

# Candidate Profiles

Student Government Association

Elections

2025 – 2026



# Table of Contents

Executive Tickets.....	4
Drew Leisy – Student Body President (Unify UNO) .....	5
Adivi Rai – Vice President (Unify UNO) .....	7
Gio Gomez – Chief of Staff (Unify UNO) .....	9
Carlos Irizarry Gumbs – Student Body President (The Torch).....	10
Roselyn (Rosie) Rangel – Vice President (The Torch) .....	12
Amir Elrefaie – Chief of Staff (The Torch) .....	13
College of Arts and Sciences - Senators .....	15
Nasrin Elrokhsi – Senator .....	16
Isabella Mitchell –Senator.....	17
Bryan Benitez –Senator .....	18
Aagya Sapkota –Senator .....	19
Sofia Acosta –Senator .....	20
College of Business Administration - Senators.....	22
Jake Moore - Senator .....	23
Anthony Klanderud - Senator .....	24
College of Communication, Fine Arts, & Media - Senators.....	25
Brandon Lopez-Pereira –Senator.....	26
Chavon Hawthorne – Senator .....	27
Morgann Gardner – Senator .....	28
Lilian Johnson – Senator.....	29
College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences - Senators .....	30
Miles Clarke – Senator .....	31
Darian Dunn – Senator .....	32
Yoselin Melgar Serrano – Senator .....	33
College of Information Science & Technology – Senators .....	35
Haroon Shaik – Senator .....	36
Stephanie (Steph) Simmons – Senator.....	37
Ivan Aviles Sebastian – Senator .....	38
Audrey Bishop – Senator .....	41

# Table of Contents

Lucy Martin – Senator.....	42
Brooklyn Williams – Senator.....	43
Brenna Snyder – Senator .....	45
Kyra Piper – Senator .....	46
Graduate Studies – Senators .....	47
Erin Wiseman - Senator.....	48
Jade Evans - Senator .....	49
Sheldon Brennemann – Senator .....	50

## Executive Tickets

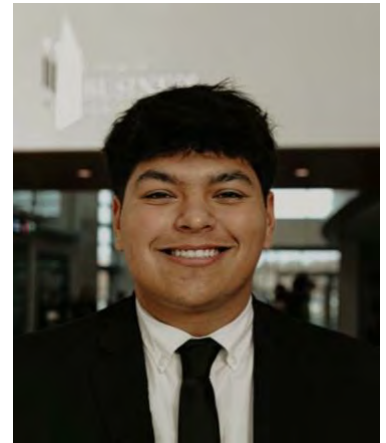
### Unify UNO



**Drew Leisy**  
Student Body President



**Aditi Rai**  
Vice President



**Gio Gomez**  
Chief of Staff

## The Torch



**Carlos Irizarry Gumbs**  
Student Body President



**Rosie Rangel**  
Vice President



**Amir Elrefaie**  
Chief of Staff

# Executive Tickets

## Drew Leisy – Student Body President (Unify UNO)



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Government because our campus needs a strong, dedicated leader who truly represents the student body. Over the past year, the defunding of SGA and its Agencies has created significant challenges, creating distrust and inequity among students, representatives, and faculty/administrators. As Student Regent, I am committed to bridging these divides and rebuilding trust. My goal is to ensure that every student—on and off campus—feels heard, valued, and represented. Students are the heart of our university, and as the largest stakeholders, they deserve a leader who will advocate for their interests at both the campus and NU system levels.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

While there are several pressing issues on campus that I aim to address, one stands out as particularly urgent: the need for a clear and equitable AI policy. Artificial Intelligence tools have become an integral part of modern education, providing students with valuable resources to enhance their learning. However, the lack of a well-defined AI policy has led to confusion and inconsistencies, with students unfairly penalized for utilizing these tools. This issue is significant because it directly impacts academic fairness and students' ability to adapt to evolving technologies. As part of my campaign, I am committed to collaborating with administration to establish a transparent and comprehensive AI policy. My goal is to ensure students can confidently and responsibly use AI without the fear of losing points, while also addressing faculty concerns and maintaining academic integrity. This policy is crucial for empowering students and preparing them for success in a technology-driven future.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

Six months ago, I joined SGA as the Director of Finance and was quickly met with challenges, including an audit and defunding within my first six weeks. These obstacles required swift action, and I played a key role in creating the current purchasing plan, which ensures long-term stability for student agencies. My hands-on experience during this time uniquely equips me to address the needs of these agencies. From day one, my mission has been to represent every student on campus. I value every voice and strive to make balanced decisions that benefit the entire student body. As Director of Finance, I also lead the annual Student Budget Activities Commission, where Tier 1 Organizations present their funding requests. Under my leadership, we achieved a historic student fee reduction of \$0.18—the first decrease in nearly two decades—while UNL

## Executive Tickets

recently increased theirs by \$22. At my core, I am dedicated to serving students and ensuring that every decision I make aligns with their best interests and creates a lasting positive impact.

# Executive Tickets

## Aditi Rai – Vice President (Unify UNO)



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I'm running for Student Government because I believe in its potential to create a meaningful impact on campus. Student Government can advocate for policy changes that directly affect students. Whether influencing university decisions, improving campus resources, or addressing student concerns, Student Government can bring about real change. However, for this change to truly happen, it needs to function as a united and transparent body. As Vice President, I want to strengthen the connection between the executive team, the Senate, and the agencies, ensuring every member is empowered to take action. The Senate has significant influence in shaping policies and advancing initiatives. But progress is often slowed due to a lack of communication and transparency. By allowing for open dialogue and creating an environment where senators and agency directors feel informed and supported, I will help create a more unified Student Government that truly represents and advocates for students. A strong Student Government, built on a foundation of unity and trust, can amplify the student voices on campus, advocate for meaningful change, and create lasting change.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue I want to address at UNO is ensuring all campus resources are truly accessible. Too often, students miss out on essential services because they don't know they exist or struggle to use them. A major concern is the Accessibility Services Center portal. Many students have expressed their frustration with how difficult it is to navigate the website. A resource meant to support students should not be a barrier in itself. I will work with various departments to ensure no student struggles to receive the support they need to succeed during their time at UNO. But, this is just one piece of a broader issue. There are many resources at UNO that students either struggle to access or don't even know exist. From ensuring that campus shuttles are reliable and accessible to raising awareness about services like free legal services and mental health resources, I want to make sure every student can take full advantage of the support available to them. By working with the necessary stakeholders, I am committed to ensuring that all students can thrive at UNO.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

My leadership experience and passion for advocacy make me well-qualified to serve on Student Government. As the current Senator for the College of IS&T, I have worked to create a more supportive and inclusive campus by advocating for student needs. I've helped foster a welcoming environment through events like Messages of Love, fought for equal opportunities for student campus workers, and pushed for DEIA efforts. Currently, I'm working with various stakeholders to develop an AI policy in response to student concerns. Beyond Student Government, I support students through my involvement in the Honors Student Association and CIST Student Advisory Board, where I help expand academic opportunities. As a Global

## Executive Tickets

Diplomat, I assist international students in adjusting to life in the U.S., ensuring they feel welcomed and supported. Outside of UNO, I serve as the Executive Secretary for an international nonprofit supporting over 15,000 volunteers worldwide, where I advocate for volunteer needs and improve organizational efficiency. My experience in leadership and passion for advocacy will allow me to strengthen Student Government's impact and ensure it remains a united force for change.



# Executive Tickets

## Gio Gomez – Chief of Staff (Unify UNO)



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Body Chief of Staff because I want to help build a stronger, more connected student government that can effectively support and represent the student body, especially during times when change is becoming more frequent and impactful for our agencies and students. These changes, without clear communication and effective alternative solutions, can be detrimental to our university by creating unnecessary confusion and disconnection. In this role, I hope to continue fostering a sense of unity within student government, ensuring that every director, senator, and representative has the necessary insight to make informed decisions on behalf of the student body. Additionally, I want to ensure that our student-run agencies have the necessary resources and guidance to thrive during these times of transition.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

UNO faces challenges with division, whether it's with your political beliefs, major, student organizations, or even which campus you're on. As someone who is deeply involved across different organizations, I've seen firsthand how much people actually have in common despite their visible differences. Since the pandemic, UNO has struggled to rebuild its sense of community, and I want to help change that. By fostering more cross-campus events, encouraging collaboration between student organizations, and creating safe and welcoming spaces for open dialogue, I hope to help bridge these divides. Doing so will allow students to find comfort in the ways they are alike while also learning from and appreciating how they differ from one another. It is through our ability to embrace our commonalities and differences that we can build a stronger and more connected university.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

When I started at UNO, I immediately recognized a lack of community and connection across campus, which motivated me to get involved to help make a difference. I joined the First Year Leadership Council because I wanted to help address this issue. However, I quickly realized that the council was extremely disorganized, leading to nothing meaningful being accomplished. This experience opened my eyes to just how much work needed to be done to improve student engagement and collaboration on campus, which is why I applied for Student Government shortly after. Since then, I've had the opportunity to represent my peers and advocate for initiatives that benefit students as a Senator for two terms. My time on the Budget Committee has allowed me to work with agencies to ensure they receive the necessary funding to support their programs. Additionally, my leadership roles as president of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and president of the Pre-Law Society, along with my work with Free the Facts, a nonprofit focused on bridging divides between individuals with differing perspectives, have strengthened my ability to bring people together, take initiative, and drive real change.

# Executive Tickets

## Carlos Irizarry Gumbs – Student Body President (The Torch)



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I have been a proud member of the UNO community for the past five years, contributing to various student communities. Since I joined SGA, I knew that true advocacy starts with connecting with our student body and listening to their issues, and over the 2024-2025 academic year, my mission to strengthen SGA's connection with the student body has come to life through collaboration with our student leaders, alumni, staff, and faculty at UNO, leading to meaningful advocacy and real change. I am running for Student Body President/Regent to take this advocacy beyond campus ensuring UNO's voice reaches the NU system and Nebraska's government so we can create long lasting change for current and future student generations. As

Student Body President, I will work alongside my executive team, senators, Student Organizations (RSO's) student leaders, Greek Life student leaders and the entire student body to uplift student voices in our campus, advocate for student body, and improve student life for students in our student body and beyond. Together, we will ensure that UNO's values and student concerns are not just heard but drive real change on campus, across the NU system, Nebraska, and beyond.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

UNO has an issue with investing in its Student Organizations (RSOs) and Greek Life communities, which are essential to student life and campus engagement. Without students, UNO would be just buildings where people take classes and go home, but thanks to our student communities, campus life is more than academics it is a place where friendships, relationships, and lifelong memories are made. For many, RSOs and Greek Life are not just organizations but the reason they stay at UNO, providing a sense of belonging, purpose, and support. RSOs and Greek Life deserve more support and investment, as many organizations contribute significantly to campus but remain unrecognized. Many RSO's presidents juggle their organizational duties while working multiple jobs, driven by their love for the UNO community, yet their efforts often go unnoticed. While monetary compensation is unlikely, UNO can better recognize, invest in, and uplift these communities by supporting their mission to build student connections and host great events. As SGA, we must advocate, support, highlight achievements, collaborate, and uplift student organizations to ensure every student feels seen, welcomed, and loved at UNO.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I have been an active member of the UNO community for 5 years in where I contributed to various student communities. In where I eventually became a peer mentor for the Success Academy office in where I assisted in helping various scholarship student cohorts and mainly helped the dreamer's pathway program

## Executive Tickets

scholarship group. That eventually lead to me becoming a senator for SGA in spring semester of 2024, in where I gain experience in SGA and was able to learn its strengths and gaps. That lead to my current position of Student Wellness Coordinator in where I have been able to bridge the gap between SGA and the student body, Student Organizations (RSO's), and Greek Life student community ensuring that all student in our campus voices are heard and represented in SGA. My experiences in advocacy, collaboration, and leadership have allowed me to work alongside student leaders, staff, faculty, and administration to address key campus issues and improve our student campus student life. My ability to listen, strategize, and take action makes me a strong advocate for students. I am committed to ensuring SGA remains transparent, accountable, and truly represents the UNO student body.

# Executive Tickets

## Roselyn (Rosie) Rangel – Vice President (The Torch)



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

My name is Rosie Rangel, and I am running for University of Nebraska-Omaha's student body's Vice President in Student Government Association. I have been in SGA since my freshman year and have loved being a part of something so special and important for the student body. I believe that when we are struck with adversity and defeat, we must persevere and advocate for better outcome and change. It is important that the student body not only hear about change, but they see change. As a running Vice President, it is my job and due diligence to ensure that we are connecting and bridge the gap between the general student body and SGA. Although those in SGA hold a position of power, we are still students just like you. My ultimate purpose has always been to serve my community and the individual needs of the people, and I believe that running for Vice President in Student Government Association will emphasize and strengthen my abilities to do so. I am looking for a better future for our student body and achieving what seems impossible.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One of issue across campus that I believe we should address is bridging the gap between the general student body and Student Government Association. We serve around 15,000 students every year and we continuously see the general student body either not knowing what SGA is or what SGA does. This defeats the purpose of SGA as a whole because we want to be able to have student feedback and have a relationship where students have a platform to voice their concerns, and we want to increase the amount of student interest in what SGA has to offer and how this organization can strengthen and help their own communities that they're a part of at UNO. It would also ensure students feel like they have guidance especially during a time that it is uncertain, we have to and must put students first.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

In 2023, I was elected as the First Year Leadership ambassador. In my first-year ambassador position, I was able to sit in on the conversations taking place within the senate and make connections with experienced senators and the executive branch. I was able to gather different perspectives and what issues the student body cared about. In 2024, I continued my journey in the senate as a senator for the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. During that time, I was able to connect different student organizations to SGA to help empower and emphasize the work that is taking place on campus. I was also able to help advocate for different student agencies by showing my support in resolutions and within discussions. I have continued to persevere and advocate for students across campus and to have a stronger community altogether.

# Executive Tickets

Amir Elrefaie – Chief of Staff (The Torch)



## **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am seeking the position of Chief of Staff because, in my time in student government, I have noticed a disconnect between SGA and the student body. SGA shouldn't simply be a governing body but a true community. While it is true we have built a strong structure of communication between the government branches compared to years ago many students still do not feel comfortable bringing us their concerns and interacting with SGA. I want to change that. SGA should be approachable, inclusive, and connected to the student body. I aspire to build unity on our campus by engaging with students and hearing their concerns and issues and taking meaningful action. Collaboration with student organizations (RSO's) to create and foster a cohesive social framework so that the UNO student body may feel supported and heard. Initiatives that reflect these ideals are the uniting of student governments throughout the NU system. If we are all united, we all have more power to enact change and better not only our campus but all NU campuses. Additionally, I hope to gain support and funding for initiatives like the Hunger-Free Campus Bill so that no student will go hungry in their pursuit of higher education.

## **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

A major issue that needs to be addressed at UNO is the rampant red tapping that has hindered various student organization's ability to express their views and support the issues they are passionate about. Things like the denial of pro-Palestinian merchandise is unacceptable by all means and need to be reformed. In many cases, these purchase requests are denied without clear reasoning or with weak rationale. The cancellation of events and rejection of purchase requests are suppression and should not be taken lightly. It is an undermining of the student's rights to advocate for what they believe in, and it is unjust. The university faculty should not be imposing their political biases on student initiatives and preventing them from their right of expression. Reform in this is necessary so students can express their views without facing unnecessary barriers and unjust treatment.

## **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I believe I am qualified to sit on Student government mainly due to my time as a First-Year Leadership Commission (FYLC) Ambassador. During my time in my Ambassador role, I have observed and engaged in several different facets of student government. Everything from writing resolutions to voting to the committee side and what it is like to reach out to and work with student organizations (RSOs). Most importantly I have observed and participated in the amount of work and dedication behind the scenes it takes to actually run Student government. Additionally, I have held several leadership roles, including captain of my high school rugby team, Muslim Student Association Chair, and leading my own research

## Executive Tickets

project at UNMC. These roles have shown me several things like leading by example, discipline and hard work, and the ability to create innovative solutions.

## College of Arts and Sciences - Senators



**Nasrin Elrokhsi**  
Senator



**Isabella Mitchell**  
Senator



**Bryan Benitez**  
Senator



**Aagya Sapkota**  
Senator



**Sofia Acosta**  
Senator

# College of Arts and Science Senators

Nasrin Elrokhsi – Senator



## **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Government because I believe in the power of persistence and the behind the scenes work that drives meaningful change. Over the past year, I have seen SGA face challenges head on, and despite setbacks, we continued advocating for students and pushing forward. That resilience is what inspires me to stay involved. Progress isn't always immediate or easy, but it is always worth the effort. We are living in unprecedented times, where students are facing new and unexpected challenges that impact their education, well-being, and sense of community. I want to be there to help our school navigate these difficulties and ensure that every student knows they are supported. Now more than ever, we need strong advocates who are committed to problem solving, listening, and taking action. I care deeply about UNO and want to see it grow into a place where students feel valued and empowered. I am running because I want to be there, not just when things are easy, but when they are tough, helping to create a stronger, more connected UNO for everyone.

## **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

The library's early closing hours limit students' ability to study, research, and access essential resources, especially for those with work, family, or extracurricular commitments. Many students rely on the library's quiet environment, technology, and software to complete coursework, but its restricted hours force them to seek less effective alternatives. Personally, I had a class that required me to use a program that I couldn't run on my laptop at home, which severely restricted the time I could work on assignments and study since I relied on the library's desktops. This lack of accessibility made it difficult to keep up with coursework. Universities with extended library hours see increased student engagement and productivity. Extending library hours throughout the fall and spring semesters would provide greater accessibility, promote academic success, and accommodate diverse student schedules. These resources need to be more accessible to ensure all students have the tools they need to succeed

## **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

My first year as a Senator was truly a learning curve. Stepping into the role, I quickly realized how much there was to absorb. From parliamentary procedures to effective advocacy. At first, I watched the more experienced senators, learning how they navigated discussions, built coalitions, and pushed for meaningful policy changes. Having this seat has opened my eyes to the inner workings of student government and the direct impact it has on campus life. Now, with that foundational experience, I feel more prepared than ever to contribute actively, propose well-informed initiatives, and ensure student voices are heard. My leadership roles as a Resident Assistant and Youth Leadership Program Coordinator, along with my experience in Mock Trial and Legal Assistance, have further strengthened my ability to analyze policies, engage in productive discussions, and advocate effectively. With my growing experience and passion for student representation, I am ready to take on a more active role in shaping change at UNO.



# College of Arts and Science Senators

Isabella Mitchell –Senator



## **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for SGA because of my commitment to preserving the individual voices and opinions of the student body. As an upcoming Junior at UNO, I have heard a magnitude of opinions from my peers regarding all of the ways in which the university could be improved. I have found that all of these individual perspectives are equally valuable, yet are not always considered (or even heard) by the representatives of the student body. I want to run for SGA senator to ensure that these opinions are heard and considered, and that the representatives of the student body are always acting on the best interests of the student body. I believe that our representatives should ensure that they are acting in full transparency and accountability to truly improve the lives of their constituents. As such, as a senator in SGA, I would be dedicated to serve

in a way that mandates the voices of the student body to be heard. Finally, I want to run for SGA senator to ensure transparency and collaboration– that the student body is always aware of the changes we make and the ways in which they will impact their lives, and that their opinions will be considered throughout the process.

## **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue I believe should be changed at UNO is the persistent attacks on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility that do not benefit our constituents. As an SGA senator, I would be committed to ensuring that we do not fold to the harmful choices of any administration or external body, but rather that we listen to the actual opinions of those who are impacted by our decisions-- the student body. As an SGA senator, I would be committed to supporting actions taken for the best of my constituents, regardless of any possible pushback or retributions. I believe that the students at UNO determine the changes we should execute, rather than an administration that is disconnected from the wants and needs of the people. As such, in SGA, I would be committed to fighting back against any policies that harm the students I swore to protect, and that their opinions are always on the forefront of anything I consider. To do this, I would dedicate my service to ensuring the foundations of DEIA throughout the university.

## **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I am qualified to sit on Student Government due to my experience in student agencies at UNO. As a long-standing member of the Women and Gender Equity Center on campus, I have been committed to fighting for the good of the student body through the many services and events the WGEC provides. Additionally, as an upcoming Junior studying Molecular and Biomedical Biology (with minors in medical humanities, chemistry, and political science), I have an extremely multifaceted perspective on the wants and needs of those in the student body. Finally, I have committed to serving society in general by volunteering in several instances, such as at UNMC and the Nebraska Humane Society. I feel that I am fit to be a senator of SGA due to my immense amount of experience participating in services for the student body, as well as my dedication, compassion, and patience for all individuals

# College of Arts and Science Senators

Bryan Benitez –Senator



## **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Government because SGA has failed to truly advocate for students, prioritizing performative PR resolutions over meaningful action. Instead of standing up to the administration's unfair policies—especially attacks on DEIA and student voices—SGA has remained passive. Students deserve leaders who will challenge the status quo, push for real change, and fight for policies that protect their rights and well-being. I am committed to introducing impactful resolutions, holding the administration accountable, and ensuring Student Government actually represents and defends the student body. It's time for action, not empty gestures.

## **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One major issue at UNO is the ongoing attacks on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) initiatives, along with the Student Senate's reluctance to challenge the administration on policies that silence student voices. These policies undermine the values of inclusivity and student representation, creating a campus environment where marginalized voices are ignored. I am committed to pushing back by introducing as many resolutions as possible to defend DEIA and ensure that student concerns are not only heard but acted upon. Student Government must take a stronger stance in advocating for an equitable and just campus for all.

## **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

With a strong background in student leadership, I am well-equipped to serve on Student Government. As an FYLC Ambassador for a year, I gained experience in mentorship, collaboration, and student engagement. Serving as Senator for Arts and Sciences, I worked to represent student voices, advocate for their needs, and contribute to decision-making processes. Additionally, my role on the Outreach Committee allowed me to connect with students, promote initiatives, and enhance communication between Student Government and the student body. My dedication, experience, and passion for student advocacy make me a strong candidate for this position.

# College of Arts and Science Senators

Aagya Sapkota –Senator

## **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**



I am running for Student Government because I care about making a difference for students at UNO. I want to be a voice for those who feel unheard and ensure their concerns are addressed. As a minority, I understand the importance of representation and creating a space where every voice matters. I'm passionate about creating a campus environment where students feel more connected and empowered. Students should have a say in the decisions that affect their daily lives, and I want to help make that happen. I believe Student Government should be a place where student voices lead to action, whether it's addressing campus policies, improving resources, or ensuring students are informed. I am committed to bringing together diverse perspectives and finding practical solutions to make our school experience better for everyone.

## **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue I think needs to change at UNO is the transparency of tuition and fees. A lot of students don't fully understand what their tuition covers or why certain fees keep changing. We need clearer breakdowns of where our money is going, especially with things like required dining dollars. I recently got an email that starting next year, dorm students are being forced to pay \$100 for dining dollars, even if they prefer to cook their own meals. This feels unfair and puts unnecessary pressure on students financially, especially on students who are already spending a significant amount of money living in dorms. If elected, I'd push for more transparent communication about tuition and fees. I would also push for the waiving of some fees and expenses for students, depending on their situation.

## **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I am qualified to serve on Student Government because I care a lot about the students here and want to make sure their voices are heard. As a mentor for Kids Can, I know the importance of leadership, guidance, and supporting others. Being a Scott Scholar has helped me develop strong leadership skills, such as working with others and taking initiative. I take my academics seriously and strive for excellence in what I do. Beyond the classroom, I stay involved in clubs and community activities because I believe in being an active part of our school to make the best community possible. These experiences have given me the skills to listen, collaborate, and advocate for students. I am ready to bring my dedication and leadership to Student Government to make a meaningful impact.

# College of Arts and Science Senators

Sofia Acosta –Senator



## **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

As a pre-health student in the College of Arts and Sciences, I am dedicated to pursuing a life of service, advocacy, and community-building. It is my firm belief that a person's health is defined by not only their physical health, but their social, emotional, spiritual, and economic wellbeing and their sense of purpose in life. It is my passion to serve the Omaha community and contribute to UNO in a way that prioritizes the wellbeing of our campus' most important stakeholders: the students. I want to participate in Student Senate not only to serve the student body and be a representative of their voices, but to be the link between UNO students and the decisions and policies that are impacting their lives and experiences. I believe transparency about SGA and administration actions is essential to maintaining an informed and involved student body, as well as to upholding tenets of democracy on campus. I propose improving transparency by creating monthly student-friendly summaries of SGA decisions and establishing regular open forums. My experience attending the open forum last November proved to me the power of student voices and inspired me to run for Student Senate.

## **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

Through many years of leadership experience in music, sports, school, and nonprofit work, I have learned that increasing the agency and impact one feels they have in a community increases their investment in that community. An area of improvement on campus is the development of a robust student life. I would like to see an interconnected campus full of students who feel seen, safe, and proud of their decision to attend UNO. I propose connecting with students and asking them what improvements they would like to see in terms of student life and what ideas they have. It is important to listen to and empathize with SGA's constituents directly, as well as work with existing student organizations, clubs, and university programs to enact lasting change. As a way to combat low event participation and student involvement, I propose an initiative to put up physical bulletin boards in key locations around campus where students and organizations can put up flyers, artwork, and other information. This would combat the limitation of over-saturation of content that social media has, as well as support free speech on campus.

## **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

My qualifications for student government stem from practical experience and personal conviction. My 300+ hours with Launch Leadership have equipped me with facilitation, conflict resolution, and leadership development skills applicable to senate work. Teaching hundreds of students has honed my ability to connect diverse perspectives and build consensus. As a pre-health student committed to holistic wellbeing, I bring a unique perspective on student needs. I maintain academic rigor while participating in campus activities and working part-time, demonstrating my ability to handle multiple responsibilities. My design thinking training ensures I center student experiences when developing solutions, while my advocacy for reproductive justice and against censorship shows my commitment to action beyond words. Being a queer Latina has shaped my investment in equitable representation. I don't just talk about diversity—I live it,

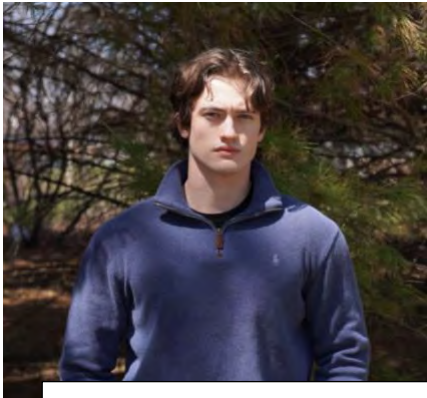
## College of Arts and Science Senators

actively amplifying underrepresented voices. This combination of leadership experience, problem-solving skills, and commitment to equity makes me uniquely qualified to represent our diverse student body.

# College of Business Administration - Senators



**Jake Moore**  
Senator



**Anthony Klanderud**  
Senator

# College of Business Administration - Senators

## Jake Moore - Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for student government for the College of Business Administration because I am passionate about positively impacting our community. Our college has immense potential, and I want to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive and succeed. My goal is to enhance the academic experience by advocating for more resources, better facilities, and innovative programs that align with the needs of our diverse student body. Additionally, I aim to foster a stronger sense of community by organizing events and initiatives that bring us together, promote networking, and support professional growth. With my dedication, leadership skills, and commitment to listening to your concerns, I can represent our college effectively and work towards a brighter future for all of us.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

As a transfer student living on campus at UNO, I've noticed a significant lack of community among students. This issue is crucial because a strong sense of community can greatly enhance our college experience, providing support networks, fostering friendships, and creating a more engaging and inclusive environment. I believe that we need more opportunities for students to connect and interact outside of the classroom. My goal is to introduce more social events, study groups, and collaborative projects that bring students together. By creating spaces and events where students can meet, share experiences, and support each other, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community at UNO. This change will not only improve our time here but also prepare us for collaborative work environments in our future careers.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I am qualified to sit on student government because of my strong leadership skills, dedication, and diverse experiences. As a transfer student, I bring a fresh perspective and a unique understanding of the challenges faced by new students. My involvement in various student organizations has honed my ability to collaborate, communicate effectively, and advocate for student needs. I have successfully organized events, led teams, and managed projects that have positively impacted my peers. Additionally, my commitment to academic excellence and my passion for fostering a supportive community align with the goals of student government. I am eager to listen to your concerns, represent your interests, and work tirelessly to enhance our campus experience.

# College of Business Administration - Senators

## Anthony Klanderud - Senator

### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**



My name is Anthony Klanderud, I am from Omaha, and I am running for Student Government because I will be a representative of the people. Me and many of my fellow students notice a multitude of issues that I believe can be resolved with proper action, which I am confident in my ability to do. I have a passion for politics and a deep desire to better understand how policy is made and how the decision-making process takes place. I want to honor this opportunity by getting more involved on campus and hearing out students' concerns.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

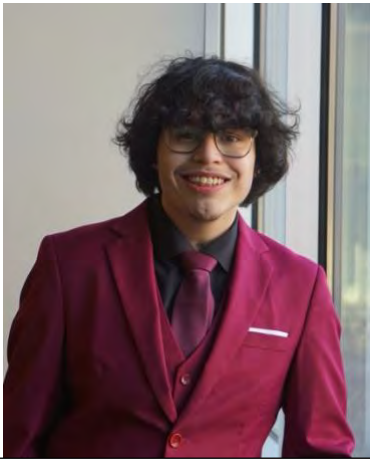
There seems to be a disconnect between students and UNO as an institution. I believe this stems from a combination of student culture, UNO's communication efforts, and the general perception of UNO as a "small" or "commuter" school. However, UNO has a great opportunity to foster a stronger sense of community and school pride despite these challenges. I desire to make every student feel part of something greater. I want to help the student body take greater pride in being Mavericks by advocating for policy improvements within Student Government. Students should have access to better parking, free printing, and stronger student-to-student connections. By addressing issues like these, we can create a more engaged and united campus community.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

Although I am a Finance student, politics is my passion and succeeding in this role is something I want for myself and for the people of UNO. I will do everything in my power to hear everyone I can and bring issues to the table and create real solutions. The issues I want to fight for are issues that I have seen since my first day as a UNO student. I will bring new perspectives, as I studied for 4 months in Eastern Europe and learned different ways of a European university. I am involved on campus as a Stock Analyst for the UNO Investment Program. I can bring an analytical perspective to the UNO Student Government that others might not have.



# College of Communication, Fine Arts, & Media - Senators



**Brandon Lopez-Pereira**  
Senator



**Chavon Hawthorne**  
Senator



**Morgann Gardner**  
Senator



**Lilian Johnson**  
Senator

# College of Communication, Fine Arts, & Media - Senators

## Brandon Lopez-Pereira –Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I'm running for Senate because I want to continue the work I started after being appointed in early March. Having a full term would give me a chance to really make a difference on campus and advocate for students, especially minorities and people of color at a PWI like ours. A lot of voices go unheard, and I want to change that. One of my biggest priorities is Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility—things that matter now more than ever. I want to use my voice to bring awareness to important issues and make sure all students feel represented. I want to inform students about what's happening in politics and student government. At the end of the day, I'll always be for my peers.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

Mental health resources need to be expanded and more accessible to students. A lot of us are struggling—whether it's seasonal depression, political stress, family issues, or just life in general. For many minorities, therapy and mental health support haven't always been an option, and it's important to make sure they have the same safe spaces and resources as everyone else. I want to push for more mental health-focused events, town halls, and casual pop-in socials where students can vent and connect with others. No one should feel like they have to go through things alone, and we need to do a better job of providing those spaces for students.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

Being Senate isn't just about passing bills—it's about advocating for students and keeping them informed. That's something I've always been passionate about, especially when it comes to civil rights. As Vice President of Black Excellence, this past academic year was a crucial part of what I'm proud of and to be advocating for. I've worked to keep our members informed about the presidential elections, community engagement, and service opportunities. Outside of campus, I've fought for workers' rights—my coworkers and I unionized our Starbucks store, making it the second in Omaha to do so. I was also honored to serve as a panelist for an MLK Day service day event that recognized his legacy of activism. I know what it's like to push for change, even when it's difficult, and I want to bring that same energy to Student Government.

# College of Communication, Fine Arts, & Media - Senators

## Chavon Hawthorne – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I think it would be an excellent networking opportunity to learn from outside of what's outlined in my curriculum for my degree program.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

We have to find a way to open the Office of Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion. The day this closure was announced, I felt the tone shift around me from my peers. We all love UNO for some reason or else we wouldn't be attending and for a lot of us, that office and its resources aid us on a daily.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I hold a seat as an inaugural member of the Choir Council (Treble Social Chair) and we aim to plan community building events so that we aren't feeling like choir is just another class, but a home to go to if you ever need it. Focusing on community while in our degrees is an ever-evolving part to surviving college, and I firmly believe that.

# College of Communication, Fine Arts, & Media - Senators

## Morgann Gardner – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Government because I am passionate about amplifying student voices and fostering a stronger, more connected campus community. As a dedicated communicator and creative storyteller, I understand the importance of representation, transparency, and advocacy. My experience as a digital producer for The Omaha News, combined with my leadership in athletics and academics, has equipped me with the skills to listen, collaborate, and take action on issues that matter to students. I want to ensure that every student feels heard and supported, whether it's improving campus resources, enhancing student life, or creating more opportunities for personal and professional growth. Through teamwork, adaptability, and a commitment to positive change, I will work to make our campus a place where all students can thrive.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue I believe should change at UNO is improving mental health resources for students. College life comes with academic, social, and personal pressures, and many students struggle to access timely and effective support. While UNO offers counseling services, appointment availability can be limited, and awareness of these resources isn't widespread. I want to advocate for expanded mental health support, including more counselors, flexible scheduling, and increased promotion of available services. Additionally, creating peer support programs and wellness initiatives can help reduce stigma and ensure students feel supported. Mental health is just as important as academic success, and by prioritizing it, we can foster a healthier, more productive campus community.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I am qualified to sit on Student Government because of my strong background in leadership, communication, and advocacy. As a digital producer for The Omaha News, I understand the importance of listening to diverse perspectives, amplifying student voices, and addressing key issues that impact our campus. My experience as a student-athlete has also taught me teamwork, adaptability, and the ability to perform under pressure—skills that are essential for effective leadership. Additionally, my academic journey in communication has given me the tools to engage in meaningful dialogue, problem-solving, and decision-making. I am passionate about making a difference and committed to ensuring that every student feels heard, supported, and empowered. Through collaboration and action, I will work to create positive change at UNO.

# College of Communication, Fine Arts, & Media - Senators

## Lilian Johnson – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for student government because I believe I could help the student body be heard. I would advocate for problems that my classmates bring up, and represent the best interests of CFAM students. I would also love to become more involved on campus. I have started a decently successful campus group already, called Omaha Future Forward (not affiliated with UNO), and I am looking for more ways to be proactive in my university community on top of it and make sure student voices are heard and responded to. Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to expand my knowledge on governance structure, and sharpen my communication and advocacy capabilities in a real-world setting. I would love to pursue a career in which I can help be a voice for people who may not feel that they have one, and I think this would be a great way for me to hone those skills.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

I have personally encountered many problems with the shuttle service, where they will be late, infrequent, or just end up not coming, despite the shuttle app telling me they are on the way. There have been times in which myself and several other students are stranded in the vestibule at the library while one shuttle route continues to stop, and our shuttle never comes. I would like to see the Campus Shuttle Service be improved in consistency and accessibility, because, especially when the weather is bitter, we can't afford the time it takes to stand outside at a stop for 15-20 minutes or longer, and we don't have time to walk to class either. I look forward to working with UNO Parking Services to see the ways we can improve this.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I am a Communication Studies major with Political Science and Anthropology double minors, and I have a serious interest in governance and advocacy. I was on competitive Speech and Debate in high school, once placing runner up in a competition. I also did a four-day summer camp in Lincoln in 2022, where I acted as a state senator and debated bills on the house floor, even getting my bill--making Election Day a state holiday and renaming Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day--to pass unanimously. I am currently organizing and leading a collaborative community advocacy group called Omaha Future Forward, and we have amassed around 20 members in a couple of weeks. I am a strong-willed, diplomatic, and open-minded person, and I would love to use and develop my skills in a tangible and transformative way.

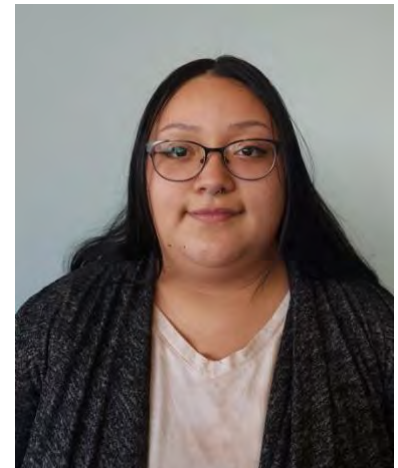
# College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences - Senators



**Miles Clarke**  
Senator



**Darian Dunn**  
Senator



**Yoselin Melgar Serrano**  
Senator

# College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences - Senators

## Miles Clarke – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I want to become more involved in my school community, and I want to be able to expand my resume a bit more. I know that my experience in fields similar to that of this will help me make our community better.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue that I would like to change at UNO - if possible - is more than one accessible/gender neutral bathroom in each building. Being a transgender person, it's very inconvenient to have to walk up two flights of stairs and across a building to get to a gender-neutral restroom. I feel this would make our campus a much more comfortable space.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I have good debate and reasoning skills, and I am very good at having cohesive conversations with those who both agree and disagree with my opinions. I think this is an important quality to have because being able to argue your side is one thing, but being able to respectfully defend it is another thing, and those are both things that I can do very easily.

# College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences - Senators

## Darian Dunn – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for senator in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences because I truly believe every student deserves the chance to thrive. Education is the key to unlocking potential, and I'm committed to ensuring that no child is left behind. As someone who has a deep love for children and a passion for diversity, I want to create an inclusive environment where all voices are heard and valued. Every child, no matter their background, should have equal access to opportunities that allow them to grow and succeed. I want to be the change that empowers students, supports their unique needs, and fosters a community where we celebrate our difference and learn from one another. Together, we can build an educational system that not only nurtures academic success but also helps every student feel seen, heard, and

loved!

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue I believe needs urgent attention is the closing of the Diversity Office due to threats of federal funding cuts. This is deeply concerning as the Diversity office plays a crucial role in fostering an inclusive environment where all students feel supported and valued. Diversity and Inclusion are essential to creating a campus where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, and the closure of this office sends the wrong message to students, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds. As a college, we can advocate for the reinstatement of this office by coming together as a community. We can engage in meaningful discussions with administrators, push for transparent policies, and raise awareness about the importance of diversity and inclusion. It is vital that we ensure our campus remains a safe and supportive space for all students, regardless of their identity, background, or experiences. We need to stand together to protect the values that make UNO a welcoming place for everyone.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

Having been in a position where I didn't feel welcomed in a school setting, I understand the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive environment. This firsthand experience fuels my passion to ensure that no student feels left behind or marginalized. In addition, I have worked with students from various backgrounds which has helped me develop strong empathy, communication, and leadership skills. I am deeply committed to advocating for students and creating an environment that all are welcome in. These experiences have equipped me with perspectives of determination that is necessary to represent my peers effectively and to work towards meaningful change on campus



# College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences - Senators

## Yoselin Melgar Serrano – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I'm running for student government because as a first-generation student, I've had to figure everything out from academic expectations, resources, and opportunities on my own, and I know I'm not the only one. Too often, students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, struggle to find the support they need. I want to change that. As students we face challenges that most times go unnoticed, so, I want to make sure those concerns aren't just heard but acted on. I believe student government can become more than a formality, it can be a space where change actually happens. Whether it's advocating for better resources, or growing a stronger sense of community, or making sure no one feels like they have to figure things out alone, I want to be part of that change that makes our campus

better for everyone. We can make positive change and become a reflection of the diverse student body our university serves.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue I believe needs to be addressed is the lack of sufficient mental health resources. As a student we face many pressures. Whether it's adjusting to university life, managing academic workloads, or balancing personal challenges can be overwhelming. I've noticed that many students, myself included, often feel like there's not enough support to help manage their mental health efficiently. While we do offer counseling services, the demand often exceeds what is offered, leading to long wait times, and limited access. I believe we need to expand mental health resources, ensuring that they are not only accessible but also actively promoted so students know where to seek help. Mental health is just as important as physical health, and we need to treat it as such. Mental health is often an overlooked area, and advocating for more accessible services, peer support, and open discussions about it can have a huge impact. By creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for the student body, we not only are helping individuals succeed but also help the campus encourage a culture of diversity and resilience.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

During my time living in El Salvador, I was part of my school's student council as co-director of the interrelations committee, where I worked with student leaders from neighboring schools to build partnerships and organize district events to help strengthen our communities. That experience taught me how to collaborate, communicate across different perspectives, and navigate the challenges of making ideas and change happen, qualities I will bring to our student government. Now, as a student in the United States, I see how important it is to have leadership that actually listens and understands the realities students face. I understand the importance of representation, advocacy, and the power of diverse voices in leadership. As someone who has had to adapt to new environments, advocate for myself, and challenge expectations, I know what it means to push for change that matters. I want to bring that same drive to the student government; creating an environment where students feel heard, represented, and supported. I

## College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences - Senators

don't want to simply hold the position of senator, I want to make our student government more than just titles, but a force that works for everyone

## College of Information Science & Technology – Senators



**Haroon Shaik**  
Senator



**Stephanie Simmons**  
Senator



**Ivan Aviles**  
Senator

# College of Information Science & Technology – Senators

## Haroon Shaik – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

Since a very long time, I've yearned to be a lead my peers, weather it was just a small group for a group project or being the class monitor for three years straight without a single complaint against me. After coming to the US, I wanted to do the same and hence, I joined the National Honor Society and the Principal's Advisory Board at Millard South High School. I also ran for the Senior Class Board and won my race. During that time, I've worked with my peers and administrators for a lot of activities including fundraising and planning events. I wanted to continue that again at UNO and so I joined the Traffic Appeals Commission to create a more just ticketing system and do justice to the students who've been wrongfully ticketed. Now, I want to take a step further and get more involved with the University and be the voice of students from my college. Hence, I'm running for Student Senate.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

There are many in mind but one of the biggest ones I have in mind is library hours. Unlike in UNL, where students can access the library using their student ID 24/7. This is a great facility provided to the students of UNL, and I strongly believe that students at UNO deserve the same. I believe that this change will improve our students' academic performance and student life. That's something I would advocate for.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I was, I am, and I will always be a leader. I take great interest in politics and how it affects us in our day-to-day lives and so I always want to be a part of the decision-making process. I also am respectful to everyone, regardless their identity and beliefs. Most of all, I am a Moderate. I cannot emphasize enough about the need for more moderates and a moderate ideology in our government today. I believe I can really bring a new perspective to Student Government. I've also been a part of a different branch of student government, so, I know what it takes to be a reputable and respectful member of the Student Senate.

# College of Information Science & Technology – Senators

## Stephanie (Steph) Simmons – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Government to ensure IS&T students have the resources, opportunities, and support they need to succeed. As a graduate of the Management Information Systems program, I understand the challenges students face and the importance of hands-on experience, industry connections, and a strong academic foundation. I will advocate for expanded internship and mentorship programs, improved access to cutting-edge technology, and initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion in tech. My goal is to strengthen student engagement, enhance career readiness, and foster a culture of innovation and collaboration. With a commitment to advocacy and leadership, I will work to make IS&T a place where every student feels empowered to excel. Together, we can shape a future that prepares us for success in an ever-evolving tech landscape.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One major issue at UNO is the reduction of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives due to government budget cuts and a funding freeze. DEI programs are essential for fostering an inclusive, supportive, and equitable environment, providing crucial resources, mentorship, and advocacy for underrepresented communities. Without adequate funding, students who rely on these initiatives for guidance, opportunities, and a sense of belonging may face increased barriers to success. While budget constraints are a reality, cutting DEI programs risks weakening UNO's commitment to diversity and limiting access to important support systems. Instead of eliminating these initiatives, UNO should seek alternative funding sources, increase partnerships with local organizations, and integrate DEI principles into existing programs. As a Student Government representative, I will advocate for preserving and strengthening DEI efforts, ensuring UNO remains a welcoming and equitable institution despite financial challenges.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

With 15 years of IT leadership and expertise, I bring a mature, results-driven perspective to Student Government. As a non-traditional student, I understand the challenges of balancing academics, career growth, and personal commitments. My experience as a Technical Lead at Mutual of Omaha has equipped me with the skills to manage complex IT projects, lead teams, and deliver innovative solutions under pressure. Completing the company's IT leadership program further honed my strategic planning and communication abilities. Academically, I hold a BS in Management Information Systems from UNO, grounding me in IS&T's rigorous curriculum. Now, as a dual-degree graduate student pursuing both an MIS and an MBA, I bridge the gap between technology and business, offering a unique lens on student needs. My blend of professional leadership, technical expertise, and academic insight enables me to effectively advocate for IS&T students, ensuring their voices drive meaningful progress within our college community.

# College of Information Science & Technology – Senators

## Ivan Aviles Sebastian – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

The reason why I am running for student government is because helping people is something that I have stood for. Ever since I was a little kid. When I received the email that I was highly recommended to run for student government I was happy, but most of all I was excited that I was considered to be someone that people could look up to when things need to get done. That's the reason why I am running for the student government, so things can get done.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue that I think should be changed at UNO is that I believe that student life needs to be more recognized by the university. One of the biggest things that I have noticed while being a student is that there is not a lot of student life. This is an issue because college is supposed to be the time that you are supposed to have fun while getting your greater education. I tend to talk to a lot of people every day, and even have the opportunity to talk to potential UNO students (I am a student ambassador), and one of the things that always comes up when we talk about UNO is how the student life on campus is like. I like to go into detail about the things that we do offer on campus, but in the back of my head I know that it is one of the weakest aspects of UNO.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

What makes me qualified to sit on student government is my previous history in other student organizations, most of my skills that allow me to be a great candidate for student government come from when I was involved in my high school's different student organizations. I had to learn how to interact with people with gracious professionalism, and with tact. Learning how to be a listener and being able to convey my points effectively is one of my greatest strengths. During the beginning of the school year for my CS seminar we had to take a Gallup Clifton strengths test, when the results came back my biggest strengths were, activator and communicator. These are strengths that I believe tie into being a public figure, and being someone that when things need to get done, they can get done efficiently. My skills are not the only thing that I have that make me capable of handling being a part of student government, I also have held positions of power during my academic career. In high school I was the president of the school's IRHS chapter (International Robotics Honor Society). This was something that I take a lot of pride in. Having to meet with school administration to be able to plan events to help bring more awareness to the organization. Another position of power that I had in high school was being the historian for our Skills USA chapter. This required me to document everything that our chapter did and at the end of the year compile it into a book that the next year could be able to look back and see the things that we did. But that wasn't where my leadership role ended, I was also in charge of making sure everyone was on track with everything and making sure that if they needed any help, I was there to assist them. I am also a student ambassador for

# College of Information Science & Technology – Senators

UNO, I'm very knowledgeable of the things that the universities have to offer. I believe that I would be a great candidate to sit on student government, and I'm ready to make a change.

# College of Public Affairs & Community Service - Senators



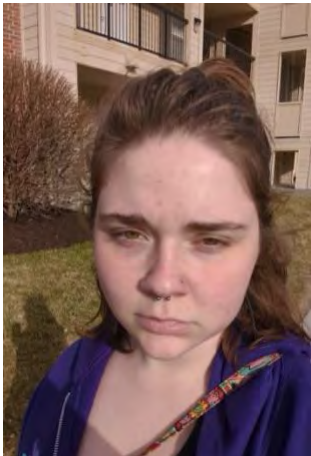
**Audrey Bishop**  
Senator



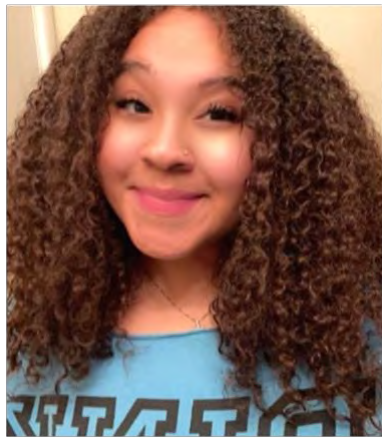
**Lucy Martin**  
Senator



**Brooklyn Williams**  
Senator



**Brenna Snyder**  
Senator



**Kyra Piper**  
Senator



# College of Public Affairs & Community Service - Senators

## Audrey Bishop – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am extraordinarily passionate about the programs here at UNO and would be very excited to get more involved on campus!

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

Students on campus are amazing, and I don't exactly see an issue here, but I would love to promote a culture of involvement. More students in clubs, internships, etc. and become prominent figures not only on campus but in Omaha.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I am a hard worker with a love of connecting with my peers and a passion for UNO programs.

# College of Public Affairs & Community Service - Senators

## Lucy Martin – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I'm running for the CPACS Senate position because I'm deeply committed to serving our community and fostering inclusivity. As a junior majoring in Emergency Management, with concentrations in Fire Service Management and Intelligence Security, I've dedicated my time to community service and safety. My experiences, from volunteering with my local fire department to serving as Vice President of SERVE (Students for Emergency Readiness, Volunteering, and Engagement), have shaped my passion for service. Currently, as an Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Intern at M.U.D., I am gaining invaluable professional experience that reinforces my commitment to service. I've also learned essential skills through customer service work at Northwest Bank, which helps me connect with others and understand their needs.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

My goal as a CPACS Senator is to create an inclusive environment where every student feels valued, regardless of their background. I am passionate about collaboration and ensuring every voice is heard. I would be honored to represent you, work toward positive change, and make sure all students have a thriving, supportive college experience.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

There are a few qualities that I would like to highlight: - Leadership Experience: As the Vice President of SERVE (Students for Emergency Readiness, Volunteering, and Engagement), you've demonstrated leadership by organizing and promoting community service opportunities. Your ability to lead and engage others will be essential in student government. - Professional Experience: Your role as an Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Intern at Metropolitan Utilities District (M.U.D.) showcases your practical skills in policymaking, emergency management, and business continuity. These experiences are directly transferable to the responsibilities of student government, where strategic planning and addressing community needs are key. - Community Service Passion: Your long-standing commitment to community service, from volunteering with your local fire department to your current work, shows a genuine desire to give back and make a positive impact—qualities that are invaluable for a student leader. - Diverse Perspective: Your background in both emergency management and political science equips you with a well-rounded perspective on security, community issues, and governance. Your understanding of how policy affects people's lives will help you represent your peers effectively. - Inclusivity and Advocacy: You are committed to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all students, which aligns with the goals of student government to ensure every voice is heard and valued.

# College of Public Affairs & Community Service - Senators

## Brooklyn Williams – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Government because I see it as an incredible opportunity to make a meaningful impact on campus while developing essential leadership skills. My goal is to serve as an advocate for my peers, ensuring that the concerns and ideas of students are not only heard but acted upon. I am deeply committed to both my future and the well-being of my classmates, and I believe Student Government is a crucial platform to drive positive change. Students understand the challenges of campus life better than anyone, which is why it's so important to have strong, empathetic leadership that listens and takes action. I want to represent the diverse experiences and needs of our student body, working to create a more inclusive and engaging campus environment. Leadership is about service, and I believe that by collaborating with others, identifying student concerns, and advocating for solutions, I can help make UNO a place where every student feels valued and supported. Additionally, this role will help me grow as a leader and prepare me for a future in public service. By serving my peers, I will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively represent and support others, both now and in my future career. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to our school community and work toward meaningful improvements that benefit everyone.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One thing I would change at UNO is the current parking system, particularly regarding parking pass costs and the availability of parking spaces for both residential and commuter students. As a student living on campus, the high cost of a semester parking pass on top of housing and tuition fees is excessive, especially when it doesn't guarantee reliable access to parking. Dorm residents often struggle to find open spots, particularly during school hours when residential lots are opened to commuter students. This creates a frustrating situation where residents who have paid over \$200 for a permit still find themselves driving around in search of a place to park. This can be especially challenging when students have tight schedules and need quick access to their vehicles for work, classes, or personal commitments. On the other hand, commuter students face their own set of challenges. Many of the parking lots are either restricted, require additional permits, or are designated as non-parking zones, which limits the available options. When these limited spaces fill up quickly, commuters often must park farther from campus or risk parking in areas where they may be ticketed. For students who are trying to balance their schedules, classes, and other responsibilities, this daily struggle to find parking adds unnecessary stress. Another concern is the overall imbalance between the number of parking passes sold and the actual parking capacity. It feels like more permits are issued than there are spots available, which only adds to the frustration for both residents and commuters. This overcrowding not only impacts convenience but also contributes to delays and unnecessary stress throughout the day. Parking is an issue I hear about frequently from students across campus. Whether it's the frustration of paying for a permit but not being able to find a spot, confusion about which lots are accessible, or the inconvenience of walking long distances from the only available parking,

# College of Public Affairs & Community Service - Senators

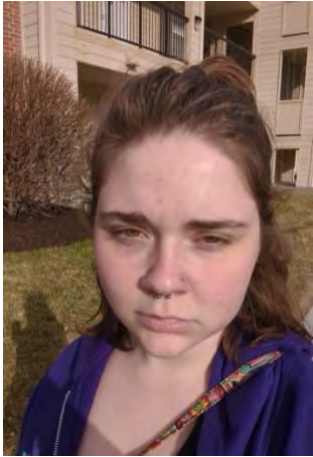
it's a concern that impacts the daily experience of many. It's an issue that students consistently bring up in conversations, highlighting that it's not just an isolated frustration but a widespread challenge faced by the UNO community. One possible solution is capping permit sales to match available spaces and developing a real-time parking app to help students find open spots more easily.

## **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I believe I am qualified to serve on the Student Government because of my leadership experience, problem-solving abilities, and strong passion for creating positive change. I am dedicated to representing my peers, advocating for student concerns, and working toward meaningful improvements that benefit our campus community. Currently, I serve as Vice President of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Student Organization, where I actively contribute ideas, provide feedback to advisors, and help ensure that events and initiatives are designed to meet student needs. I work closely with faculty and fellow students to find ways to boost engagement and create meaningful opportunities that enhance the student experience. Additionally, as a student worker in the SCCJ department, I collaborate with faculty and advisors to identify ways to better involve the student body. Through this role, I provide valuable feedback on student interests and concerns, helping to shape events and initiatives that reflect what students want and need. These roles have strengthened my communication, organization, and leadership skills; all qualities that are essential for serving in Student Government. Beyond formal leadership roles, I excel at collaboration and believe that engaging with others is key to developing innovative and effective solutions. I also take pride in my time management and organizational skills, which help me balance academic, leadership, and extracurricular involvement effectively. What truly sets me apart is my passion for positive change. I believe that Student Government should be about action, representation, and progress. I'm committed to listening to students, advocating for their needs, and ensuring that their voices are reflected in campus decisions. I'm eager to contribute to our connected, student-focused campus where every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

# College of Public Affairs & Community Service - Senators

## Brenna Snyder – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running because I think that this would be an amazing opportunity for me, and would allow me to speak on behalf of all students at UNO, especially students studying within CPACS College. Helping others has always been one of my passions, and serving the student body would give me a unique experience. Last May I sat on a panel for prospective students considering coming to UNO and being a part of CPACS, and that experience has sat in the back of my mind as something that I would like to do more of. Getting to connect on a more personal level with students, and help guide them as they enter a drastically different era of their life is something that really spoke to me.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

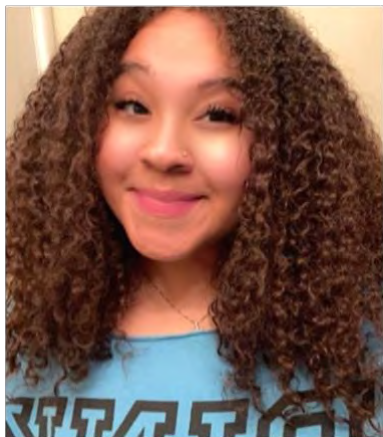
I do not think that the current student body feels seen or heard by the University. I would love to see some more outreach from the Board towards students, to ensure that decisions are being made with everyone in mind. To go along with this, I would like to see more transparency provided to the students, especially as the University is facing probable budget cuts and policy changes.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

This past year I started the EMDS Student Organization, SERVE. In order to do that, I have had to work closely with not only students and staff here at UNO, but I have also had to work with outside professionals in order to set up tours, talks, etc. for the club. While I have never been a part of a Student Government, I have consistently shown a drive and passion to connect with others, and to grow as a person. I have always strived to do my best both in school, and at work. As I approach the end of my time here at UNO, I would like to say that I have done something to positively impact other students here, and I think that this is a very viable option for me.

# College of Public Affairs & Community Service - Senators

Kyra Piper – Senator



**Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for senate as for I want to continue to help amplify students' voices and option within the senate. I have been involved with the senate for 3 years now and I hope to continue to be involved and help give a platform to elevate students options here on campus.

**Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue that I feel should be changed here at uno would be the lack of knowledge on food insecurity as a college student here at uno. Many students here still do not know about the food pantry that is available to them and how it is free of cost to them to go to the food pantry and get food for the week! The topic should be talked about more often and the stigma behind it should be broken.

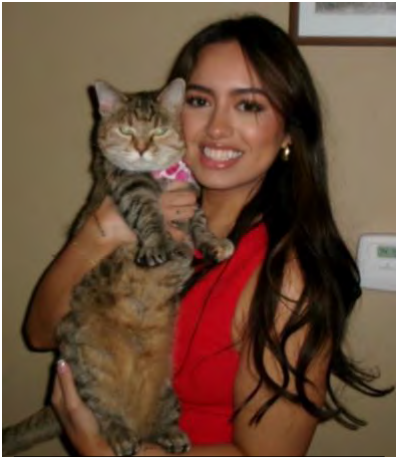
**Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

The things that make me qualified to run for senate is that I have been in senate for the last 3 years and have held a seat in senate during those last three years as well as being the chair for civic engagement for one of those years.

# Graduate Studies – Senators



**Erin Wiseman**  
Senator



**Jade Evans**  
Senator



**Sheldon Brennemann**  
Senator

# Graduate Studies – Senators

## Erin Wiseman - Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am a 51-year-old college student with 4 children, 2 of whom are also in college. I decided to change my life circumstances late in the game and am so thankful that the opportunity to be a non-traditional student existed for me. For the last 5 years, I have worked full time, taken classes year-round, and been a single mother to four children. I have found nothing but support and kindness from first Southeast Community College and now the University of Nebraska at Omaha and because of that, I will be applying for the Master of Public Administration program in fall 2025, when 10 years ago, I never would have dreamed that would be possible. I want to be an advocate for the single parents, older students, and anyone who faces challenges that may undermine their confidence so they too can achieve their dreams.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

My experience at UNO has been completely online. Because of that, I have had limited experience of the campus culture, on-campus support systems, logistical challenges, and the like. There may be issues in those areas that need to be addressed that may affect more students. I don't know. The one thing that affects me personally that I would like to change is to have more opportunities for involvement in groups, clubs, sororities, fraternities, internship opportunities, etc. that could be mostly or fully online. I live about an hour away from Omaha and couldn't engage in person often but would love to be able to be involved in some sort of campus life online. I could come once or twice a month to in-person events, I know some cannot. I missed out on the college experience, and while I know I can't fully recover that opportunity, I would like to feel more like a Maverick and less like a peripheral online entity.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I work for city government and am a department head, so I am used to committee environments. I serve on the Pension Board as well as the City Safety Committee. I also report to a commission on all aspects of the operations of my building. I have a staff I manage as well as many regular users of my facility, and they regularly bring their concerns and suggestions before multiple audiences. The education I am receiving is deeply meaningful to me, and I would consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity to affect that experience in positive ways for others.



# Graduate Studies – Senators

## Jade Evans - Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I want to run for student government because I am passionate about making an impact on the University of Nebraska Omaha's social environment. I also would like to encourage community engagement to be a part of something great, something important. I hope to develop leadership skills that may aid me in the future as an upcoming University of Omaha Master of Social Work graduate. For my future I hope to make a macro difference on the world, and specifically in Nebraska through advocacy. I feel that being a part of the Student Government will give me an opportunity to begin my journey advocating for others, and for the betterment of our school.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

Something I want to do specifically is begin a non-profit, and I would love to do that through the school of University of Nebraska Omaha. I think aligning a non-profit with the University will aid both the public, and the student body. As I am currently a graduate student for the School of Public Affairs and Community Service, I feel that this could be a great opportunity for students to become a bigger part of their school, build their resume working at a non-profit, and will bring greater attention to a hugely unmet social problem in the community. I feel that bringing this idea to fruition could also be an engaging, and empowering way for student to feel a part of their school. I would bring this idea to the Student Government and attempt to see if this is something we could do and enlist volunteers to support it.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

I feel that I am qualified based on my passions. I so badly want to enforce an environment of advocacy, growth, representation, and mutual support. I do not care for a specific title, or a specific role. I just want the opportunity to help my community grow better, and help each other. I want to be impactful, and bring others the space to do that as well. I also feel that I am qualified, because I work hard to show initiative and dedication to worthy causes. I will dedicate however much time and effort necessary to create a better world.

# Graduate Studies – Senators

## Sheldon Brennemann – Senator



### **Please explain why you are running for Student Government.**

I am running for Student Government to advocate for the diverse needs of students and ensure their voices are heard at UNO. As Vice President of the Waldo Society, I serve as a liaison between graduate students, the Ph.D. committee, and faculty, working to strengthen communication and support for students navigating their programs. Additionally, my work as an instructional coach allows me to provide classroom support to undergraduate students, giving me direct insight into the challenges they face. Through both roles, I have developed a deep understanding of the student experience at UNO, from graduate-level policy concerns to undergraduate classroom dynamics. I am passionate about fostering a more inclusive, supportive, and responsive campus environment. By serving in Student Government, I hope to bring this perspective to elevate student concerns, enhance academic experiences, and advocate for meaningful change across our university.

### **Please explain ONE issue that you think you should be changed at UNO.**

One issue that should be addressed at UNO is ensuring all students have an equal and fair voice in university decisions, especially given the impact of federal policies on higher education. As the current administration introduces policies affecting funding, student support, and academic freedom, it is crucial that UNO remains proactive in advocating for student interests, accessibility, and equity. UNO should strengthen student advocacy efforts by ensuring greater transparency, more inclusive forums for student input, and stronger student representation in key policy discussions. By raising all voices fairly, we can work toward a university that truly reflects the needs of its diverse student body.

### **Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on Student Government.**

As a Ph.D. candidate, I have developed strong leadership, preparation, and forward-planning skills that make me well-qualified to serve on Student Government. My academic journey has required me to navigate complex institutional structures, advocate for student needs, and engage in strategic problem-solving—skills that directly translate to effective student representation. Through my work at UNO as an instructional coach and Waldo Society Vice President, I serve as a liaison between students, faculty, and administration, ensuring that student concerns are heard and addressed. These roles have strengthened my ability to collaborate, communicate effectively, and advocate for student interests at multiple levels.