends of campus, as in-person catering was limited due to COVID-19 precautions. Offerings included Zemogs, Street Eats, Burning Bridges, La Casa Pizzeria, and Modern Waffle. In supporting campus-wide programming, we also coordinated the purchase of eight wood Adirondack chairs for the Omaha campus green space, coordinated by Estefania Lanza Rodriguez and the Office of the Chancellor (page 14).

Finally, the Senate has made great strides in communicating its initiatives, with our greatest

achievements secondary to the newly established Senate PR Liaison position (page 29, Tommy Stormberg). This included working with the Division of Student Success to expand the weekly UNMC Vitals newsletter with daily editions for timely student activity publicization, the launch of a UNMC Student Senate Twitter account (@UNMCSenate), and establishing a new UNMC Student Senate Logo.

## Opportunities for Future Growth

Our campus will continue to face challenges relating to education in the COVID-19 era. That said, I believe our greatest challenges remain in keeping pace with the growth of the institution at large. With notable growth in the College of Allied Health Professions and College of Nursing, we must go beyond the resolution to reapportion seats and ensure a regular audit of the body to this end. Per a resolution passed in February 2022 (page 37) this process should occur each Spring of every odd-number year.

Next, I believe it is important for the Student Senate's work to be formally documented within the institution's strategic vision. Beyond documenting the Senate's accomplishments in an End-of-the-Year Report, I suggest the Senate documents its accomplishments in the University's UNePlan interface.

Additionally, conversations are in development to establish a UNMC fight song and mascot. These conversations will be ongoing and should involve student input/participation in their selection process. Finally, as UNMC includes campuses in Omaha, Lincoln, North Platte, Kearney, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff, we have a responsibility to ensure our body represents their interests and needs. It is imperative that we establish infrastructure to connect each campus' students to sister campuses in seeking to build a unified and supported UNMC community across the state.

## Vice President: Hannah Tandon



between the roles. The Vice President oversaw a variety of projects central to the year's central pillars of wellness, transparency, and engagement, as outlined below.

## Major Accomplishments

### Opt-out Counseling Pilot

In partnership with Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the College of Pharmacy (COP), we piloted an opt-out mental health "Quick Check" program with the 65 student, second-year COP class. Each student was assigned a 15-minute, one-on-one meeting with a counselor in CAPS to discuss available resources and student concerns. These were not formal counseling appointments, but students could sign up for a formal intake appointment at the conclusion of their Quick Check.

## Overview of Position Responsibilities

This year, the Vice President's roles and responsibilities grew in scope dramatically. The role of UNMC's Student Body Vice President now spans the following responsibilities:

- Running Student Senate meetings and scheduling guest speakers
- Chairing the Issues Committee
- Attending quarterly Alumni Council meetings
- Supporting the President as requested/indicated

The area of largest growth for this position was its inclusion in meetings regarding institution-wide initiatives and planning. While not historically the case, the Vice President attended twice-monthly meetings with the Chancellor, regular meetings with the Vice Chancellors, and other administrative meetings in partnership with the President to facilitate delegation of tasks and optimize partnership

### Attendance:

- 23 students attended their Quick Check appointments, of which four scheduled a subsequent formal intake
- 26 students opted out
- 16 students were no-shows

### Limitations:

1. Dearth of counselors
  - Context: The pilot was carried out when CAPS had two counselors, which was determined to be too few to repeat the same model or expand the pilot beyond the COP.
  - Solution: Passage of the Student Access and Success fee expansion (page 37) will allow for the hiring of two additional counselors. When fully staffed, all stakeholders believe the program should be able to be repeated/expanded.

2. Scheduling and cancelations through COP
  - **Context:** Scheduling and canceling appointments was handled by COP staff, who had access to students' individual schedules. While convenient, students may have perceived that cancelling an appointment would impact their academic standing.
  - **Solution:** In the future, scheduling slots should be identified through each student's college and cancellations should be handled through CAPS
3. No-shows led to inefficiency of counselor time
  - **Context:** No-shows were not clustered, so time was lost between attended sessions that could have been rescheduled or adjusted to accommodate additional students.

Possible solutions:

- Assign students to time blocks and send a final time once opt-out period has passed, which would allow for "clumping" of attended sessions.
- Distribute meetings to different counselors over a

longer period of time so less time is set aside for Quick Checks on any given day.

These findings were presented at the 2022 University of Nebraska Leadership Summit with tremendous interest from students across the NU system. The PowerPoint from this meeting can be found in the Vice President role-specific documents folder. These findings were also presented at a UNMC Chancellor's Council meeting in April 2022.

### Issues Committee Initiatives

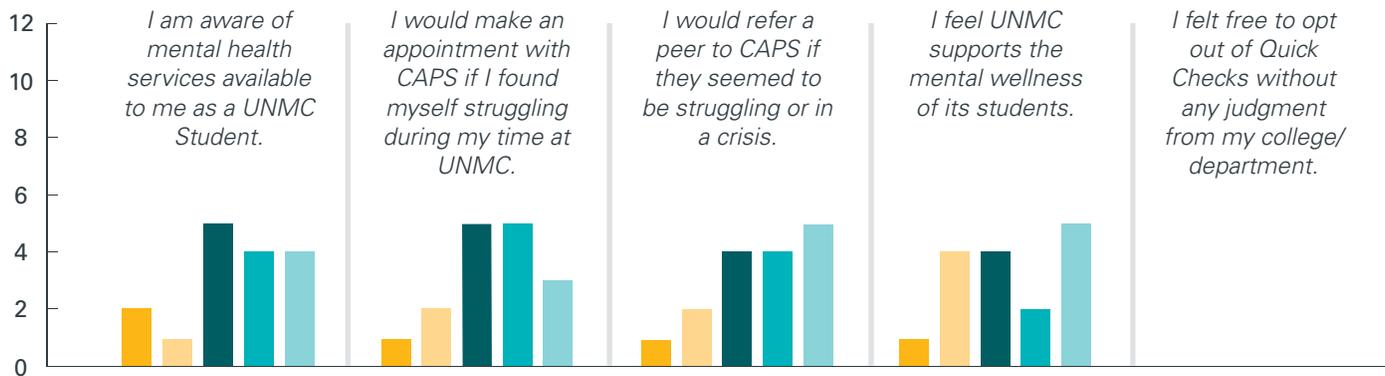
This year, we expanded the BOSS proposal application and started a new leadership series. These projects are detailed in the Issues Committee report on page 36.

### Building Engagement with UNMC Vitals (student email newsletter)

This year we started a Pet March Madness: Cuteness Bracket. Students from UNMC's Omaha campus submitted photos of their pets to participate in daily competitions within Vitals for cutest pet with the overall winner receiving

## 2021 Quick Check Pilot Pre- and Post- Session Participant Surveys

### Pre-Quick Check Session



### Post-Quick Check Session



Figure 2: Pre- and post-Quick Check session survey results from participants

## Anonymous Student Feedback on Quick Check Pilot Program

"I felt the Quick Check was really valuable because I didn't realize the counseling center had moved, and I don't think I would've taken the initiative to do this had it not been previously scheduled for me."

"CAPS is a wonderful idea. Not many young adults are too inclined to asking [sic] for help even if they want to. Making someone opt out instead of making them go obtain help themselves, I believe will truly help a handful of students!"

"I did not know anything about these resources so I was glad that I went to my quick check meeting! Super informative and the counselor was so nice!"

a \$50 gift card to a pet supply store of their choice. We received 56 submissions for 16 bracket positions. Though open rates for Vitals did not change over the course of the campaign, click rates within the newsletter rose six fold from pre-Pet Madness levels.

### Opportunities for Student Advocacy

This year, Student Senate hosted two major advocacy events: a Town Hall with Senator Megan Hunt and a State Senator Leadership and Advocacy Panel.

#### *Town Hall with Senator Megan Hunt, Fall 2021*

This one-hour evening event was hosted in partnership with UNMC Student Delegates and UNMC's AMA Chapter. The AMA and Student Senate sponsored a \$50 Amazon gift card raffle for one student participant. Sen. Hunt shared her journey to the Unicameral, her policy goals and priorities, her reflections on the upcoming session, and advice for students interested in advocacy. I worked directly with Sen. Hunt to plan the event.

#### *State Senator Leadership and Advocacy Panel, Spring 2022*

This one-hour event sought to convene the State Senators who represent each of the five legislative districts that oversee UNMC campuses.

The panel was moderated by Sen. Megan Hunt of District 8

- Senator Adam Morfeld – District 46 (Lincoln)

- Senator John Cavanaugh – District 9 (Omaha)
- Senator John Lowe – District 37 (Kearney)
- Senator Mike Flood – District 19 (Norfolk)  
*Unable to attend*
- Senator John Stinner – District 48 (Scottsbluff)  
*Unable to attend*

The senators in attendance discussed proposed legislation relevant to UNMC, their experience in policy, and offered advice for students interested in advocacy work. This tour de force was led by Krysten Vance and was hosted in partnership with Student Delegates. Notably, we secured funding for \$10 GrubHub gift cards for non-Omaha students who attend to encourage engagement across our campuses. Omaha students were provided individually packaged meals and individual study rooms in the library were reserved to remain in compliance with COVID-19 safety measures.

#### *Chancellor Gold Town Hall*

In Fall 2021, we hosted a town hall with Chancellor Gold during a regularly scheduled Senate meeting. We utilized the stage in the newly-erected Wigton Heritage Center and catered to-go meals for 30 people. Because we offered to do our own set up of the space, we did not have to pay the facilities fee. Because the event was only slightly outside business hours, IT kindly had one of their folks stay a little late to help us set up. We prepared questions for Dr. Gold ahead of time, and Taylor monitored the Zoom Q&A function and asked student-submitted questions throughout. This event was set up as a Zoom webinar, which required support from IT as this function is not available with licensed Zoom accounts.

#### *Student Senate Leadership Series*

Spearheaded by Alyssa Spartz (Student Health and Wellness Liaison), the Student Senate Leadership Series is described in detail in the Issues Committee section (page 36).

### Opportunities for Future Growth

#### Opt-out counseling pilot

COP remains a committed partner in the Quick Check program. Dr. Chris Shaffer should be included in future communications around continuing and expanding the program.

With the planned expansion of the Student Access and Success Fee, the counselor capacity in CAPS will expand from 2 FTE to 4 FTE in 2022. Once CAPS is fully staffed, stakeholders have expressed that expansion of the opt-out program is not only feasible, but expected. The next proposed phase would include an expansion to one of our smaller Allied Health Professions programs to develop a telehealth Quick Check strategy. We suggest connecting with Dean Kyle Meyer in CAHP (to reach PA students based

in Kearney) or Dean Janet M. Guthmiller in COD (to reach Dentistry students in Lincoln, suggested by Dr. Gold).

Key Contacts:

- College of Pharmacy: Dr. Chris Shaffer and Mandi Fishler
- College of Allied Health Professions: Dean Kyle Meyer
- College of Dentistry: Dean Janet M. Guthmiller
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Jeffrey Knapp

### Issues Committee

We discussed the value of a survey embedded in Vitals for students to submit issues to Senate. This form could include a space for students to select a topic area based on our current liaison positions to assist with routing problems to the correct Senator.

Key Contact:

- Division of Student Success: Krysta Larson

### Building Engagement with Vitals

I think it would be valuable to assess the efficacy of the Daily Vitals newsletter piloted on the Omaha campus in Spring 2022. It may make sense to expand and distribute similar daily newsletters for all UNMC campuses. For engagement initiatives, like the Pet Madness event, this would allow for all UNMC students to participate and free up more days for voting on our other campuses. Though average click rates jumped dramatically with Pet Madness, open rates did not. Publicizing Vitals events and the kind of information available in Vitals may further improve engagement with the platform

### Opportunities for Student Advocacy

The panel organized this year can serve as a tremendous

example for advocacy events in the future. I would encourage a similar panel be continued on an annual basis, but I would strongly encourage you to consider scheduling the panel in December, before the Legislative Session begins in January but after the new Senators have been elected in November. This change would likely result in higher attendance from Senators.



Students pose questions to Chancellor Gold at the Town Hall event, held in Wigton Heritage Center

### Chancellor Gold Town Hall

Dr. Gold was extremely interested in this event and very invested in making sure it happens again. I would recommend reaching out to his scheduling team a few months in advance to get a time on the calendar. You might also consider hosting this over the noon hour rather than in the evening to draw more students.

### Student Senate Leadership Series

This series would benefit from periodic review to ensure the information is still timely and accurate.

## Treasurer: Estefania Lanza Rodriguez



### Overview of Position Responsibilities

As Student Senate Treasurer, my main responsibilities include serving in the following capacities:

1. Point of contact for Bev Hamman, Administrative Associate for the Division of Student Success
2. Budget manager for Student Senate
3. Managing the finances/paying contracted services for Senate events and managing the distribution of funds for BOSS proposals
4. Ex-officio advisor to the Student Senate Activities Committee
5. Point of contacts to the Sustainability and Global Engagement Liaisons.

As a point of contact with Bev Hamman, we primarily worked to obtain signatures for payment and

reimbursement documents from students organizing events, as well as relaying concerns and questions in either direction.

As Student Senate's budget manager, I tracked our financial status throughout the year and prepared an end-of-year budget report to present to the Student Senate.

As Senate's event and BOSS proposal payment manager, I worked with student leaders across campus to coordinate payments and purchase requests for events on campus.

As ex-officio advisor to the Activities Committee, I served to increase the number of approved campus vendors to expedite food purchases for events.

Lastly, as a point of contact to the Sustainability and Global Engagement Liaisons, I served as a resource to the liaisons who report to me for achieving their annual goals.

### Goals for 2021-2022

At the beginning of the year, I set the following goals for my time as Student Senate Treasurer:

1. Update and maintain reporting of financial spending
2. Be readily available to our student clubs and organizations and support them financially
3. Develop and execute a plan to expand outdoor seating for students and student events

### Major Accomplishments

In order to create a standardized means to document Student Senate expenditures, I developed and maintained a ledger on Excel throughout the year. With this ledger I was able to easily produce an end-of-year report for the Senate's spending. As of January 17, 2022, the Student Senate spent roughly \$20,000 for all events. In particular, the Greenspace Series spent approximately \$7,000, BOSS proposals spending was approximately \$750, GrubHub gift cards spending was \$5,510, and miscellaneous spending was less than \$500 (this category includes the Student Senate banner and other Student Senate sponsored events). There is currently over \$100,000 left for spending.

To be readily available to student clubs and organizations, I maintained a thirty-minute window a couple of times a week to respond, coordinate, and update payments and resources requested by organization leaders. This time was primarily devoted to fulfilling approved BOSS proposal requests.

A large project for the Student Senate this year was the planning and launch of the Green Space Series (page 18) which sought to engage students through programming and community-building activities. To support their efforts, I took over Vice President Hannah Tandon's initiative to procure Adirondack chairs for the Ruth and Bill Scott Student Plaza. With logistics support from University

## Student Senate Event Spending: 2021-2022

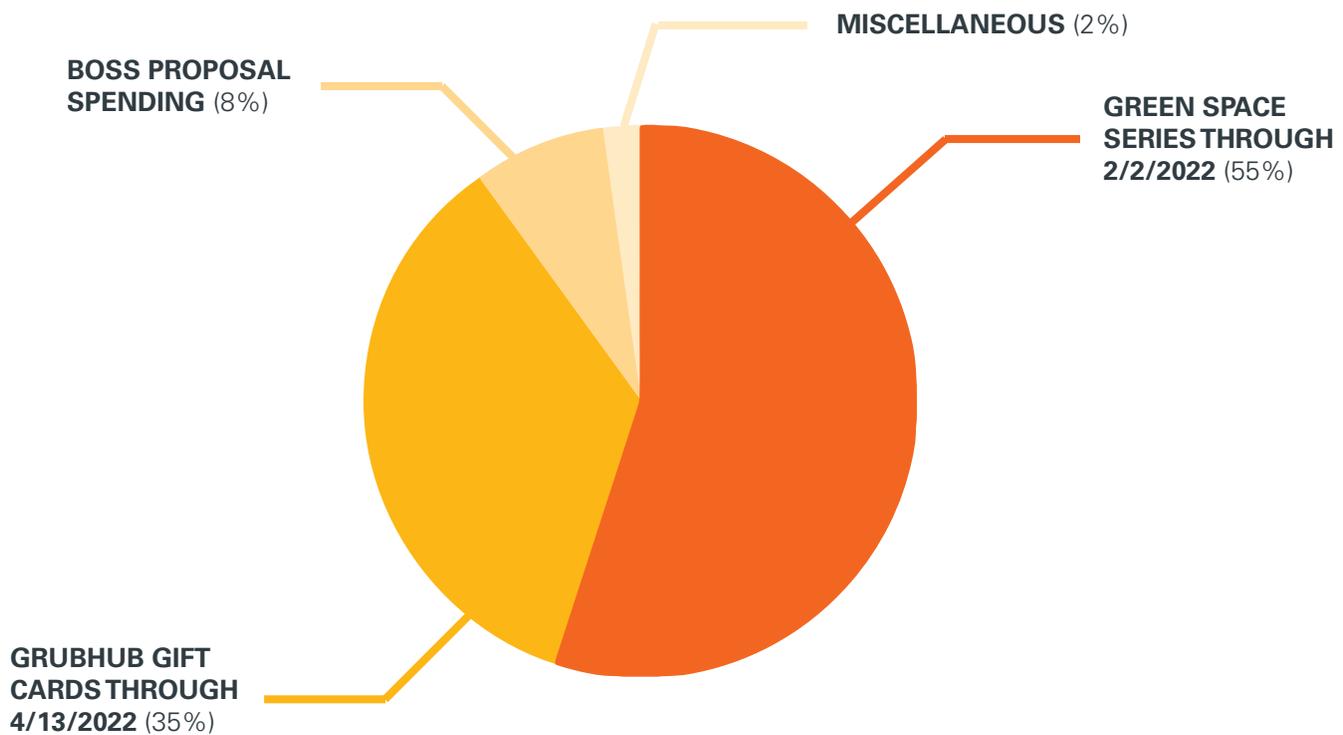


Figure 3: Student Senate event spending in 2021-2022 by category



Facilities and financial support from the Chancellor’s office (specifically Catherine Mello, Brian Anderson, Thomas Payne, Heather Kock, and Lindsay Neemann), we were able to see the project come to fruition. We contracted a local artist in Lincoln, NE who works in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s wood shop to produce eight chairs that were delivered in April 2022.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

If the Green Space Series continues, this position should coordinate the purchase of food and goods to help assuage the load for the Director of Student Experience and the Vice Chair of Activities Committee.

If the Adirondack Chairs become popular and their use is high, the Treasurer should consider securing further funding to purchase additional chairs. Further, Senate should consider identifying funds to maintain the chairs if their paint fades or becomes chipped.



Red Adirondack chairs set out in the Ruth and Bill Scott Student Plaza for use by the UNMC community

## Chief of Staff: Katie Schultis



### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The role of UNMC’s Student Senate Chief of Staff is to assist the President and Vice President in various tasks and to create and organize Student Senate websites and events.

The 2021-2022 was the first year of the Chief of Staff position. The role was modified from the previous Secretary position. Duties include taking the meeting minutes, onboarding new Senators and assigning them to committees, organizing and keeping the Teams and Outlook pages up-to-date, and creating events on Engage. Other duties include reserving rooms in the Michael Sorrell Center for at-large and committee meetings, recording attendance and unexcused absences, recording Zoom meetings and uploading them to the Teams page, and keeping an updated roster with committee assignments.

### Goals for 2021-2022

A major goal for the Chief of Staff position was to improve student engagement with the Engage Page. This was achieved by creating Engage events for Student Senate Meetings with guest speakers and events that were included in Vitals. The Student Senate Executive Committee suspects that the main reason students don’t attend events on campus is because they are unaware these events are taking place. My goal was to promote student body-wide communication and improve attendance to foster community engagement.

Another goal was standardizing Senate resources to create consistency amongst Senate documents and limit miscommunication within the Senate. Strategies to address this issue included creating a template for meeting minutes, using consistent hyperlinks for Senate documents, and including Zoom conference links and document links in the calendar invitations for each meeting. When the Senate returns to in-person meetings, consistent locations for At Large and Committee meetings would also be encouraged.

Finally, a goal for this year was to establish the Liaison Presentation section during At-Large Senate meetings to showcase each position’s responsibilities and activities. Student Senate Liaisons do an incredible amount for our student body but haven’t previously had the opportunity to display their hard work. Liaison Presentations allowed for recognition of accomplishments and also provided information on who to contact for specific problems and questions.





Figure 4: Examples of marketing images included with promotion of Student Senate events on ENGAGE, Vitals, and social media.

## Major Accomplishments

A major accomplishment this year was the establishment of the Chief of Staff position. The expanded responsibilities of the prior Secretary position are outlined above, and a detailed list of tasks are listed in the “Chief of Staff Position Overview” folder in Microsoft Teams to ease the transition.

Other major accomplishments included creating graphics for guest speakers (Figure 4) and creating Student Senate events for use on Engage and social media. By uploading these images to teams, these events and their respective marketing images were included in UNMC Vitals to improve communication and promote student engagement.

Liaison Presentations were successfully integrated into each At Large Senate meeting. Either at the start of the meetings or after the Guest speaker, presenters shared updates on their goals, leaders they regularly meet with, and concerns and questions they may be able to address. The following Liaisons presented this year: Health & Wellness, Security & Transportation, Sustainability, IT & E-learning, Library & IPE, Public Relations, and Policy & Advocacy.

## Opportunities for Future Growth

In the future, the Student Senate would benefit from sending out monthly forms to Leadership positions to assess how their goals are progressing and organize that

feedback in a folder or document on the Teams page. Planning a brief Zoom meeting with each leadership position may also be beneficial. Other growth opportunities include uploading Senate-wide goals to UNePlan, the UNMC platform to track institutional goals.

A priority for future engagement with the student body should be to strengthen Senate’s UNMC Engage page. For example, creating an option for non-Senators to join the group will allow more students to stay updated on Student Senate events and be included on an email list for Senate-specific updates.

Since the Chief of Staff is responsible for keeping track of attendances and absences, this position should send out reminder emails for Senate meetings and have Senators reply to inform the Chief of Staff of excused absences. Currently, the Vice President is performing this role. Now that Student Senate has a new logo, future Chiefs of Staff could coordinate merchandise orders. Apparel items like T-shirts, polos, and pull-overs could be worn by Senators to represent UNMC Student Senate at UNMC and NU events. Further, the position should consider purchasing UNMC-branded name tags for Senators to use at Senate events (e.g., coordinators of Green Space Series events).

## Director of Academic Affairs: Anthony Stephenson



### *Overview of Position Responsibilities*

The role of UNMC Student Senate's Director of Academic Affairs (DoAA) focuses primarily on managing the Academic Affairs Committee. This involves leading discussion during monthly meetings with the committee regarding topics related to academics and education at UNMC. The DoAA receives reports from the E-Learning and Library Liaisons on UNMC Student Senate and assists in the function of these roles as needed. The DoAA position requires an election process to appoint a Vice Chair of Academic Affairs. The director also attends monthly executive committee meetings where they relay the updates provided by the reporting liaison positions as well as activities in the Academic Affairs Committee. This position also reports to the Student Senate during monthly at-large meetings with updates from within the committee. The DoAA also attends monthly UNMC Education Council meetings and acts as a liaison for these meetings as the student body representative.

### *Goals for 2021-2022*

The focus of my first goal stems from Student Senate's transition to virtual committee meetings. Since this change, participation within the Academic Affairs Committee has been suboptimal. My goal for the position was to increase engagement from senators while overcoming the barriers of a virtual committee. Objectively, my goal for the academic year was to obtain greater than 50 percent attendance from active committee members at every meeting during the school year.

My second goal was to fully utilize the Student Senate Leadership reporting schema implemented this year. My goal was to have monthly communication with the liaison positions that reported to me, including Library and E-learning positions. I would then relay major updates at monthly executive committee meetings.

### *Major Accomplishments*

The UNMC Student Senate's Academic Affairs Committee of 2021-2022 has made many great strides to improving the student educational experience at UNMC amidst the challenges of a pandemic. I believe this is a direct result of the dedication of every individual committee member and their contributions to the goals of the group. Our committee surpassed 60 percent attendance at every committee meeting during the 2021-2022 academic year. I believe this was achieved due to a combination of the establishment of personal and committee-wide goals early in the year and holding committee members accountable to those goals.

Second, enhanced communication with the E-learning and Library Liaisons was a great success in improving transparency of each position's activity. In combination with the implementation of liaison reports during at-large meetings, I believe the Student Senate felt much more connected to and aware of the amazing efforts of individual senators during the 2021-2022 academic year.

### *Opportunities for Future Growth*

I believe areas of growth within this position revolve around fostering a committee environment that promotes productivity while holding individual members accountable. To do this, I would recommend that future DoAAs outline major duties for specific projects during the year and assign them to individual members of the committee on a voluntary basis. This will allow members to feel more connected to the projects that they are participating in and decrease the burden of logistical tasks to be completed by the director. I believe this would not only improve the overall operations of the committee but also free up time for the director to engage in new ideas related to education.

With the newly established communication system of the Student Senate, I believe it may be beneficial for the DoAA to schedule monthly meetings with the Liaisons who report the director to allow for focused conversations at regular intervals. Rather than solely communicating through email, face-to-face interactions may allow the liaisons to feel better understood and appreciated for their efforts, as well as allow the DoAA to feel more accessible to the liaisons. These meetings could potentially be scheduled at the end of committee meetings. Another area of positive change could be serving as a liaison between UNMC's Education Council and the Student Senate. I believe that the Student Senate could benefit from receiving a synopsis of topics discussed at Education Council meetings. This could likely be integrated into executive committee meeting discussions.



Students participate in a game of cornhole during a Green Space Series event.



Students socialize in the Ruth and Bill Scott Student Plaza.



The UNMC Student Senate distributed free scoops of local ice cream from Coneflower Creamery.

## Director of Student Experience: Shaker Dukkipati



Second, I wanted to work towards improving student campus and community engagement by strengthening the support infrastructure offered to student organizations.

Third, I wanted to improve the Student Senate's relationship with campus and community partners through Senate activities and programming.

### Major Accomplishments

Leading the Activities Committee this year was an immense privilege for me, as we were able to dramatically expand our traditional programming efforts. This was achieved primarily through weekly Green Space Series events, with activities hosted in the Ruth and Bill Scott Student Plaza and events in the greater Omaha and Lincoln communities. These events included several tailgating events (including one co-hosted by the College of Dentistry in Lincoln), experiences at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, Union Omaha soccer games, Halloween and winter holiday themed celebrations, ice cream socials, chili feeds, and ice-skating nights.

Another great accomplishment that came to fruition was a stimulus plan to improve student organizational engagement by offering financial resources to all student organizations that participated in a student leader training program. Student Senate is working with SLIDO to secure funds for 40 participating organizations that, in exchange for participation and engagement with SLIDO's student organization infrastructure, will receive discretionary financial support to utilize for organizational needs.

Lastly, we have partnered with campus and community partners to put together many of our events. Examples are included in the callout section to the right.

### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The role of the Director of Student Experience (DSE) is to lead the activities committee and organize and execute Senate-sponsored events, including blood drives and the awards banquet. The DSE represents the Activities Committee at all Senate meetings and works with the Treasurer and Executive committee to fund committee events. This position actively communicates with other campus leadership, including the Division of Student Success, the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office (SLIDO) as well as Faculty Senate and the Office of Diversity.

### Goals for 2021-2022

First, I sought to exponentially increase the number of activities and events sponsored by Student Senate. In seeking to support student wellness and improve campus culture, I wanted to create opportunities for students to interact outside the classroom and clinic. Particularly during times of high community spread of COVID-19, it was often difficult to meet with others on campus and it was unclear whether students would be willing to engage with each other outside required activities.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

First, while we made great strides in building infrastructure to engage our non-Omaha campuses, we must be more inclusive of students at these locations. This year, Student Senate organized a few events outside of Omaha, including a coffee event in Kearney and a planned pet therapy event



across Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, and Norfolk campuses in Spring 2022. However, we must build systems to more frequently organize events that unite all campuses (through both virtual and physical means). UNMC is not just the Omaha campus, and we must strive to make this a priority for the Student Senate Activities Committee.

Second, we must grow to involve non-Activities Committee Senators in the planning and execution of Senate programming. One challenge that we faced this year was having enough personnel available to keep up with our programming. It will be imperative in future years, especially with the reduction of COVID-related guidelines, to involve more of the Senate in activities throughout the year. A restructuring of the committees, including having every Senator engaged in Activities, may be needed to carry out planned expansion. This would also include asking every Senator (especially across our many campuses) to contribute towards the implementation of our activities, which can be a lot of work over the year. This requires consistency and a willingness to contribute, and this needs to be an expectation that can be shared amongst many student leaders.

Third, we must do more to empower student organizations to be more active in organizing their own programming. Student Senate should continue to host events on our own and with the support of other student and campus/community partners, but we should also equip our student organizations with tools to do this beyond the minimal funds that we provide through BOSS Proposals. This is especially true of our multicultural and DEI-focused student groups, who should be supplied with more resources

## Event Partnerships

- Faculty/student/staff event with Faculty Senate and Campus Wellness
- Multicultural events with Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity focused student organizations and the Office of Diversity
- Pet therapy event with the UNMC's McGoogan Health Sciences Library involving UNMC campuses across the state (including Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff-Gering)
- Tailgating event in Lincoln with the ASDA (a registered student organization for College of Dentistry students)
- Several events with SLIDO including a poetry/spoken word slam
- An event with the Center for Healthy Living

to increase their programming and support their efforts to make our university stronger and more inclusive. We are limited as a student government in what we can do ourselves, but we can and should devote more time and resources towards empowering other effective student leaders.

## Diversity & Inclusion Liaison: Adrien Honcoop



as a member of the Issues Committee on Student Senate and as a member of both administrative and student-lead DEI efforts on campus. The DEI Liaison is tasked with communicating with the Director of the Offices of Inclusion & Equity and Director of the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office (SLIDO)—Sheritta Strong, MD and Channing Bunch, respectively—and coordinating with UNMC's DEI-related student organizations (e.g., the UNMC Pride Alliance, White Coats for Black Lives, Latino Medical Student Association).

This role was established in 2021, and therefore has few defined responsibilities, no pre-defined meetings outside of Senate to attend, and no previous issues identified. Responsibilities with student engagement and workshops were addressed as seen fit. This report will seek to expand on future opportunities for this role, as much of this year consisted of defining areas of need for this liaison position to address.

### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Liaison serves

### Goals for 2021-2022

There were two major goals for the 2021-2022 year: the



relaunch of Inclusion Nebraska and the implementation of a new DEI Advisory Council.

Inclusion Nebraska was a round-table discussion for students to explore DEI issues in a small group setting. The Office of Inclusion and Equity now hosts Conversations for Inclusive Excellence on the second Thursday of every month, which expanded the conversation to include faculty, staff, and community members as well as students.

The DEI Advisory Council was a need identified by Dr. Strong. The goal of the council was to convene a student group to address DEI issues identified by students which would be open to all campuses and supported by the appropriate affinity groups. This group would exist separately from the Student Organization Council.

## Major Accomplishments

The successes in this role were smaller than the goals proposed earlier in the year but were still significant.

One major success for this role and the Issues Committee was changing the BOSS Proposal submission deadline from a semester application window to a rolling-acceptance application window, as well as hosting the form on Microsoft Forms rather than as a PDF. This information was then presented by me to the Student Organization Advisory and Preparation (SOAP) Council created by the Division of Student Success to ensure that it was accessible to student organizations. Extending the application window and ensuring a transparent path to funding for student organizations applying for funds was important to supporting student initiatives. This change also allowed time

Through this role, I also assisted Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) with interviewing four candidates for counselor positions in the Fall of 2022. I returned my opinions on the candidates' suitability for counseling UNMC students through the lens of supporting students from diverse and underserved backgrounds. Additionally, I was involved in reviewing the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion questions included on the yearly student satisfaction survey.

I consider a major accomplishment to be the start of a push for Student Senate to utilize accumulated Fund A money (page 14, Treasurer). As the DEI Liaison, I was invited to attend the NU Student Leadership Summit at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. This event was a perfect opportunity to network and see how other student governments use their Fund A money. My vision was to improve equity for students wishing to present their research beyond local venues through travel awards and to continue funding the Student Emergency Fund. As it stands, we are making strides to ensure that the student government is using money already collected in a way that promotes equity in opportunity while supporting our diverse and underserved students. A longer version of these proposals is outlined below.

## Opportunities for Future Growth

In its current form, this role is largely a "seek your own change" type of position, and therefore can be as heavy or light as the student in the role can handle. I think if the next DEI Liaison is provided with more support, better defined responsibilities, and easier access to the "as needed" events defined in the position responsibilities, they will be far more successful than I was. As I see it, there are four things that should be prioritized next year for this position:

### The DEI Liaison should serve on the Student Activities Committee rather than the Issues Committee

This position is unexpectedly heavy on student-led events, and I often felt out of the loop on the events the Senate was planning. Inclusion of the DEI Liaison into this committee would lower the amount of self-initiated work required for the position and would help support event efforts. Additionally, the Activities Committee Chair (Director of Student Experience) also has regular conversations with the Director of SLIDO and the Division of Student Success, which would benefit this role. At present, the Liaison independently makes up for this difference in access. While I understand the benefits of keeping this role on the Issues Committee (in respect to putting emphasis on DEI in how Senate Funds are spent), I would rather see the Chair of the Issues Committee (Student Senate Vice President) charged with focusing on this aspect and the DEI Liaison released to the Activities Committee.



*UNMC's International Student Association and the Office of Global Engagement celebrate spring with the return of the annual Holi Festival of Colors.*

to present to the SOAP Council on the application process, ensuring that student organizations had an opportunity to ask questions. Not all organizations were aware of this funding mechanism.



## This role should build a committee to support their efforts

UNL and UNO both support a DEI Committee, which functionally allows non-Senator students to join after interviewing with a small selection panel hosted by the Student Senate. This allows non-Senator students, with the support of the Student Senate, the platform to escalate ideas that need more institutional support and work collaboratively towards DEI goals. This idea was explored earlier in the year in a fashion that distinctly resembled a student organization, rather than a Senate Committee or Agency. I think we should take a hint from our sister universities and make this committee upheld not by a single student or by any particular administrative office (though their input would be necessary and valued), but by our own student government and staffed by motivated non-senators. This committee should have direct input from the Director of the Offices of Diversity and Inclusion, currently Dr. Strong.

sister universities and utilize the Committee structure to ensure that the group, rather than relying on the format of a student organization, benefits from the continuity of Student Senate. Fund A money, however, cannot be used to fund individuals (with the exception of wages). Funding this project is currently not possible for the Student Senate, but I wish to reiterate my emphasis on how beneficial this program would be for students who cannot otherwise afford to travel for presentations.

## Evaluation of “First-Generation” Students

Many of our sister campuses regularly reflect on the number of first-generation students that are admitted to their college each year. This recognition serves an important role in promoting both Equity and Inclusion for these students, as many are not familiar with where to go or with resources available to them. At UNMC, this takes a different form. As a primarily professional and post-secondary educational institution, most students have completed secondary education and are therefore no longer traditional “first-generation” students.

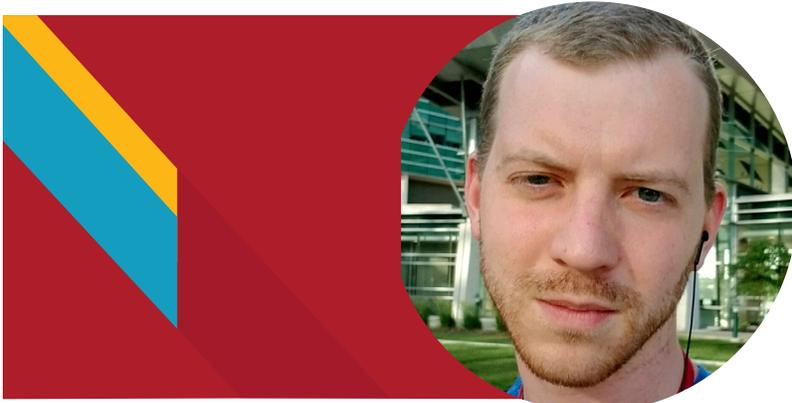
## Construction of a Student Travel Award and Symposium Committee

Students from all over campus are limited in the events they can attend due to financial constraints, which places an undue burden on students from lower socioeconomic statuses. Therefore, student access to symposium travel support is an issue of equity. BOSS Proposals are not currently structured to address this need, but student organizations do request money to send members to conferences. The Senate is missing an opportunity to more broadly support researchers and their work at UNMC. The siloed nature of UNMC’s colleges means that there is a real benefit for both individual students and for UNMC as a whole for the implementation of a Senate Symposium, featuring those funded by a Student Travel Award. I propose that this initiative follow the lead of our

This isn’t to say, however, that we don’t have groups that experience similar issues while enrolled at UNMC. Students without healthcare professionals or individuals with doctorates in their family likely experience a similar lack of access and experience. When data on first-generation students was presented at the NU Student Leadership Summit, no information was shown about UNMC. I feel like this is an important new horizon for the DEI Liaison to focus on in the future, and could inform many new interventions with the student body and preparing younger students (i.e., high school students and undergraduates) for the rigor of secondary education.

With these opportunities, I believe the next DEI Liaison will be set up to be a massive success for the administration and the students.

## Security & Transportation Liaison: Samuel Johnson



## Overview of Position Responsibilities

The role of the Security and Transportation Liaison is to assess and advocate on behalf of students for issues related to security and transportation on the Omaha campus. This includes attending meetings with the Parking and Transportation Committee and Safety Leadership Team. Additionally, security issues can be communicated directly with the Chief of Police & Director of Campus Security/Public Safety (Charlotte Evans). An ongoing goal of this position has been to promote alternative forms of transportation to campus. Knowledge and engagement with clinical, research, transportation, and facility safety issues that affect students are required to maximize impact. This year, campus policies to address disruptions caused by SARS-CoV-2 were particularly prominent.





## Goals for 2021-2022

I had three goals for this year. First, I was interested in increasing access to information regarding TravelSmart opportunities. TravelSmart is a program designed to decrease student and faculty dependence on commuting by car by encouraging walking and biking and increasing access to bus access and carpooling as alternative travel options. Second, I sought to provide requested student feedback to the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC) during the development and implementation of a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. This grant provides improved training to increase engagement, reduce sexual violence, and increase effective interventions. Finally, provided the implementation of Security and Public Safety Advisory Board, I wanted to facilitate student representation on the board through the Student Senate.

## Major Accomplishments

Throughout the year, the UNMC Safety Leadership Team has continued to discuss issues related to SARS-CoV-2 policies, including vaccination and masking policies. Additionally, issues related to lab safety and facility maintenance—like replacement of concrete outside the Michael Sorrell Center and the Durham Research Center—have been addressed. The Safety Leadership team also recently performed a policy review. Due to student concerns, I have discussed parking safety with Chief Charlotte Evans. Campus security has identified areas requiring increased surveillance and, in response, installed cameras to improve safety in these locations. From what I understand, the Transportation and Parking Committees are still not regularly meeting due to recurrent SARS-CoV-2 variant emergence.

One of my goals for the year was to discuss improved TravelSmart communications, including more details on bus utilization by students. Prior to me reaching out, a detailed email was sent to the student body providing relevant information for using UNMC/Nebraska Medicine badges to access ORBT, MOBY, and other bus services in Omaha. At the time, ORBT was instituting the Umo payment system. Until our badges were integrated with the system, students

could show their badges in lieu of fare; all other systems require swiping our ID badges.

In August 2021, Student Senate was approached by Nereida Rojas Lopez, the Project Director for a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women, to provide feedback on the training materials. Because of its proximity to safety, I provided feedback in the planning phase of implementing this grant and offered a student's perspective alongside Maranda Thompson, president of EMPOWER. Topics discussed included engaging men, consent, and power dynamics within certain academic programs. If future feedback is required, I suggest having individuals from both graduate studies and clinical health professions students to advocate for the specific needs of each program trajectory.

## Opportunities for Future Growth

During my time as Security and Transportation Liaison, the recurrent emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants has led to significant focus on the management and repercussions of its spread during Safety Leadership meetings. Additionally, because of a reduced number of students commuting to campus, parking has been less of an issue than in previous years. The previous transportation liaison identified improved parking opportunities for students as a goal of their time in Senate. Future Security and Transportation Liaisons should be well informed about these issues for students who commute by car while also advocating for continued access to alternatives such as those provided by TravelSmart. Continued communication with Campus Security is important in order to best advocate for students safety, particularly regarding parking. If a Security and Public Safety Advisory Board is formed, representation should be formalized by Student Senate. This should include determining whether such representation becomes an added responsibility for the Security and Transportation Liaison or necessitates the cyclic identification of volunteers to serve for at least two years (as suggested by Chief Charlotte Evans). Finally, addressing parking and safety issues on other UNMC campuses would be an excellent opportunity for growth so student perspectives and concerns can be adequately communicated to relevant leadership on their respective campuses.



## Sustainability Liaison: Casey Jurczewsky

### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The Sustainability Liaison functions as the liaison between the student body and UNMC's administration, including the Executive Sustainability Council and the LiveGreen office. This involves attending monthly meetings with the UNMC sustainability manager and quarterly Executive Sustainability Council meetings. The Sustainability Liaison



shares any relevant precedings from the LiveGreen office and the Executive Sustainability Council with the Senate.

## Goals for 2021-2022

I had three main goals for this year: to standardize and expand recycling on UNMC's campuses; to engage students in environmental practices of the university and their future practices; and to help the LiveGreen office plan Earth Month Events, such as tree plantings and campus recycling events.

To expand recycling, I hoped to gain support from the Executive Sustainability Council to use the "Hefty Orange Bag Program," which diverts hard-to-recycle plastics, such as styrofoam and film plastics, out of the landfill. In a similar manner I desired to divert compostable waste, such as paper towels and food waste, from the landfill.

To engage students in campus sustainability, I planned to host/plan several events during UNMC's Earth Month. The topics of these events would range from soil carbon sequestration to sustainable medical practices.

## Major Accomplishments

On the recycling and waste reduction front, we started a pilot campus-wide composting initiative in which bathrooms of select buildings on the Omaha campus will have composting bins for paper products, in an attempt to divert waste from the landfill. If the program is deemed a success by the Verdis Group (evaluated by random waste audit), it will be rolled out across UNMC, hopefully by the Spring of 2023. In addition, a tentative plan has been established to divert film plastic waste in a similar manner. This has led to a discussion with the UNL Office of Sustainability

about starting a similar plastic waste program at the UNMC Lincoln campus buildings (which are dependent on UNL for utilities and services).

Earth Month planning is still in the works at the time of this writing, with a ceremony planned to celebrate UNMC's status as a "Tree Campus" (Arbor Day Foundation) on April 29 at 10 a.m. This will involve the distribution of seedling trees to students, staff, and faculty (while supplies last) as well as a presentation on soil sequestration.

This year, in collaboration with the Divest NU group and the Student Regents of all four NU campuses, paired resolutions were passed expressing student concern over the NU Foundation's investment in fossil fuels and encouraging divestment.

## Opportunities for Future Growth

In addition to the annual Earth Month events, sustainability education and engagement should continue year-round. Various possibilities exist for year-round events, including e-waste recycling pick-up/drop-off, Green Space events, sustainable food/cooking events, and engaging UNMC students with environmental/public health research to present.

I believe a good place to start is to host one event each quarter. A monthly meeting with the Sustainability Manager (in the LiveGreen office) is good starting point to learn what the UNMC administration is doing on the sustainability front, as well as attendance at the quarterly Executive Sustainability Council meetings. Membership in and collaboration with the Healthy Earth Alliance (HEAL), UNMC's sole sustainability student group (a very active group at that), is highly recommended.

## Global Engagement Liaison: Benjamin McIntire



the Office of Global Engagement (OGE) and represents the student perspective at meetings of the OGE. The primary contacts in OGE are currently the associate vice chancellor of Global Engagement, Jane Meza, PhD; her administrative program associate, Lenal Bottoms; and the program director for the OGE, Sara Pirtle.

A major responsibility of the GEL is to communicate opportunities and facilitate feedback from students around education and research abroad, professional development, international student support, and local-global engagement. In addition, the GEL acts as an advocate for international students, proposes policies, identifies and supports activities on campus, and helps promote curriculum internationalization. Examples of these activities might include organizing listening sessions, focus groups, or surveys; supporting events like International Week, Culture Fest, and the OGE's International Photo Contest; advocacy for increased funding, access for education abroad, and international student support;

## Overview of Position Responsibilities

The Global Engagement Liaison (GEL) works closely with

and coordinating with relevant student organizations like Bridge to Care, International Student Association (ISA), and Student Alliance for Global Health (SAGH) on these and other activities. Much of the responsibility for this position is communication and requires approximately 4-5 hours per month.

### Goals for 2021-2022

The primary goal for this year was to attend meetings with the OGE, familiarize myself with their resources, and promote their work on campus. This is particularly important, as their office is comprised of many programs seeking to help bring international students to UNMC. Another priority was working with student-run organizations to support their goals in promoting international engagement here in Omaha and abroad. Finally, I sought to increase awareness of international opportunities for UNMC students such as study-abroad courses and volunteering.

### Major Accomplishments

This year I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Meza from the OGE and discussed the role of OGE in assisting international students, as well as some of the events and programs offered at UNMC. OGE meetings were much more infrequent this year due to issues related to the COVID pandemic, but Dr. Meza invited me to attend the four quarterly meetings that were held. OGE also included a piece on Student Senate in their quarterly newsletter, *Global Connections*, written by Lenal Bottoms to highlight the position of GEL.

It was a privilege to work with the leadership of the International Student Association. Their big event of the year was International Week (Nov. 13-19), which included a Diwali Festival, Culture Expo, workshop, lecture, movie

night, and ping-pong tournament. The Student Senate helped in promoting these events and provided the speaker system for the Diwali Festival. Making connections with Student Alliance for Global Health (SAGH) leadership is important, as this is typically a very active group with several fundraising projects for trips to international sites. This year's activities were hampered by pandemic travel restrictions, but SAGH was still active in local outreach projects such as food pantry volunteering, hosting journal club meetings, and sponsoring speakers to explore global health topics.

As for the goal of promoting study abroad and volunteering opportunities for UNMC students, unfortunately many of those opportunities and programs were placed on hold due to pandemic travel restrictions. While this turned out to be a delayed goal this year, there is still hope that next year will see a change in our ability to facilitate rotations abroad, exchange programs, and international travel once again.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

During these past two years of global pandemic, many of our programs abroad and local activities for gathering to share knowledge, culture, and relationships have suffered. However, there is a great opportunity for future growth once we reach safer levels of COVID-19 community transmission. In the meantime, finding novel ways to reach out to our global partners and supporting international students on our campus should be our highest priorities. Even though there may be travel limitations, there is still a need for healthcare and support around the globe, so our outreach and fundraising efforts may still be able to make a difference, even if students miss out on the travel and experiences which other students have had in previous years. But of course, we hope that soon we will be able to return to normal and continue to offer the excellent experiences that have been enjoyed in the past.

## IT & E-Learning Liaison: Nicole Kent



### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The role of the Student Senate Information Technology (IT) & E-Learning Liaison includes engaging the student body to assess IT needs and infrastructure, including email, the UNMC website, on-campus printers, technology on UNMC's campus, IT security, and access to UNMC IT resources on- and off-campus. The IT & E-Learning liaison also keeps a record of issues and projects related to IT and maintains open lines of communication with IT administration to allow for ease of technological transitions and collaborative transformation and improvement. In addition, the IT & E-Learning Liaison serves as a student voice on the E-Learning steering committee and a liaison between students and the E-Learning Administration.

### Goals for 2021-2022

The first goal as the IT & E-Learning Liaison was to meet

monthly with the Office of E-Learning to discuss upcoming events and potential collaborative efforts between Student Senate and the Office of E-Learning.

We also wanted to garner formal and informal feedback on E-learning and the E-Gallery from students during our various Student Senate events, including the Green Space Series (page 19) with the help of Shaker Dukkipati, Director of Student Experience.

## Major Accomplishments

Through our regular meetings with the Office of E-Learning, we were able to identify ways in which we can work together to expand our partnership and create improved learning experiences for students. One such example is our initiative to create an E-module for the UNO & UNMC Building Excellence in Academics Through STEM (uBEATS) Program, a series of E-modules offered by UNO and UNMC to enhance existing middle and high school curriculum. The target audience of this module is students in rural areas or from underrepresented groups in medicine, and our goal will be to provide advice and suggestions on how to explore and prepare for careers in medicine.

In order to minimize survey burnout and promote sharing of opinions regarding IT and E-learning in a comfortable and informal environment, our use of the Green Space Series allowed us to verbally collect new feedback and ideas from students pertaining to E-Learning as well as IT.

Student Senate's major interactions with UNMC Information Technology Services involved exploring the proposed UNMC Student Campus Technology Fee (page 37). Currently, UNMC does not have a campus-wide technology fee. In recent years, utilization of technology and network bandwidth for educational purposes has increased astronomically. As use of technology on campus has increased, so too has the need for funding to upgrade our technological capabilities. Current funding for the maintenance and upgrading of core connectivity technologies comes from annual state allocations and administrative funding (Table 2). The proposed fee requested \$150/student per semester for the fall and spring semesters. Ultimately, the fee request was not approved

<b>State annual allocations*</b>	
Academic computing	\$550,000
IT Operating (network, servers, Data Operations Center)	\$600,000
<b>Administrative funding**</b>	
	\$500,000
<b>\$1,650,000</b>	

Table 2: Breakdown of sources of funding for technology maintenance and upgrades

\*subject to % increase/decrease each fiscal year

\*\* previous contributions from Business & Finance, Research & NU Foundation

by Student Senate. Some of the concerns about the proposed fee included the increased monetary burden on students, the varying amounts already paid by students in college-level technology fees, and the varying utilization of technology by students in different programs.

## Opportunities for Future Growth

One major opportunity for growth is strengthening communication streams between Student Senate and UNMC Information Technology Services. Increasing communication with IT will give Student Senate the opportunity to learn about the ever-evolving technological needs on campus, and planned changes to IT services in order to provide student input and identify means to communicate those initiatives with the student body. A recommended first step is to set up monthly meetings with the Director of Academic Technology to establish shared goals and open communication between Student Senate and UNMC Information Technology Services. In addition, there is potential for Student Senate to collaborate more with E-Learning in the future to create E-modules for student organization leaders, student advocates, and the UNMC student body. For example, Student Senate could create E-modules to train student organization leaders on how to use UNMC ENGAGE, to guide senators on how to write Senate resolutions, or to help UNMC students learn our new fight song (page 11).



## Library & IPE Liaison: Hannah Nelson

### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The responsibilities outlined by Student Senate for the Library Liaison include collaboration with UNMC's McGoogan Health Sciences Library to report the library's activities and changes to the Senate and student body. The reporting largely focused on the library's continued

renovations, in addition to the new additions to Wittson Hall and the Wigton Heritage Center.

The Interprofessional Education (IPE) Liaison is tasked with attending meetings with UNMC's IPE Committee, participating in quarterly conference calls with the national organization for interprofessional education throughout the health professions, and coordinating with the student-run Student Interprofessional Society.

### Goals for 2021-2022

Through this position, I sought to add at least two resources to the library that are both functional and fun for students to use, document the growth of the library through individual/group study room reservations, and provide feedback on students' IPE Day experience to faculty organizers.

### Major Accomplishments

During my tenure as Student Senate's Library Liaison, there have been several areas where the library has grown in its available resources and services. Many of these are the result of communication with McGoogan Health Sciences Library's dean (Emily McElroy) and associate dean (Emily Glenn). For example, major additions to the library's furniture options include two under-the-desk cycling machines (Figure 5), 10 ergonomic kneeling chairs (Figure 6, left), and 10 swooper chairs (Figure 6, right). These additions allow for more movement and better posture as students continue their long hours of desk studying. Additionally, library administrators added coat hangers to the library's individual study rooms, increased the number of coat racks on each level of the library, added two napping pods (Figure 7) to the seventh floor, and are currently piloting the addition of large monitors to study rooms 6070 and 7003 for students to use as a dual-monitor system.

Some of the other projects I have been involved with this year include lobbying for a microwave in the Wigton Heritage Center, establishing the library as a location in Senator Susan Greni's Period Product Proposal (page 37), and encouraging the renovations of sound-proofing the medium-sized study rooms.

After its reopening on August 18th, 2020, students across all colleges have rapidly increased their use of the McGoogan Health Sciences Library. Table 2 documents this growth from July-February in the Fiscal Year 2022 compared to 2021. As you can see, the total number of library users has almost doubled for both library entrance and study room reservations. Per my last report with Dean McElroy, the library also has employed a passive people counter using a scanner mounted by the elevators. Overall entry numbers in FY21 total 27,262 and in FY22 total 61,185 (as of March 7th, 2022). These numbers are continuing to grow.

The IPE program at UNMC exists to encourage student



Figure 5: Under-the-desk cycling machines



Figure 6: Ergonomic kneeling chair (left) and swooper chair (right)



Figure 7: Napping pod

collaboration from all health care disciplines. There are two campus wide IPE Days hosted each year, one per semester, with each day having a specific goal. For instance, the Fall IPE Day—held during orientation week—begins with a clinical vignette. Student groups are made up of members from each UNMC college and are encouraged to discuss the roles of health care professionals and how to function best as a team. During IPE Committee meetings, students and faculty discuss the feedback surveys filled in by students based off their IPE Day experience. By showing direct student feedback, the IPE Committee focuses the conversation on improving the upcoming IPE Day.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

For the future, I am continuing to work with Dean McElroy and Assistant Dean Glenn to provide a sensory room as a pop-up addition to the library. The necessary items for this proposal are currently being investigated by library staff to develop a place that will run on October 3-7 and November 14-18th in the Fall of 2022. Per Assistant Dean Glenn, efforts are underway to arrange a demo over the month of July as a pre-run for projecting images and arranging items. The itemized list is still being developed with the goal of ensuring the exploration of all five senses for students entering this transformative space. Examples of these items include but are not limited to textured rugs, diffuser machines, and projector images along the walls.

Other ideas to promote this position’s growth, in addition to promoting Senate to the student body at large, include the following:

- An end-of-year open forum in which students can ask questions, provide input, and give suggestions on how they would like to see improvement of IPE Days and the McGoogan Health Sciences Library.
- Continue to implement low-barrier means to procure suggestions/feedback from students through Canvas, the UNMC website, and library QR codes.
- Suggesting to the IPE Committee that student senators take a larger role in IPE Days through setting a vision, organizing the Days’ events, or hosting group discussions.
- Entrance measured by card swipe: Multiple people in an elevator can enter the library with one card swipe.
- Study room data: Some reservations are made on behalf of student groups and some students who are employed by the university are reported in the system solely as “employees.” This makes up most of the “other” category. While many people use rooms without making reservations, this is declining as more students are competing for study space.

Library Entrance by Card Swipe by Student Affiliation*	FY21	FY22
College of Allied Health Professions	4,054	10,730
College of Dentistry	14	17
College of Medicine	8,920	10,401
College of Nursing	1,146	2,956
College of Pharmacy	1,220	1,717
College of Public Health	509	479
Graduate Studies	3,738	5,270
High School Alliance, SURP, INBRE	253	895
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,854</b>	<b>32,465</b>

Library Room Reservations by Student Affiliation*	FY21	FY22
College of Allied Health Professions	1,404	5,643
College of Dentistry	0	1
College of Medicine	3,763	6,993
College of Nursing	349	1,579
College of Pharmacy	443	869
College of Public Health	310	216
Graduate Studies	1,065	2,397
Other student use or employee student	917	472
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,251</b>	<b>18,169</b>

Table 3: Data on student use of McGoogan Health Sciences Library  
\*There are caveats with the data for both sets.



## PR Liaison: Tommy Stormberg



### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The role of the Student Senate PR Liaison is to connect with students by publicizing Senate initiatives and proposals. Additionally, the PR Liaison is to promote useful information, statements, news, and other activities from the University system. This is accomplished primarily through the UNMC Senate Twitter page, in addition to coordinating with the leaders of student organizations and faculty. The PR Liaison gathers information from leaders and faculty seeking to promote news and events and coordinates with them to determine the appropriate points of emphasis and the timeline for pushing out the information. Updates from different organizations and faculty are then organized to be promoted in a timely manner without crowding the Twitter feed. Two to three weekly tweets are considered the ideal information flow; information is promoted using this framework, while keeping in mind the urgency of the information. The PR Liaison is also Senate's point of contact to provide feedback to UNMC's Strategic Communications on various digital media strategies and University-system communications. They are expected to serve as the Senate's contact for organizations seeking support to publicize an event or relay information to the student body via social media. Additionally, they are the point of contact for any questions regarding publicized and promoted materials through social media.

### Goals for 2021-2022

The primary goal for this year was to connect the Student Senate with the student body as a whole via the use of social media. This goal was intended to facilitate the fulfillment of responsibilities held by the PR Liaison.

Second, we aimed to improve Student Senate's transparency. In order to promote engagement with and feedback from the students, publicizing resolutions and initiatives, as well as promoting Senate speakers, was an important goal for us.

Third, we sought to design a new logo for the Student Senate. This was intended to be something with staying power that could be used for many years to come. Our intention was to design a logo that could not only be used to adorn official documents and statements, but also for use on branded merchandise.

### Major Accomplishments

With regard to our primary goal for this position, a major accomplishment was the launch of the UNMC Student Senate Twitter page. The page was successfully launched at the beginning of the school year, and as of May 4, 2022 has posted 111 Tweets on a wide variety of topics. The Twitter page has grown to amass 217 followers over the course of the year and works closely with UNMC Student Success to disseminate information to the student body and the public. Tweets frequently have over 1,000 unique viewers, with our most popular Tweets reaching over 7,000 views.

We have improved Senate transparency through the use of our social media account. As previously mentioned, we have disseminated information on Senate initiatives, including the Green Space Event Series and our collaboration with the food truck offerings to promote their presence on campus. Moreover, we have released statements from Senate leadership regarding current topics such as COVID-19 and vaccination, as well as the resolution calling for the Board of Regents to reject Regent Pillen's CRT Resolution (page 37).

With help from the vision and skills of Michael Stormberg, a graphic designer, we have designed new logos for Student Senate use, pending approval. These logos will be used in social media, on Senate resolutions, and on written statements by leadership. In the future, this logo may also be used on merchandise.



Figure 8: Red and white versions of the UNMC Student Senate logo

### Opportunities for Future Growth

As a new position, there are several opportunities for future growth. I believe the most important responsibility of the PR Liaison moving forward is the expansion of student outreach beyond Twitter. This could come in many different forms; the position could expand in digital space, utilizing social media platforms such as Instagram and Reddit.



Additionally, regular updates, be it monthly, quarterly, or per semester, pushed out via email to all students regarding all Senate activities would be helpful in this mission (e.g., a semesterly report to be shared with the Student Body on what the Senate has accomplished that semester). Lastly, while the Student Senate website was revamped this year, there is an opportunity for additional improvement or a new Student Senate page as a static resource hub for all Senate-sponsored events, activities, and information.

While technically difficult for security reasons, there are opportunities to further improve the transparency of UNMC's Student Senate. This includes publicizing every resolution and initiative passed with the full resolution promoted for anyone to view. A hub where all resolutions can be accessed would be helpful in this regard. Improving accessibility of all Student Senate meetings would be the greatest stride toward transparency. With concerns of trolling and hacking over Zoom, this is made difficult, but finding a way to make all meetings accessible to all students should be a goal for the PR Liaison.

## Policy & Advocacy Liaison: Aubree Ford



During the legislative session, which begins in January of each year, the Policy & Advocacy Liaison is expected to attend weekly UNMC Legislative Team meetings. The Legislative team is currently headed by Bob Bartee, vice chancellor for external relations, and is further comprised of UNMC administration members, deans, professors, clinical ethicists, state lobbyists along with many other UNMC community members. Student representation includes the Policy & Advocacy Liaison, Student Senate President, and Student Delegate Co-Presidents. At each meeting, there is an opportunity to communicate the efforts made by students on different items of legislation. In this role, the liaison should discuss any concerns about legislation from a student interest.

### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The two primary responsibilities for the Policy & Advocacy Liaison are to collaborate with the UNMC Student Delegates group and to provide the UNMC Legislative Team with input regarding student interests. Ultimately, these two roles work synergistically together and allow for collaboration between Student Senate, Student Delegates and the UNMC Legislative Team.

UNMC Student Delegates is an interdisciplinary student organization comprised of students from all colleges who are interested in governmental policy and advocacy. The group hosts educational events about different legislative topics and advocates on behalf of student-selected legislation in the Nebraska Unicameral each spring. The Policy & Advocacy Liaison is expected to attend Student Delegates meetings throughout the year, which are typically monthly and increase to weekly meetings during the legislative session. It is encouraged that the position communicates relevant policy issues with Senators to increase awareness of policy issues that may be of interest to the general student body. Student Delegates also organizes a visit to the State Capitol in Lincoln, NE where the Policy & Advocacy Liaison and other students can meet with State Senators and advocate for UNMC and other student interests.

### Goals for 2021-2022

My two primary goals in this position were to increase communication and encourage engagement with policy issues and advocacy efforts at an Institutional and State level. I aimed to create clear avenues of communication for students to stay updated on developing policy issues and communicate ongoing advocacy efforts happening on campus. Further, I wanted to encourage students to get involved with policy and advocacy no matter what level of previous experience they had in these areas. Specifically, I wanted to provide more opportunities for students to further develop skills in advocacy and feel confident to stand up for issues they are passionate about.

### Major Accomplishments

Throughout this year, I was pleased to accomplish several different tasks pertaining to relevant policy issues and encouraging student advocacy. These were all possible by working in collaboration with other members of Student Senate and members within the Student Delegates organization.

First, I composed a resolution in support of UNMC sponsored proposals for funds allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA, page 37) that was passed by the UNMC Student Senate. ARPA was a federally funded relief package introduced in lieu of the COVID-19 pandemic which aimed to provide funds to promote public health and



economic relief initiatives. Through this package, Nebraska was allocated over \$1 billion of funds. UNMC specific bills included proposals for a UNMC-UNK Rural Health Complex, a Pancreatic Cancer Research institute and a UNMC Global Center for Health Security. In my capacity as the Policy & Advocacy Liaison, I visited the Nebraska State Capitol with Student Delegates to meet with State Senators and advocate for these proposals.

Second, I wrote a resolution that was passed by the UNMC Student Senate expressing opposition to LB1077, a bill that would “prohibit public schools, public postsecondary institutions, and governmental entities from training or teaching certain concepts relating to race and sex and provide for withholding of state funds” (page 37). Briefly, if passed by the Nebraska State Legislature, this bill would have restricted basic rights pertaining to academic freedom and jeopardize future accreditation for many academic programs across UNMC colleges.

Finally, I was able to plan and host an Advocacy Workshop in collaboration with UNMC Student Delegates. This workshop included a Nebraska unicameral crash course, a review of ARPA funding and UNMC ARPA proposals,

and an advocacy 101 session. In total, over 20 students across several different colleges were in attendance. The workshop was well received and encouraged student engagement with policy that is directly relevant to UNMC and its students.

### *Opportunities for Future Growth*

I believe there is an unquantifiable amount of potential growth for the Policy & Advocacy Liaison in the upcoming years. It is my hope that the Advocacy Workshop with Student Delegates will be an annual event to instill confidence in students and feel confident with advocacy. I also hope that the number of students submitting letters of support or opposition to legislative bills increases every year. Additionally, I think it would be wonderful to continually increase the turnout of students who participate in the State Capitol visits.

Another opportunity for development would be to further strengthen communication between Student Senate and the student body. One potential idea would be to have policy updates included in Vitals and to share advocacy tips in these communications.

## **Health & Wellness Liaison: Alyssa Spartz**



### *Overview of Position Responsibilities*

The role of UNMC’s Student Senate Health and Wellness Liaison can be broken down into three parts based on different areas and resources offered at UNMC.

The first area of responsibility for this position is associated with campus wellness. The individual in this position is responsible for working closely with the UNMC wellness coordinator and helping plan events to improve campus wellness. It is crucial to note that, while there is a significant emphasis on mental health, multiple dimensions of wellness should be considered for this position. For example, the UNMC wellness website lists eight wellness dimensions that should be recognized when developing

events, activities, and other initiatives.

The second area of responsibility is associated with overall student health and the UNMC Student Health Clinic as a resource on campus. Responsibilities for this section include assessing issues related to student health services and prescription benefits, appropriately addressing issues regarding student health services in a professional manner, and effectively communicating significant changes to student health services or prescription benefits to students through the Senate and the campus-wide emailing system if necessary.

The third area of responsibility is associated with the Center for Healthy Living. The responsibilities for this section of the position can be broken down into the following three parts: engaging with the student body to assess issues regarding the center, collecting student opinions on any structural or equipment changes, and serving as a contact for both the student body and for the center administration.

### *Goals for 2021-2022*

The first goal identified for this position was to add more health and wellness resources to the syllabus template used by all colleges. Since students may have trouble knowing what resources are available, the inclusion of these resources would serve as a consistent, updated list for students each semester. Additionally, having faculty highlight these resources in class may serve to reduce the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health.



The second goal for this position was to purchase and distribute various resources, such as standing or walking desks, to help facilitate and encourage movement while students are studying on campus.

The third goal for this position was to aid the UNMC wellness coordinator with updating the wellness website to be more user-friendly and feature more valuable content for students, faculty, and staff.

### Major Accomplishments

While none of the initially listed goals above were accomplished, several other accomplishments were achieved through this position.

First, since the start of the Spring 2022 semester, mental wellness checks were held at each of the bi-weekly Senate meetings to understand how individuals in the Senate were doing and if extra support may be needed. Another purpose of these mental wellness checks was to emphasize and build a connection between everyone in Senate that it is okay not to be at your top level of mental wellness and that others are likely also not always at their peak levels of wellness.

The second accomplishment achieved through this position was creating a Student Senate Leadership Video Series Student Leadership Series (page 11, Hannah Tandon, Vice President) to help educate and develop new and upcoming student leaders on campus, especially individuals holding leadership positions within student organizations. Videos in this series will include a variety of crucial topics, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion, mental health and wellness, and the services offered by numerous campus resources.

Next, another critical achievement through this position was helping advocate for changes in the campus COVID-19

policies and guidelines to ensure students were being provided with a safe learning environment. This was primarily accomplished during the Omicron wave at the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester, as adjustments needed to be made to the formats being offered for courses.

Another accomplishment related to COVID-19 achieved was communicating with UNMC colleges to help recruit volunteers for contact tracing. Identifying volunteer contact tracers was essential during the beginning of the Spring 2022 semester for the Omicron wave as campus resources became overwhelmed with the number of positive student cases.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

Since student health and wellness is a broad topic associated with numerous components and resources, one potential opportunity for future growth is splitting this position into multiple positions or having multiple individuals as health and wellness liaisons. As demonstrated in this report, COVID-19 has significantly impacted multiple dimensions of student health and wellness. It also presented an obstacle for accomplishing the goals I originally set out to achieve in this position (as more time-sensitive issues arose). Addressing these issues alone would provide more than enough work for the individual in this position. Therefore, having multiple individuals hold this position could allow for greater bandwidth to address a wider range of health and wellness needs. This could be accomplished by dividing the position into multiple roles that are focused on the different dimensions of wellness as defined by UNMC. This will help to clearly delineate who will be focusing on what specific areas, but individuals in these positions would still work closely together since the dimensions of wellness are interconnected.

## Community Engagement Liaison: Linda Huynh



### Overview of Position Responsibilities

The role of UNMC's Community Engagement Liaison is centered on student engagement and community involvement throughout UNMC. Working with the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office (SLIDO) as well as the Office of Community Engagement (OCE), this liaison works to collect and maintain a list of current student organization leaders, customize and implement UNMC ENGAGE, create streamlined information for students interested in starting new student organizations, and increase awareness for institutional and Senate resources.

### Goals for 2021-2022

The first goal identified for this position was to increase inter- and intra- campus engagement and collaboration. Since many of the resources from SLIDO and OCE

extend beyond the UNMC campus, we hoped to extend involvement into the community, other NU system campuses, and across the different colleges at UNMC.

The second goal identified for this position was to increase inter-organization collaboration in event planning and execution. Given that many groups on campus have overlapping goals within their missions, joint events presented opportunities for combined funding, networking between student leaders, and community amongst general members.

### Major Accomplishments

The first goal was accomplished for a select number of organizations at UNMC. Most notable were those of the College of Medicine Class of 2024 and Class of 2023. Resources such as funding opportunities via Student Senate, the Alumni Association, and OCE were shared widely across class officers, yielding an increase in funding applications and successful funding to a variety of events organized by the classes. Examples include the Hispanic Heritage Month event in September 2021, co-sponsored by the M2 class philanthropy chairs and OCE. Similarly, the M1 philanthropy chairs recently applied for and were granted funds to host a volleyball tournament fundraiser, golf tournament fundraiser, movie night fundraiser, and materials for letters for children in the hospital.

Second to the Class of 2024 and Class of 2023 was work with new student organizations on campus in accomplishing the second goal – one example being the Asian American Pacific Islander Student Association on campus. Successful collaborative events held by this organization that extended into the community, other NU system campuses, and across the different colleges at UNMC included a Lunar New Year lantern and moon cake celebration, pumpkin carving social, and several tailgating events.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

Much of the work accomplished herein has been due to overlapping responsibilities and previous connections with student organizations on campus. As such, one opportunity to increase reach would be to further network with student leaders on campus and present this position as a leverage point for increase resources and funding. Furthermore, as restrictions from COVID-19 ease up, opportunities for in-person events will increase, enabling more cross-campus and inter-organization collaborations.

## Committee Reports Activities Committee



### Overview of Committee Responsibilities

The role of the Activities Committee is to plan and coordinate all Student Senate events and to formulate new activities throughout UNMC that keep student engaged while maintaining physical distancing recommendations.

### Goals for 2021-2022

1. Out: Promoting outdoor activities outside of campus facilitated by Senate resources (Sporting events, Service Day/MLK Day, Lauritzen Gardens, etc.)
2. In: Putting together on-campus activities in conjunction with campus/community partners
3. Together: Co-sponsoring student events in collaboration with small student organizations

### Major Accomplishments

As a committee, we were able to achieve the goals we set out for ourselves. Following the model of *out, in, and together*, we were able to put together a series of activities over the year that met physical distancing recommendations.

First, we hosted several events outside of the UNMC campus in the Omaha area including multiple tailgating events at Werner Park with the Union Omaha soccer team and an event at the Omaha Zoo. Second, we were able to put together several on-campus activities every month working with SLIDO, the Faculty Senate, UNMC Wellness, the McGoogan Library and others. These included events with food such as ice cream, chili and hot drinks, and food trucks. Lastly, we were able to work with student organizations including diversity, inclusion, and equity-focused student organizations and the ASDA (a dental student organization) to put together collaborative events for the UNMC campuses in Omaha and Lincoln. To execute these events, the committee relied heavily on the chair and the co-chair as well as other members to plan and host

Date (Week of)	Event	Attendance
27-Aug	Ice Cream Social	275
9-Sep	See Us, Hear Us Spoken Word and Poetry	155
17-Sep	Tailgating for the Oklahoma game in Omaha	103
24-Sep	Ice Cream Social	134
1-Oct	Ice Cream Social	97
8-Oct	Fall BBQ with Open Mic	122
15-Oct	Student/faculty/staff Connections Fall Games	128
23-Oct	Pumpkin Carving with DEI groups	40
29-Oct	Disability Advocacy networking	53
6-Nov	Tailgating in Lincoln with dental student group	56
13-Nov	Union Omaha playoff game	37
3-Dec	Ice Skating Night	39
10-Dec	Winter Holiday Celebration	75
21-Jan	Ice Skating Night	37
28-Jan	Ice Skating Night	31
4-Feb	Ice Skating Night	5
11-Feb	Ice Skating Night	23
18-Feb	Ice Skating Night	32
4-Mar	Ice Cream Social	183
1-Apr	Ice Cream Social	111
8-Apr	Yard games/food truck event (Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week)	95
23-Apr	Soccer Tailgate and Game	18
29-Apr	De-Stress Week Pet Therapy and Food event (multi-campus)	162
6-May	Multicultural Event - Colors and Cream	116

Table 4: Attendance numbers for Student Senate events

events. Committee meetings were utilized to help plan future events and to coordinate plans for upcoming events.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

There are a few areas ripe for potential growth. First, the committee did not organize many intra-Senate events this

year largely due to physical distancing restrictions and our focus on external activities. It was difficult to entice Senate representatives to attend our committee’s external events (beyond members of the Activities Committee) and this might have been alleviated by more intra-Senate activities to build community within Senate beyond our usual at-large/committee meetings. We intend to host an end-of-the-year gathering for Senators, but we suggest future years should target at least two intra-Senate events per semester in the future. This should include one at the beginning of the year, which could include our campus partners who will be working with Senate liaisons and committee chairs over the course of the year. Second, it may be important to spread out Activities Committee responsibilities amongst a greater number of Senate representatives. With the increased number of events this year, it was exceedingly difficult to have committee members execute events (with already busy schedules), especially when there was no specific incentive to be more involved. It may be necessary to involve the whole Senate in executing Senate events moving forward, in order to meet the scope of demands. Perhaps the Activities committee as it is currently structured could focus on intra-Senate activities, and the whole Senate can be involved in executing Senate events for the campuses at-large.

## Academic Affairs Committee



### Overview of Committee Responsibilities

The role of UNMC Student Senate’s Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) focuses on the functioning and improvement of academics and education at UNMC. Committee members attend monthly at-large Senate meetings as well as monthly AAC meetings. The committee is responsible for organizing the annual campus-wide mock interview week offered to various colleges on campus. Additionally, the AAC is responsible for selecting Student Senate awards recipients including the Student Impact, Distinguished Teacher, and Distinguished Mentor awards. Finally, members are responsible for surveying and addressing concerns related to academics brought to the attention of Student Senate throughout the school year.

## Committee Goals for 2021-2022

The first identified goal for the AAC included increasing the participation and recognition of the annual Student Senate awards. It was recognized in previous years that there was a lack of participation in the nomination process and that the Student Senate awards were not well-known amongst students, faculty, and staff. The objective goal for our committee was to obtain nominations from >5 of UNMC's colleges.

Secondly, we hoped to increase the number of colleges who would actively participate in the annual mock-interview week organized by UNMC's student senate. The goal of this function is to increase availability of this resource to students in every college. Our objective goal was to coordinate and offer interviews for students of >3 different colleges. This would be an increase from 2 colleges in 2020-2021.

## Major Accomplishments

The first major accomplishment of this group was with the participation of more colleges in the 2021-2022 mock interview week. This relatively new project for the AAC was able to introduce the College of Nursing to the annual Student Senate Mock Interview week, along with continuing participation from College of Medicine and the College of Public Health. This not only increased the availability of mock interviews to students on campus, but also improved awareness of this resource to students of colleges who provide the resource year-round in preparation for professional or post-graduate education program interviews.

Another great accomplishment by the committee was obtaining nominations from every college on UNMC's campus for the Student Senate Awards. With help from senators outside of the committee, the communication to individual colleges and promotion of these awards contributed to successfully obtaining 40 total nominations for the various Student Senate awards. This compares to 23 nominations during the 2020-2021 year.

Another noteworthy accomplishment was coordinating a banquet with the Office of Community Engagement (OCE) and the Student Life Inclusion and Diversity Office (SLIDO) to honor recipients of awards from various groups on campus. This was carried out in coordination with the Director of Student Experience and the Activities Committee. This not only served to publicize the event, but also increased the sense of accomplishment for recipients of this award by growing the footprint of the event. To perpetuate this banquet will certainly popularize the nomination process and celebrations of Student Senate awards in the future.

## Opportunities for Future Growth

Though the Academic Affairs Committee had many amazing accomplishments, there were goals that went unmet and new ideas yet to be implemented. The first opportunity for future growth involves improving the participation in Student Senate's Mock Interview Week. With improved communication to students through avenues including Daily Vitals and the Student Senate Twitter account (Public Relations Liaison, page 29), there is potential to increase awareness of these resources to students on campus and celebrate this resource during the Mock Interview Week.

Another area of interest for the Academic Affairs Committee that was not addressed during the 2021-2022 school year is the potential to survey the various administrative groups on campus and gather their concerns with the changing state of academic structures on campus. We have received plenty of information regarding concerns and ideas from students regarding the dependency on E-learning and the various resource changes on campus with the pandemic, but there is great interest from individual senators regarding surveying the hopes and concerns of faculty and staff members on campus. This could potentially be through a survey that can be summarized and distributed to administration on campus.

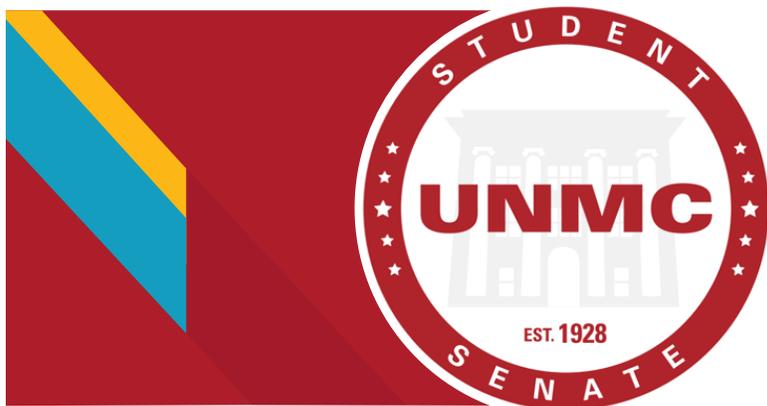


Brooke Fitzpatrick of the Office of Community Engagement presents Ka-Chun (Joseph) Siu, PhD, with the Distinguished Mentor Award.



Student representatives from the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity pose for a picture after winning the Community Health Education Award.

## Issues Committee



### Overview of Committee Responsibilities

Generally, the Issues Committee oversees the review and awarding of BOSS proposals. The only permanent seat is the vice president, who serves as chair. Other Senators are welcome to join the committee as are interested.

### Committee Goals for 2021-22

This year, our committee sought to:

- Revamp BOSS proposal application
- Create a BOSS proposal feedback form to identify areas for improvement
- Create a leadership seminar series

### Major Accomplishments

#### Benefitting Organizations through Student Senate (BOSS) proposals

BOSS proposals are a formal means by which Student Senate can fund student organizations and initiatives. Though criteria are adjusted year-to-year, the only requirement of these proposals is that they must be open to and primarily benefit students. Proposals are submitted by individual students and are evaluated by the UNMC Student Senate Issues Committee.

From September 2021 to February 2022, the Issues Committee received five BOSS proposals. The full text of these applications can be found in the Issues Committee subfolder on Teams. A listing of BOSS proposals awarded can be found in the section on External Spending (page 9).

#### *BOSS Proposal application revamp*

To improve the ability for the Issues Committee to assess proposals, we added additional questions for establishing scope of impact, degree to which a proposal will impact key areas of interest including diversity, equity, inclusion, and wellness, alternative funding sources, and agility for changing COVID restrictions. We also included space for

groups to share the timeline for their funding request and request one-time expedited review for events occurring within 30 days of the application. A PDF of our updated form is available in the Issues Committee subfolder on Teams.

#### *BOSS proposal feedback form*

Historically, student organizations have not fully utilized their BOSS awards. We created a new feedback form for organizations to report barriers to funding access. We received one response that was provided by a person who was not responsible for handling the finances of their organization and therefore did not have feedback to provide. A PDF of our feedback form is available in the Issues Committee subfolder on Teams.

### Leadership seminar series

The issues committee identified a need for student leaders to receive additional information on funding resources, how to use technology to promote and structure their organizations, and leadership strategies for managing diverse and inclusive teams. Initially, we planned to host in-person seminars, but with changing COVID guidelines and an interest in developing a durable resource, we pivoted to recording videos that will be posted on the Student Senate website covering leadership topics. The 11 videos feature contributions from Dele Davies, MD, Krysta Larson, UNMC Wellness, UNMC's Ombuds program, and the UNMC Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. These videos are housed on the Student Senate website.

### Opportunities for Future Growth

#### BOSS proposals

I would encourage continuing to seek feedback from BOSS proposal awardees to identify areas for improvement. The one response we received this year was from someone who did not directly handle the BOSS award after the application submission, so their feedback was of limited use.

#### Leadership seminar series

This project would benefit from occasional refreshment of content, especially as new avenues for student organization funding emerge.

#### Issues reporting in Vitals

We discussed embedding a survey in Vitals where students could report any challenges they would like to share with Senate. The form could allow students to categorize their comments/questions by category for which we have liaison positions to help direct them to the Senator best equipped to help. To do this, you would need to coordinate with the Communications Specialist housed in the Division of Student Success (Krysta Larson).

# Resolutions

## Passed Resolutions

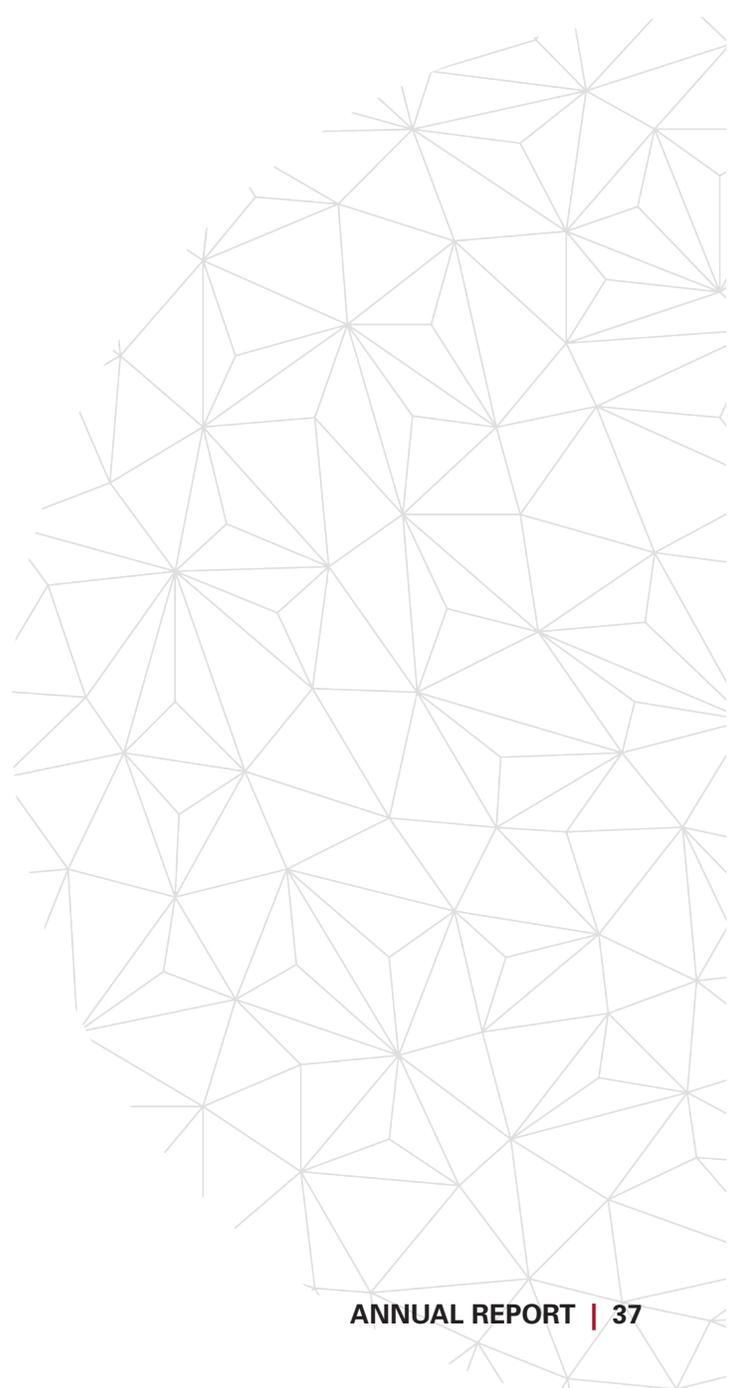
- On Academic Freedom and Regent Pillen's Resolution Addressing Critical Race Theory (7/31/2021)
- On the Lasting Impact of Walter and Suzanne Scott (10/06/2021)
- In support of UNMC Sponsored Proposals for Funds Allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act (11/17/2021)
- On Institutional Divestment from CU 200 Companies (2/10/2022)
- In Opposition to LB 1077 (2/10/2022)
- On the proposed UNMC Student Access and Success Fee Expansion (2/25/2022)
- On the proposed UNMC Student Senate Seat Redistribution (2/25/2022)
- In Support of Adopting Logo for UNMC Student Senate (4/27/2022)

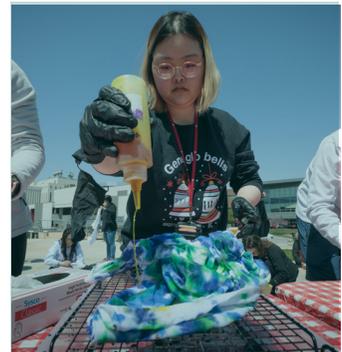
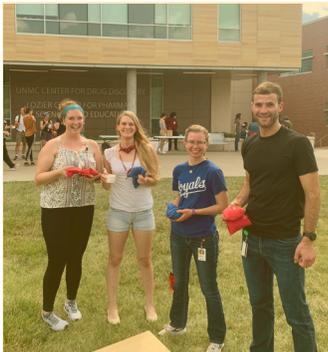
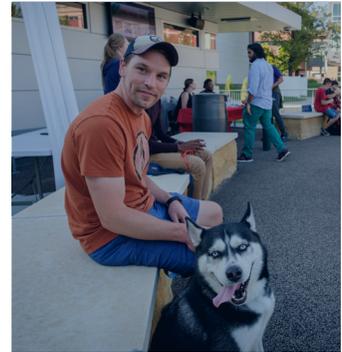
## Passed Spending Resolutions

- Green Space Series Funding
  - 4/13/2021
  - 8/25/2021
  - 1/21/2022
- Funding for Chancellor Gold Town Hall (10/20/2021)
- UNMC Student Senate Blood Drive (10/20/2021)
- Student Organization Stimulus Plan (1/21/2022)
- Pet Madness (3/09/2022)
- State Senator Leadership and Advocacy Panel (3/09/2022)
- Menstrual Equity (3/23/2022)
- Intra-Senate Get Together (4/20/2022)

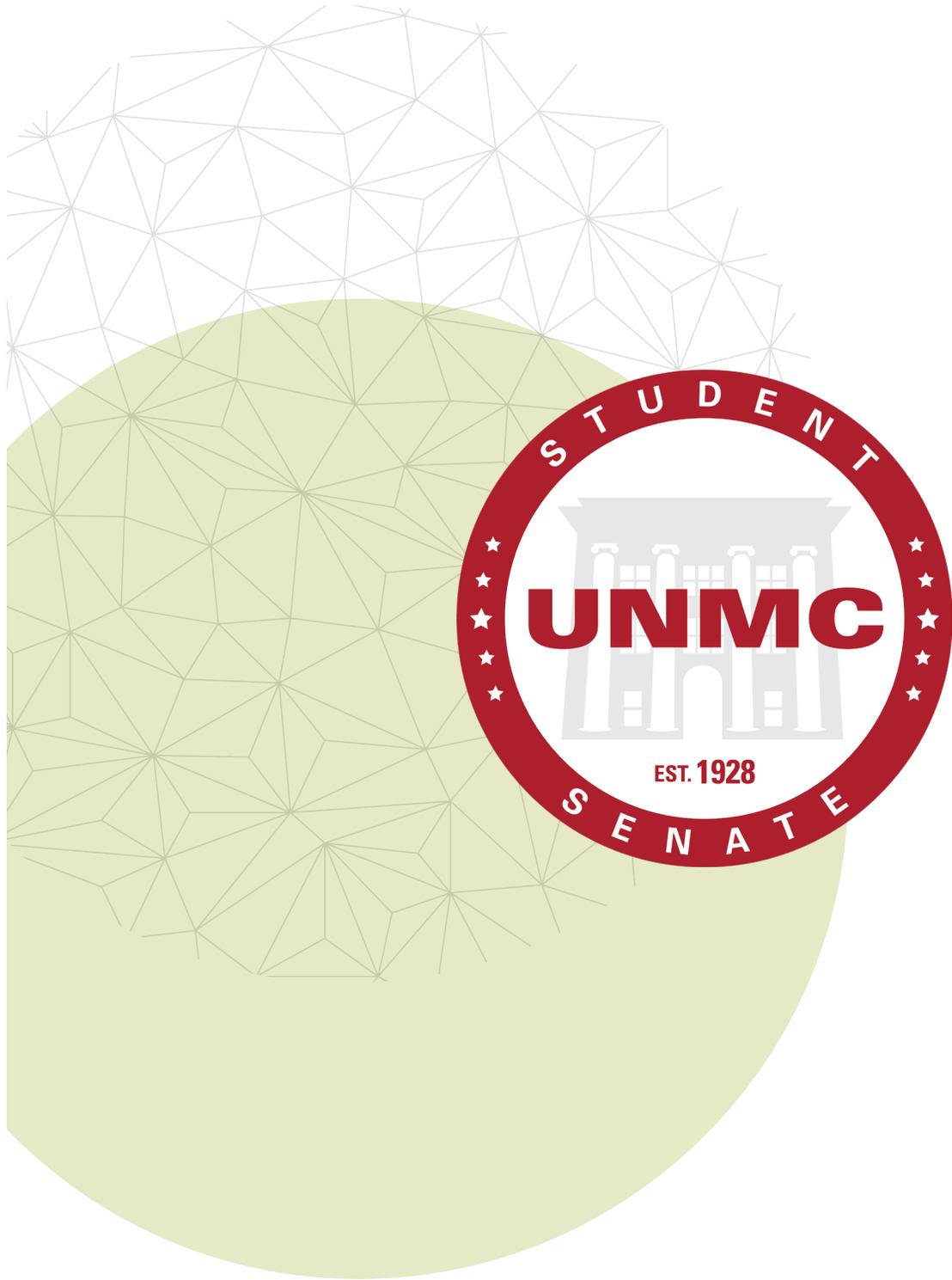
## Rejected Resolutions

- On the proposed UNMC Campus Technology Fee (2/25/2022)









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