

UNO Student Government 2026-27 Election

Candidate Profile Guide

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Ticket 1: ThriveUNO - [Instagram](#)

Bryan Benitez (Study Body President)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for student government to listen to students and fight for their needs. I have been apart of SGA since I was a freshman, and I see a system that still does not serve and fight for the wants and needs of all students on campus. I want to give students on campus someone who from day one will actively look for solutions to problems that plague students on campus. We have seen far too long on empty promises from our elected officials, now we must grow and thrive on campus, and evolve into a better student government that actively champions students wants and needs, and I want to be that catalyst that begins this change.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue on campus that I think needs to be severely addressed is the lack of transparency when it comes to student fees and dollars. Especially when it comes to organizations that consistently use student fees like agencies, and other entities such as dining dollars and similar expenses. I want to actively champion a transparent financial structure on campus so students know their money is being used effectively, and that anything their fees are used for they can freely access without restriction nor barriers. At ThriveUNO we want to create clear guides and documentation that showcases how to manage excessive fees such as dodge dining dollars, and gain insight into how to access the resources provided by student agencies and SGA derivatives to further support all students on campus. We also want to create initiatives that focus on sharing resources amongst all student organizations on campus and decrease the barriers to amazing events that student organizations on campus already hold. UNO currently lacks that transparency in funding, and they have provided minimal means to understand where our money goes and how it is used. ThriveUNO will champion increased student fee transparency, and increased collaboration amongst student organizations to limit costs, improve campus efficiency, and give students the opportunity to learn and grow on campus.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I have served in various roles on campus. From freshman year as a First Year Leadership Commission, to senator for the college of arts and sciences, and now as the Director of the American Multicultural Students Agency, I have actively fought for and championed for activities and organizations that support students' needs first and foremost. I also serve on various other student organization E-boards where I have learned how to manage organizations effectively which I hope to bring to SGA. More than anything, I have spoken and worked with students to understand what I and the organizations I am apart of can best serve students, something that I think is lacking in our current administration. ThriveUNO and I want to serve as a catalyst for including students and the organizations they are a part of to have an active role in SGA and not find themselves limited by administrations that don't put them and their needs first.

Isabella Mitchell (Vice President)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for SGA Vice President due to my desire to improve this university. As an upcoming senior, this school has been my home for nearly four years. It's been the place where I've made my best friends, learned my greatest lessons, and accomplished what I never imagined I could. It is due to how much this university has done for me that I am dedicated to recognizing all the ways in which it could be improved. I wholeheartedly believe in the potential of this institution— the city of Omaha itself is an epicenter for innovation and success, where the most exceptional, driven, and passionate individuals gravitate, and this university is no different. As much as I love this school, and as much as this school has given me, I also am aware of its many challenges and flaws. I see how it can be better— we just need someone to make meaningful, tangible change for the direct interests of the students, faculty, and staff. I know that I can represent the unique needs and passions of the

student body, if I am only given the chance. We need someone who isn't afraid to have the courage to fight for what this school needs and deserves, and as your Vice President, I could be that someone.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue that I believe we need to improve at UNO is the lack of third spaces on campus. The main area for students to congregate without pressure of studying or academics is the student union, Milo Bail. However, I believe that implementing more areas for students (especially commuter students) to be able to talk, relax, or simply exist without academic pressure would improve the culture of the student body. There is already a problem of a lack of "community" feel on campus, alongside a lack of engagement with RSOs and other organizations. Implementing third spaces in several buildings on Dodge and Scott campuses may help improve this feeling of community, bringing warmth and vibrancy back into buildings that may feel cold and still. Additionally, incorporating spaces on campus for relaxation and de-stressing can also emphasize the importance of wellness on campus. Protecting the mental and physical health of every student, staff, and faculty is deeply important to my goals as Vice President, and I believe that having spaces dedicated to caring for students' mental health (besides just during de-stress week) can help transform the student body.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am qualified to serve on SGA due to my previous experiences. I have been a board member of an SGA agency, the Women and Gender Equity Center, for the past two years, and I've served as Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences for the past year. I am also in leadership positions in other organizations on campus, such as serving as the Cultural Awareness Chair of Black Excellence for the past year. Finally, with studying Molecular and Biomedical Sciences with minors in Political Science, Chemistry, and Medical Humanities, I deeply value the unity of different perspectives and disciplines— I have a wide array of experiences and knowledge from different colleges on campus, and I have experience managing a busy workload while still cherishing the needs of my constituents and fellow classmates.

Lilian Johnson (Chief of Staff)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I want to make the University a better place and strengthen the campus culture. I also really enjoyed serving last year, and I would love to continue the work we've started.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One of the main issues at UNO is a lack of campus community and culture, so we will work toward improving that through more community spaces in each building, like lounges, napping zones, and other areas to study and hang out.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

First, I served as the Senator for the College of Communication, Fine Arts, and Media last year, and was the Chair of the Civic Engagement Committee during that time. Additionally, I have done mock legislature, and I am pursuing a minor in Political Science. I am very passionate about government and its processes, and I enjoy working with people toward goals of improving my community.

Ticket 2: ONE UNO - [Instagram](#)

Aditi Rai (Study Body President)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I am committed to serving as a Student Body President and Student Regent who will dedicate the time, energy, and care needed to ensure students are heard and represented. My experience as Student Body Vice President this year has shown me the importance of engagement and prompt responsiveness when representing student concerns. In a time when the world around, us can feel so divided, I want to focus on bringing students together, creating community, and ensuring their perspectives are at the center of every conversation that shapes our campus, both at UNO and across the NU system. I am committed to keeping SGA accessible, so students feel informed, empowered, and confident sharing their viewpoints. As Student Regent, I will carry those perspectives forward and advocate for student needs in conversations with university leadership and stakeholders across

the NU system.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

Throughout my time at UNO, it has become apparent that students often feel uninformed about decisions that affect their academics and college experience. Ensuring students are included and aware of what is happening is essential to building a connected community. This year, I have worked with the Director of Marketing to share summaries of resolutions being voted on and the actions following the business meetings via social media so students can stay engaged with what SGA is doing. If elected as Student Body President/Regent, I plan to bring SGA directly to students through monthly Pop-Up events. While an extremely simple idea, these events will allow us to inform students

about what is happening around campus and ensure they have the necessary knowledge to voice their opinions, because a lack of knowledge can result in a lack of action. By meeting students in an informal and approachable setting, we can break down the barriers of formality and create space for conversation. As a result, we can more effectively advocate for student concerns and needs in meetings with various stakeholders across campus.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

My journey in Student Government began as a First-Year Leadership Commissioner, where I learned how SGA works and how student voices shape our campus. Serving as a senator gave me the opportunity to advocate for meaningful changes and work with other senators to improve student life. Now, as Student Body Vice President, I have further strengthened my leadership skills and developed a deeper understanding of how to navigate various complexities while keeping student needs at the center of every decision. This year, I have spent the majority of my time improving SGA processes so we can focus more on advocating for students and engaging with them meaningfully. I am leading various initiatives, like SGA Pop-Ups and the Student Fees Fair, to ensure students are aware of SGA and the resources available to them. Beyond SGA, my leadership roles in organizations such as HSA and the CIST Student Advisory Board have allowed me to work directly with students across campus. These experiences have equipped me with the ability to listen to diverse perspectives and work towards tangible solutions.

Lilly Broady (Vice President)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running as Student Body Vice President for Student Government because I want to meaningfully contribute to making UNO campus one that is student-focused and prioritizes inclusivity and connectedness.

Throughout my time so far at UNO, I've seen the impact that strong communication, advocacy, and initiative can have on student life, and I strive to continue building onto that positive change. I am motivated to ensuring that student perspectives and ideas are represented in university decisions and that communication remains clear and simple.

As a student studying Geography in a small department, I have observed how overlooked students can feel by the university, particularly when it comes to communication about opportunities, representation in campus conversations, and access to resources that are more visible in larger colleges. This experience has made me passionate about ensuring that

every student feels seen, heard, and supported within the UNO community. Serving in this position would allow me to create meaningful improvements in campus life and enhance the overall student experience in ways that leave a lasting, positive impact on UNO students.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe needs to be addressed at UNO is the divide between students who commute and those who live on campus. As a commuter, I have felt the disconnect from campus events, clubs, and social opportunities, which can make it hard to feel engaged with the UNO community. This divide limits interactions, networking, and the sense of belonging that makes college meaningful for students. Student Government can play an important role in bridging this gap by organizing inclusive events that accommodate commuters' schedules, improving spaces for commuters, and promoting organizations/clubs that encourage connections between students. Creating spaces where commuters and residential students can interact would strengthen campus unity and better ensure every student feels seen and supported to participate in campus life. Improving this connection

benefits not only social cohesion but also academic engagement, student retention, and overall campus culture.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve as Student Body Vice President for the Student Government Association because I bring a combination of leadership, responsibility, and diverse experiences. During my time at UNO, I have been able to explore several clubs and organizations on campus, gaining insight to many different perspectives and ideas amongst students. I value these diverse perspectives and experiences, as I believe this creates a stronger, more inclusive community. Managing leadership positions in Greek life and HSA, I have learned how to represent students effectively and encourage involvement on campus. Serving as the Director of Recruitment for SGA this past year has given me insight on how capable UNO students are, and I hope to continue empowering students to maximize their potential, both at UNO and beyond. I am committed and dedicated to representing students, making informed decisions, and supporting initiatives that enhance the UNO experience for all students.

Moses Rhodes (Chief of Staff)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Chief of Staff in Student Government to enhance support and improve communication among the student body, SGA, and administration. It is often the case that students are kept in the dark about important decisions that directly impact their campus life and experiences. I am deeply committed to creating inclusive spaces where meaningful dialogue and genuine connection can flourish, ensuring that students have a platform to voice their opinions and stay well-informed about all relevant decisions. I strongly believe that our campus should be a place where everyone has the right and opportunity to be in the know. Additionally, I want to ensure that registered student organizations receive the support they need to succeed and grow. These organizations are vital to student success and community building, and I believe they deserve increased

attention and active involvement from SGA. As Chief of Staff, I will bridge the divides, help foster collaboration, and promote unity across different groups. I envision a campus where every student feels they have a seat at the table and their voice is genuinely heard and respected.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One of the most critical issues facing UNO today is the lack of visible support for RSOs. Currently, many RSOs operate unaware that SGA is a resource to help their success. This situation needs to be addressed to strengthen student life on campus. RSOs are the heartbeat of student involvement, serving as a core element in a vibrant, inclusive community at UNO. As Chief of Staff, I would host regular RSO presidential mixers to encourage collaboration, idea sharing, and networking among student leaders. These events would also serve as platforms for open dialogue, allowing RSO members to voice concerns and get support on issues requiring SGA action. Additionally, I plan to revitalize the Dedication Points program, helping senators and RSO members connect, fostering stronger relationships, and reducing the divide between SGA and the student body. Furthermore, I aim to position SGA as a true partner by providing effective tools, advocacy, and meaningful connections to support student organizations. My goal is to ensure every RSO recognizes that SGA is always an ally, committed to their success and well-being. I will work diligently to support the functions they serve in campus life.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

In my first year at UNO, I have held roles that are rooted in fairness and procedure. I served as the SGA Director of Integrity, ensuring that all bylaws and Board of Regents policies are followed. This role also gave me an understanding of how to learn quickly. I came on halfway through the year and had to play catch-up to be successful in my position. This forced me to learn to ask for help when I needed it and to know when I might not have all the knowledge for a specific situation. I have also served as a Title IX decision-maker and a member of a Student Conduct hearing board. In both roles, I have had to assess the evidence fairly and provide extensive documentation of my decisions. In all my involvement, I have had to get very good at listening and advocating, whether for a policy change or for a student's safety. I am committed to hearing, helping, and advocating for students, connecting them with the support they need for success.

College of Arts & Sciences – Senator

(Choose up to 7)



Caelestis Corrigan (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I find it vital that I be a voice for others on this campus. All of the students here have unique experiences, thoughts, and opinions that deserve to be heard and taken seriously, and I believe it is my responsibility to strengthen the connection on this campus by strengthening the community as a representative.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue that I feel very strongly about is the lack of meal plan options on Dodge Campus. For those that live at Scott but have class on Dodge, or even for those who live in University Village or Maverick Village, the commute one must make to Scott Campus to eat is less than ideal. I'd like to campaign to allow for meal plans to be used on Dodge, even if for limited options, or up to a price point. For example, at the Durango Grill, a meal plan could get you about \$7-\$8 worth of food, similar to how The Grind uses its pricing.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

In my sophomore year of high school, I ran for Undersecretary at Interact Club. Though I didn't win, I learned a lot about how to appeal to voters. I would be an effective voice for my constituents and listen to what they have to say. I performed well in Government related classes and believe I can effectively perform as a representative of my constituents.



Riley Jensen (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I want to help ensure every student at UNO feels heard and supported from the present and onto the future. As a student at UNO, I can see how important it is for students to have strong representation when decisions are made about their academics, campus lifestyle, and resources. I want to serve as a bridge between students and university leadership by listening to concerns and advocating for practical solutions as they arise. Through the Student Government, I hope to help improve the students experience so they continue to choose UNO and create opportunities that allow every Maverick to enjoy and succeed here at UNO.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe should be improved here at UNO is parking availability for students. Many students, especially commuters like myself, spend a decent amount of time searching for open parking spaces before class. This can create unnecessary stress and may even cause some students to be late, guilty myself. I think improving parking availability could help a student's experience here at UNO.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve on Student Government because of my leadership and teamwork experience. I used to be an assistant manager at Runza Restaurants, I was responsible for helping lead a team every shift, solving problems as they arise, especially during busy shifts, and making sure employees and customers were both feeling supported. This experience taught me many things, how to communicate, listen to different perspectives, and make decisions that benefit a group. I am committed to listening to student concerns and helping create solutions that positively impact the UNO community.



Athena Carter (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for student government because I want to be an active leader who helps create meaningful change on campus. After being recommended multiple times to apply, I realized others see leadership potential in me, and I want to use that potential to serve the student body. I believe the student government should be a place where every voice is heard and valued. My goal is to advocate for students, support initiatives that improve campus life, and help build a stronger, more connected community.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One concern I have noticed as a biology major is the limited availability of online course options. In addition, some required subjects, such as physics, are only taught by a small number of professors,

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which limits scheduling flexibility for students. Expanding online offerings and increasing instructor availability could help biology majors better manage their academic schedules and progress toward their degrees.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am a suitable candidate for student government because I consistently make an effort to stay involved on campus and contribute to the community. I am a reliable person who follows through on commitments and takes responsibilities seriously. I want to use these qualities to represent students effectively and help support initiatives that improve the campus experience.



Clancy Rodriguez (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

Every student at the University of Nebraska - Omaha, deserves to be heard. That means representation; it means prioritizing the wellbeing of each other above all else. Taking into consideration each perspective, each story, and acknowledging it rather than running away or fighting it; that's what it means to be heard. Such as said by the famous philosopher and psychologist Carl Rogers, "Real communication occurs when we listen with understanding." I am running for Student Government, particularly for a seat in the Senate for the College of Arts and Sciences, because I hold dear the varying academic fields; the political sciences, philosophical sciences, the psychological, and so on.

To represent such a diverse community with such diverse and fierce academic interest is an honorable responsibility I would treat with the seriousness and participation it deserves. I want to listen, learn, and represent these students. I want to acknowledge every perspective; academic or ideological, to agree or disagree. To further enrich this community where students have a voice. It is not difficult to sit and say I will be open to listening. Many have said it before, and false promises have been made and broken. To actually listen and understand is where problems arise. So, I want to fix the issues that many students have voiced before. Expressions of frustration regarding parking, unfair parking permits fees for a commonly known 'commuter' campus, a lack of social life, irreparable budget cuts that cost communities and drive up prices; and most significantly, a thing I've heard from students and faculty alike, is the frustration behind the lack of communication, and even the censorship of. We all have a perspective to tell, because we all harbor an individualized story that we hold so precious. To sit in the seat of a Senator is to make decisions for the people, by the people, with the good of the people at the utmost consideration. It's not to be a leader, rather it's to get things done. That is why I am running for Senator.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I truly think harms students is ultimately repercussions of budget cuts throughout the University. It's an issue that is relatively out of anyone's control. The University of Nebraska – Omaha, is facing a funds crisis and because of that its tuition has increased, adding onto the four-hundred-dollar parking permit fee, not to mention economic fluctuations hindering both faculty and students. Students have complained and felt the impact on prices in the MavDen – even commenting on vending machine prices being too high - that is, if they are operational. The issue is: these prices must be high, otherwise individual departments that rely heavily on these fees would have no outside funds to support them. The issue is; that the University is being neglected and because of that students are having adverse experiences at an amazing school, in an amazing city. Unfortunately, I am not budget savvy. However, what I lack with numbers I make up for in dedication, understanding, and problem-solving. I truly believe there's a solution to every problem – you must want it bad enough, and if it doesn't work the first few times, you find another way. Either way, you get there, and with a team of dedicated individuals, it's easier. This is one of those issues I believe is going to be my top priority going forward. It's an issue I am willing to work tirelessly on with the help of the Senate for my community and for my campus.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

Throughout my first year on campus, I have been involved in the group Students for Justice in Palestine, upheld the role as Ambassador for the First Year Leadership Commission, attended and

participated in Student Government business meetings, maintained a good standing GPA, all while working full time and fully financially supporting myself. Out of my experience thus far, however, the most driving part of participating on campus was working and collaborating on impactful projects that bettered my community. After working with FYLC to create the Field Day Throwback Event, along with working alongside my FYLC co-ambassador to create the UNO Peace Walk for Global Healing and Unity, and the Sign Creating Event for the Peace Walk – I have learned what it means to be an active participant in leadership. I've also witnessed and participated in Resolutions passed by the Senate, saw firsthand the impact the decisions made had on the community and the importance those decisions hold. Furthermore, like many, I've faced adversity my entire life. Being a Transgender man from a small town, the traditional mindset often left me feeling underrepresented, alone, and hurt. In high school, I would have weekly meetings with faculty, usually regarding some pronoun conflict between us, where I would have to advocate for myself, for my community. I sat at 16 at this large red wood desk polished to a reflective shine, next to my parents who didn't understand the situation themselves, across from the entire upper faculty, and shared my perspective, over and over again. Week by week. Ultimately, what I said made an impact. My transgender peers got to put their preferred name in the yearbook, as did I. Teachers began to express that they wanted to educate their students, they apologized, I truly believed they learned. That impact set the standard for every decision I made going onward; I wanted it to be better for everyone. It was small, but for a small town, it felt huge. I truly believe it was just the start, and through my first year on campus I have been shown the impact of hard work and community – and how it is so, so much easier when you have that community with you, sitting beside you at the table, and not sitting across from you. That is why I believe I can use my experience with student senate, my dedication for community as a member of society, my longing for it as a student, and my social experiences to encourage solutions on campus and why I would qualify for the seat of senate.

Jared Panko (Senator)

No photo was submitted.

Why are you running for SGA?

I was recommended for it.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

I think the main issue affecting students on the campus on a daily basis is the parking policy. There is not enough parking spaces for people with permits to park close to their buildings that they live or have class in. The parking police also ticket people at a very high rate which definitely generates a lot of revenue for the school but hurts the morale and wallets of the students. I think we could look into this issue further and discuss what could be done to improve it.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am a very understanding person who cares about and wants to fix the problems I see other people and myself deal with. I am also in good academic standing and I have been on the dean's list multiple times.



Miles Clarke (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I was a senator during the 2025-2026 school year and worked in the DEIA committee. I helped plan events such as the Non-Profit Organization Tabling Event, the FYLC Peace Walk, as well as helping out with research regarding the MavBike program, and am currently working to confront the issue with the UNO Child Care Center closing down. I want to continue being in SGA because I want to continue making these differences in our UNO community and keeping UNO unity a top priority.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One thing I wanted to do during this present school year, but was unable, was to make resources regarding drug abuse/misuse/addiction and queer sexual health more public across campus. I feel, especially when it comes to drug addiction, people are afraid to get help due to fear of judgment and demonization by their peers - this coming from a recovering addict. I feel UNO should be a space where, even if we can't offer those sources (counseling, etc.) we can at least tell people that we want to get them help, no questions asked.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am an incredibly analytical and creative person; one thing I thrive in is debate and speech analysis, as well as finding loopholes and potential areas of conflict. I was on the debate team for my high school 2021-2022 (junior year) and learned that my overthinking wasn't always a weakness, but a positive skill if applied properly. When it came to listening to resolutions or hearing proponent speeches for those wanting positions in SGA or the like, I was able to formulate areas of their strengths, potential weaknesses, and any problem spots. I was able to formulate questions to give clarification on things that would seem like weak points or areas of conflict. I am able to be objective and give both positive and negative feedback, even if it is someone who I know personally.



Payton Stuchlik (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government to represent students in the College of Arts and Sciences and help strengthen how students engage with global learning opportunities at UNO. As an Interdisciplinary Studies student currently studying abroad who has participated in multiple international programs, I have seen how studying in different countries and academic systems can expand a student's perspective, encourage cultural understanding, and inspire new academic interests. These experiences also showed me how valuable it is when students can learn directly from one another. Students who have studied abroad, international students studying at

UNO, and students interested in global programs all have perspectives that can benefit each other. As a senator, I want to help create stronger connections between these groups so students can share

experiences, advice, and ideas about global learning. My goal is to help students feel more informed about the opportunities available to them and to support an environment where international experiences are seen as an accessible and valuable part of a student's education at UNO.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe could be improved at UNO is how clearly students can access and navigate study abroad opportunities. While the university offers many international programs, students often struggle to understand how the process works or where to start. Questions about credit transfer, financial aid, scholarships, and academic planning can make the process feel confusing and discourage students from exploring these opportunities. UNO already has students who volunteer to share their study abroad experiences, which is a valuable resource. However, this could be strengthened by creating more consistent opportunities for students interested in studying abroad to connect with peers who have already participated in these programs. Structured student panels, mentorship opportunities, and informal discussions with study abroad alumni could make the process more approachable and transparent. Improving how students access this information would help more students feel prepared to pursue international experiences and take full advantage of the global opportunities available at UNO.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve in Student Government because I bring both firsthand experience and strong connections across several parts of the university community. As an Interdisciplinary Studies student, I work across multiple academic areas and regularly collaborate with advisors and faculty within the College of Arts and Sciences. Through my academic path and international experiences, I have built relationships with staff in the study abroad office, financial aid department, and academic advising offices, giving me insight into how different university systems support students. I am also a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program and have worked with Reach the World, where I shared my study abroad experiences with middle school students. In addition, I actively share information about international experiences through platforms like YouTube and Instagram, helping other students understand how to access global programs. These experiences have strengthened my communication skills and my commitment to ensuring students are aware of the resources and opportunities available to them at UNO.



Yasmin Baydoun (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I want to help create a campus where every student feels supported, heard, and connected. As a student who came from Syria after years of conflict, education has always represented opportunity and hope to me. Being at UNO is something I do not take for granted, and I want to give back to the community that welcomed me. On campus, I founded the volunteer organization MavServe because I believe students want to help others but sometimes do not know where to start. Through this experience, I have learned how powerful student leadership can be when it brings people together for a common purpose. Student Government provides the opportunity to represent student voices, improve campus life, and create programs that help students succeed both academically and personally. I

want to advocate for initiatives that support mental health, student engagement, and meaningful service opportunities. By serving in Student Government, I hope to contribute to building a stronger, more inclusive community at UNO.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe should be improved at UNO is student awareness and access to campus opportunities. Many students want to get involved in volunteering, leadership programs, research, or campus events, but they often do not know where to find these opportunities or feel disconnected from them. As someone who started the volunteer club MavServe, I have seen how many students are interested in helping their communities but simply lack clear pathways to get involved. Creating better communication between student organizations, Student Government, and the broader student body could make a big difference. I would like to advocate for stronger promotion of student resources, volunteer opportunities, and campus events through centralized platforms and partnerships with student organizations. When students are more connected to opportunities, they feel a greater sense of belonging and purpose on campus. Improving this connection can help build a more engaged and supportive student community at UNO.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

What qualifies me to serve on Student Government is my commitment to leadership, service, and representing diverse student perspectives. Founding the volunteer organization MavServe required me to organize events, communicate with students, and create opportunities that encourage service and community engagement. This experience has strengthened my leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. My background has also shaped my perspective. Coming from Syria and experiencing a very different educational environment has taught me the value of opportunity, resilience, and community support. These experiences allow me to approach challenges with empathy and determination. I believe Student Government should represent the voices of all students, especially those who may feel unheard. I am committed to listening to students, advocating for their needs, and working collaboratively with others to create positive changes on campus. Through dedication, organization, and a passion for service, I believe I can contribute meaningfully to Student Government and the UNO community.

Joshua Mammen (Senator)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because of the potential that this organization can have on the student body. As the primary voice of the student body, SGA has the ability to make key decisions regarding student life. Through resolutions discussing school policies, SGA sponsored programming, and much more, the decisions made by UNO's Student Government are essential to the students here. As someone committed to helping those around me, I seek to be a part of something that promotes the wellbeing of the entire student population at this school. From just my first semester at UNO, I have been impressed by the work that organizations like SGA have done for students. I had been able to participate in Student Government through FYLC last semester and saw firsthand how students sought to bring positive change to UNO. However, I believe there is still plenty that future Student

Government members can do, especially regarding increasing the visibility of SGA's work. By running for a seat in SGA, my goal is to bring important ideas that many students and I share to the table.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

Unlike many colleges around us, UNO brings together a wide variety of students. A typical UNO student could range from living on campus versus commuting, growing up in Nebraska or moving from another country, or being a non-traditional student compared to an 18 year old straight out of high school. Though students with different interests and backgrounds come to UNO, the school often has some sort of resource, club, activity, or opportunity to engage with others that fits each student. Unfortunately, many students only discover these later in their time at UNO. They miss out on being part of a community earlier in their academic career. Much of this can be attributed to the lack of communication that is aimed towards newer students. MavSYNC and Student Involvement fairs have the potential to be great resources for students trying to find a community, but they are unfortunately not advertised enough. Both the UNO administration and Student Government could play significant roles in alleviating this issue. Possible solutions include making these resources clearer in orientation and effectively reminding current students of these involvement opportunities.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

One of the first organizations I joined at UNO was the First Year Leadership Commission (FYLC). I saw FYLC as a chance to make an impact on campus. In just one semester of being a member, I learned how Student Government at UNO works, watched SGA in action, and helped brainstorm a potential resolution to contribute to the student body's overall wellbeing. Serving as an FYLC member gave me significant insight into the larger SGA organization in addition to strengthening my leadership, collaboration, and advocacy skills. Outside of FYLC, I was involved in helping others in the Omaha community as a leader in my high school's service organization and using my reasoning and speaking abilities in competitive settings through speech & debate. Both of these high school experiences strengthened my leadership abilities by preparing me to advocate for others confidently.



Sanjana Jayanti (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

Serving as a Resident Assistant and as Vice President of the Indian Student Association has further shown me how important representation, communication, and community-building are for student success. Through Student Government, I hope to help strengthen connections across disciplines and organizations so that students in the arts, sciences, and cultural groups feel equally supported within the College of Arts and Sciences. UNO is strongest when its diverse communities collaborate, and I want to help create more opportunities for those connections to grow.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe should be improved at UNO is access to late-night study spaces for all students. Many students have demanding schedules that include classes, jobs, research, and extracurricular activities. Because of this, productive study hours often happen late at night. However, most

academic buildings close relatively early, leaving students with limited quiet and safe places to study on campus. Currently, some spaces such as the Honors student lounge provide dedicated study environments, but similar opportunities are not available to the broader student population. Creating additional late-night or 24-hour study spaces would support students who need flexible environments to complete coursework, collaborate on projects, or prepare for exams. Expanding these spaces could involve keeping certain buildings open later during peak academic periods or designating monitored study areas that are accessible with student IDs. As someone balancing rigorous coursework, leadership roles, and campus involvement, I understand how valuable accessible study spaces can be. Improving this would help make UNO more supportive and equitable for all students.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve on Student Government because I am deeply involved in the UNO community and committed to representing a wide range of student perspectives. I am a sophomore double majoring in Psychology and Neuroscience with concentrations in cognitive science, computing and neurotechnology, and medical and health sciences research. My academic background has taught me to approach problems analytically while considering how decisions affect people and communities. Beyond academics, I actively contribute to campus life through leadership and service. I serve as a Resident Assistant, where I work closely with students from diverse backgrounds and help create a supportive living environment. I am also the Vice President of the Indian Student Association, where I help organize cultural events and initiatives that build community and promote inclusion on campus. In addition, I am a certified yoga teacher and enjoy promoting wellness and balance among students. Through these experiences, I have developed strong communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills. I am passionate about advocating for student needs and working collaboratively to improve the campus experience for everyone at UNO.



Alicia Cooper (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government in the hopes of advocating for policies that will improve the everyday health and well-being of students at UNO. As a student pursuing pre-medicine, I am especially interested in how access to basic health care resources affects academic performance, stress, and day-to-day living. A large portion of our student body actively balances working part-time or full-time, extracurriculars, in addition to taking a full load of classes. Seemingly small inequities in healthcare access or resources available on campus can impact their

ability to succeed, and as a campus, there should be more concerted efforts to mitigate these barriers. The student government is a vessel in which ideas for policy change can be discussed, listened to, and elevated to higher levels of power following the chain of command. Because of this, I want to represent my peers by advocating for student-centered health initiatives through the Student Government.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe should be reconsidered at UNO is the availability of basic reproductive and menstrual resources on campus. In previous years, these resources were much more accessible to students than they are right now. Namely, menstrual products and emergency contraception have

been removed from student health center resources. Without access to these resources, students could endure more stress and face more adversity within their already busy lives. In this light, I believe the University should explore ways to restore or expand access to these resources in a responsible, holistic way. Being able to address these needs and issues would demonstrate a commitment to the public health, safety, and integrity of our students.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

As a student maintaining a strong academic standing while actively balancing coursework and research involvement, I believe I would bring a thoughtful and responsible perspective to Student Government. Due to my background and experiences at UNO thus far, I understand the importance of time management, accountability/reliability, and dedication to goals. My academic career at UNO actually started during my junior year of high school, while I balanced taking multivariable calculus as an evening course, keeping up with my full high school schedule, and extracurriculars. My academic experiences have taught me how to think critically and evaluate problems with responsibility, integrity, and professionalism. My interest in medicine and public health has shaped my perspective on community wellbeing and equal access to health resources. Due to my diverse personal background, being a transracially adopted Asian in Nebraska, I understand the value of listening to different perspectives and working collaboratively to find solutions. I believe these qualities would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the Student Government at UNO.



Luke Perry (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government as my interest and intention to be a public servant for the people I wish to represent. I have been involved in governmental work since I started college, working in the Nebraska Legislature, and being actively involved in political advocacy. I believe that there are many changes and problems that are in need of solving within the University of Nebraska of Omaha and I wish to put in my effort to make those changes possible.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue that I would constantly think about is the lack of transparency on the operations with student government. What I mean by is that when I try to see what is happening with our executive committee and, what is happening with our senators, there is no information to be found. What I found to be important while working at the state capitol was recording everything that a senator did. This is how they voted or what they stated during debates. Knowing this about our government is vital for transparency. How come in the college of arts and science which I am in, that I know near to nothing about the senators representing me. Yes, there's livestreams on YouTube that record everything, but no student is going to watch 4 hours of a livestream to understand our executive officers and senators. I want to know our senators and other people do too.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am qualified to sit in student government for a multitude of reasons. Ever since the end of high school, I became involved within politics and government. I would first volunteer for political

campaigns and gain experience speaking to people and advocating for problems within our state. I would knock on doors and ask everyday people the problems they experience within our society, and I feel so strong when I get to allow the people to speak on what they believe in. I also see this with my current work experience. I work as a legislative page at our state capitol for the Nebraska Legislature. In this job I was able to work in committees where I saw hundreds of people testify, from all different backgrounds and history. This is where I truly understood the importance of speaking up to what you believe and the serious work that legislators in the state have to do within our government. From my experience, I will be delighted to become a public servant for the students of UNO.



Lauren Hills (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I possess the genuine care and commitment, I believe the student body deserves in an ASH Senator and is necessary to make UNO a place where students feel represented, supported, and connected. Over my time here at UNO, I've had the opportunity to meet and listen to students from all walks of campus life from residents in my community in my position as a Resident Assistant to leaders across student organizations. All of these conversations have shown me what matters most to students: feeling heard, having the opportunity to engage, and seeing real, tangible change. Through my experience in SGA specifically, in FYLC, the DEIA committee, and Director of Leadership Development I have learned how to do just that, turn ideas into action while maintaining connections with both students and administration. Leadership is about serving others and making sure all students have the opportunities and environment they need not only to survive but to thrive. I am running because I want to use these experiences to make real positive sustainable impacts on the UNO student experience.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

Throughout UNO, students have a variety of experiences, and I have learned that there are a few key areas where meaningful focus and actions could make the largest impact. One of these is student life and engagement. While UNO offers incredible organizations, events, and the opportunity to share your own with campus, not all students are aware, nor do they feel encouraged to participate in them. By ensuring students are able to easily find and engage with these opportunities' campus life can become more connected to one another and welcoming of all individuals. Another area of improvement is transparency; students should understand the decisions that are affecting their everyday lives and offer clear ways to amplify their voice and opinion on these decisions. It's equally important that student government and administration share a vision for the student experience so both can be actively involved in these processes and utilize feedback to achieve real progress. In prioritizing engagement and communication, a supportive environment is fostered. One in which students can focus on academics and personal fulfillment rather than challenges like simply finding a parking spot.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

Since enrolling at UNO, I have been strongly involved in campus life, and I believe that these collective experiences have prepared me to effectively serve in SGA. I first became involved in SGA through FYLC and now serve. The Director of Leadership Development. Where I support the

development of FYLC members may help ensure continuity within the organization, so student initiatives and leadership development can only continue growing. Through these roles, I have helped plan multiple student events that furthered campus social connections, physical wellness, and resource knowledge amongst students. I helped generate revived interest in such programs through conducting many candidate interviews and extensive outreach to students, faculty, staff, and upper administrators promptly. I am also involved on campus outside of SGA, serving as an RA where I have been able to regularly listen to student concerns and work with university administration and public safety to support student needs. A joint effort I have been able to share on the national level (due to inference). As a UNO Global Diplomat and Maverick Civic Leadership Fellow, my absolute respect for student voices beyond the campus has been strengthened. All of these experiences have allowed me to further my organizational, leadership, communication, and creative skills that will allow me to advocate effectively for students and contribute to campus in a positive way in this role.

College of Business Administration – Senator

(Choose up to 4)



Drew Leisy (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for student government because I believe the decisions that affect students should always include student voices. Our campus works best when students have a seat at the table and are part of shaping the future of the university. I want to help ensure that every student feels heard, valued, and represented. Through collaboration, listening, and advocacy, I hope to help strengthen the connection between students and university leadership while continuing to improve the student experience for everyone.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I want to focus on is increasing student engagement and ensuring every student feels connected to the campus community.

When students feel involved and supported, they are more likely to succeed academically and personally. I want to help create more opportunities for students to share their ideas, participate in campus life, and feel like they truly belong at UNO.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve in student government because of my experience and commitment to representing students. As a former Student Body President and Student Regent, I have developed a strong understanding of university policy, shared governance, and how decisions are made at the institutional level. Through these roles, I have worked closely with university leadership, advocated for student needs, and helped ensure student perspectives were included in important conversations. This experience has given me the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate policy, collaborate with others, and effectively represent the student body. I care deeply about ensuring students have a

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voice, and I am committed to using my experience to continue advocating for policies and initiatives that benefit the campus community.



Dillon Stice (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I believe that leadership should always be rooted in listening, action, and being in service to those I would represent. During my time at UNO, I have been lucky enough to be involved in organizations and roles that focus on building students up and creating opportunities for others to succeed. Those experiences have shown me that many students have great ideas and real concerns, but they often do not get the chance to voice their concerns. I want to serve as the ears and voice for all students, not just the ones who feel comfortable enough to loudly speak up. Too often the loudest voices are the only ones heard, while many of our students quietly carry their concerns without ever feeling like they have a place to share them. I want to represent the student who sits in the back of the classroom, who may feel hesitant to raise their hand or share their opinion, but whose perspective matters just as much. Additionally, I am here to represent the student who is balancing classes with a 40-hour work week, pushing through long days because they believe in the future they are building. Every student at this university has a story, a goal, and a reason for being here, and I want to make sure those voices are heard and respected in the decisions that shape our campus.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One of the main issues that us students here at UNO face is the cost of parking. For many of our peers, paying high parking fees places an unnecessary financial burden on top of tuition, books, housing, and many other living expenses endured. Many of our peers are already working long hours to support themselves while pursuing their education, and the cost of simply being able to park on campus can make an already difficult situation even more challenging. Reliable access to campus should not be treated as something of a luxury. Parking is a necessity in a city where other forms of safe transportation is limited, and the University should certainly not be joining in on taking advantage of this. I believe the university should reevaluate current parking prices and explore ways to make them more affordable or create additional options that support students who are already balancing school, work, and financial responsibilities. Reducing this burden would help make attending UNO more accessible and supportive for the many students who rely on commuting to pursue their education.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am qualified to serve and represent the College of Business Administration's student body because I am a part of it. I know what it is like to be an average student here, who isn't getting their tuition paid for by scholarship and knows what the struggles of our peers looks and feels like. I know what it is like to balance coursework, jobs, financial pressures, and personal responsibilities while working towards a goal. I understand those realities and bring a perspective that reflects the voices of students who are working hard and striving to build a better future. Additionally, I have been lucky enough to have the opportunity to be in leadership roles here on campus. As the Financial Director and a founding member of UNO Blueprints for Pangaea, I have helped build and manage the financial systems that support our mission of expanding access to critical medical supplies for communities in need. It has opened my eyes to the struggles of those around me and has pushed me to strive for more. Also, as a Peer Mentor in the College of Business Administration I have had the opportunity to work closely with students, listen to their concerns, and help them navigate the challenges of university



Silvia Cajiga-Fernando (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government for the position of Senator of the College of Business Administration because of my care for UNO students and CBA students. I would like to advocate for the students of the College of Business Administration and ensure that they are being represented in UNO Student Government Meetings. My goal is to represent the College of Business Administration students and keep their best interests in mind and improve the accessibility of resources and community that UNO provides to support students' college experience. I am passionate about giving students a voice and hearing their concerns and improving students' college experience. I aim to work on ensuring that students are included and have access to the resources they may need and are heard when they may need it the most, especially when all decisions made directly impact UNO students. My experience at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and at the College of Business Administration motivates me to run for student government as meeting many students and learning about their experiences that have been shared with me of what is enhancing their experience and what can be improved drives me to ensure that they are being heard and that communication improves as when advocating for them. With a lot of changes and decisions occurring fast at UNO, I want to commit my time and be present to represent the College of Business Administration students.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue that should be changed at the University of Nebraska at Omaha is the underrepresentation of the students at Scott Campus. I have often been told by students at the College of Business Administration that the Scott Campus is often overlooked due to UNO's Dodge Campus and that most resources and opportunities are available in Dodge Campus and rarely offered in the Scott Campus. I want to ensure that the students at the College of Business Administration and Scott Campus are supported and that their needs are met efficiently. Instead of the Dodge Campus and Scott Campus being described as "two different worlds" by students, I want to represent the College of Business Administration and advocate for the support of CBA students. By advocating for this change, I hope to create a unified UNO college experience for students where they feel equally represented, supported, and connected.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am qualified to sit on Student Government as a College of Business Administration Senator because of my involvement in this college and leadership experience. As a part of six CBA student organizations and holding four leadership positions within these organizations, I have had the opportunity to learn from the students across various concentrations in the College of Business Administration. I have also volunteered and worked during the UNO CBA enrollment days where I met incoming CBA students and walked them through the enrollment process and served on a panel answering questions and responding to concerns about their upcoming college experience. This experience gave me an understanding of not only current CBA students but additionally incoming CBA students. As a part of the executive board of the Maverick Investment Program, I have gained leadership experience and a deeper understanding of supporting students. I have planned events for

UNO students to be connected with financial literacy education, career education, and support and advice to get rid of barriers that students may have related to financial literacy. My goal is to continue to learn from the students at the College of Business, understand what their needs are, and help connect and advocate for the students.

College of Communication, Fine Arts & Media – Senator

(Choose up to 2)



Klavier Avey (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I'm running for Student Government because I believe it's important to advocate for my fellow artists and creators and to be Student Government representation for my community as an LGBT person. I'm passionate about issues on campus like the DEI limitations, AI usage, on-campus petitions and freedom of speech, etc., and I want to provide a voice for those on campus--particularly in the CFAM department--who feel like they don't have one. I am confident that my contributions would be worthwhile and that my thoughts would encourage critical thought and productive discussion.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

The Childcare Center being closed has been on my mind since last February when it happened. I am sick to my stomach at the thought of students juggling parental duties and schoolwork having to drop classes or college altogether because they cannot afford daycare services, and I believe that it is our responsibility to make a change for them. The dropout rate at UNO is already nearing 40%, and this new factor will only worsen the percentage. On top of the countless mothers and fathers affected, students and professors alike, many students are out of work for the next semester because of the shutdown. It's no doubt there's a more dismal issue lying here, but what's important is that we work to fight it. Whether it's starting a nonprofit to financially support parents who reach out in need, donating directly to the school in order to ensure they are properly funded for the Childcare Center, or promoting the school's work opportunities more, there are ways to shine light on the struggle and perhaps shift towards positive growth.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am a headstrong and passionate leader with experience in high-stress environments and community-based workplaces. I have worked in the customer service industry since I was thirteen, and I have worked diligently to establish bonds with coworkers, even those who I disagree with, to ensure everyone is content, and I spent all of high school in the theater department as a technical leader. I took charge on physical projects and learned to dispute disagreements, and furthermore, I'm going to work as a camp counselor. I practically raised my siblings, and both of these facts serve as major contributions to my outgoing and driven nature. I am a stickler for strong interpersonal communication and encourage debate when appropriate. Overall, I value human connection and

want to hear everyone's voice, including my own. Each opinion is valuable, but I stand by mine.



Brooke Margheim (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I highly value advocacy, the fine arts, and participation in student organizations. Before majoring in music education, I was a political science major. I have always had a love for politics, government, and I want to help the College of Fine Arts and Media succeed and advocate for them in any way I can. It is important to use our voices for change and for good, and by joining Student Government that is what I aim to do.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

I believe UNO has the potential to have an amazing student community. One thing I think should be changed is the student culture and involvement. I have noticed that many students are not involved in student organizations; whether that be Greek life, a cappella groups, honors groups, etc. I think through SGA, we can create a campus that thinks of student organizations and involvement with much more value. Students typically rank colleges higher if they are involved and like the culture. At other schools, when you walk around the campus, there are people sitting outside, chatting, meeting in groups, etc. However, I am not noticing as much of that here. To improve student life, we need to encourage and support our student organizations to reach more students. Not only will this benefit the student organizations, it will benefit the students, and the happiness of the individuals going here. I want UNO to be a place where students go to get involved and find friends through many different groups. When students meet in a non-academic setting, new bonds and connections can be formed, and student ratings along with overall happiness raise.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am a member of Alpha Xi Delta, and in the 2025 year, I served as philanthropy vice president, in which I planned events and helped our members to value philanthropy and contribute to a cause greater than all of us! I am Vice President of the Collegiate Omaha Chapter of National Association for Music Education. I have traveled to the Lincoln Capitol to advocate for music education. I have also traveled to our nation's capital this past summer to advocate for music and music education. Before I changed my major to music education, I was a political science major, and I have always been passionate about government and leadership. I was involved in the Miss America Opportunity, which helped me develop interview and public speaking skills. Through local titles I held as Miss Scotts Bluff County Teen and Miss Scotts Bluff County, I volunteered around the community and talked to young students in schools. The Miss America Opportunity taught me the value of professionalism. In addition, the importance of individuals presenting themselves to the public in a positive way. I am also the section leader in our varsity choir, concert choir, here on campus. In addition to being section leader, I am the President of Concert Choir. We work on creating social events, making sure concerts run smoothly, among other tasks. I have been on the Dean's and Chancellor's list since I started here, and value academics highly. I would be honored to be the Student Senator of CFAM!



Calien Seran (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government to represent and support students in Communication, Fine Arts, and Media while helping strengthen the creative and academic community at UNO. As a Communication Studies student and active participant in artistic and cultural spaces, I value the power of expression, dialogue, and collaboration. I believe student government is an opportunity to listen to students, bring their ideas forward, and help create an environment where creativity, learning, and leadership can thrive.

My experiences in communication, media, and the arts have shown me how important it is for students to feel heard and supported in their academic and creative pursuits. I hope to advocate for opportunities that encourage student engagement, artistic exploration, and meaningful collaboration across departments. Serving as a senator would allow me to contribute thoughtfully to the student community while helping ensure that the voices of students in communication and the arts are represented with care and intention.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe could be improved at UNO is creating more visible opportunities for students in Communication, Fine Arts, and Media to showcase their work and collaborate across disciplines. Many students produce meaningful creative and academic work, but there are limited spaces where these ideas can be shared widely with the campus community. Encouraging more exhibitions, student showcases, media events, and interdisciplinary collaborations could strengthen the connection between students, faculty, and the wider university community. These opportunities would not only highlight student talent but also create spaces where ideas, culture, and creativity can be experienced by others. By supporting initiatives that celebrate student work and encourage collaboration across departments, UNO can continue to build a campus culture that values expression, innovation, and engagement. I would like to help advocate for more platforms where students can share their voices, ideas, and creative contributions with the broader university community.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve in Student Government because of my background in communication, collaboration, and community engagement. As a Communication Studies student, I value listening carefully, representing different perspectives, and helping facilitate thoughtful discussion around important issues that affect students. I am actively involved in creative and cultural spaces, which has given me experience connecting with people from diverse backgrounds and interests. These experiences have helped me develop the ability to communicate clearly, remain open to new ideas, and approach challenges with a problem-solving mindset. I also believe leadership involves service and responsibility. Serving in Student Government would allow me to represent students in Communication, Fine Arts, and Media while helping strengthen the connection between students, faculty, and the broader university community. I hope to contribute by listening to student voices, encouraging collaboration, and supporting initiatives that improve the academic and creative experience at UNO.



Brandon Lopez-Pereira (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I'm running for student government as I want to continue my position as a senator. I truly admire, enjoy and take pride being in this position. I enjoy being an advocate for the students. I strive to make sure every voice feels heard. We need more senators who are willing to be an advocate for students and I'm willing to do just that. We need to have more representation across the senate floor. I want every peer of mine to know that I will always be a voice for them.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

The importance of maintaining civic engagement and diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is so important for us as college student to remain educated with what is happening around the world. I would also like to bring more awareness surrounding mental health.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

As a senator since February 2025, I still have so much passion for my position. I always strive for the importance of making everyone's voices feel heard. I am willing and empowered to continue my journey as senator who will always be for the students.

Che'Marquis Pinkney (Senator)



Why are you running for SGA?

Hello! I would like to apply for senator at the College of Communication, Fine Arts, and Media. Changes are desperately needed, not just at the University, but at a federal level. That means being that change and not just accepting the bare minimum. My positions throughout the University, whether through my work study at the Community Engagement Center or affiliation to CFAM, has given me great insight into the processes that keep UNO running and issues concerning students and faculty alike. I'm running because I want to be a voice, an outlet for students to voice their concerns at this University. Now, please, don't misunderstand me. I could care less about position titles. It's more about doing what's best for the students and becoming a functioning limb to do so. I don't care for the political games or

being the most prim and proper, though, I certainly can hold a candle, in that regard. I enjoy learning about the stories of those on campus and finding creative solutions to being of service of my peers, no matter how small the task asked of me may be. Being there for those around me and giving my all to a righteous cause, such as student well-being is a joy for me that's simply indescribable.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

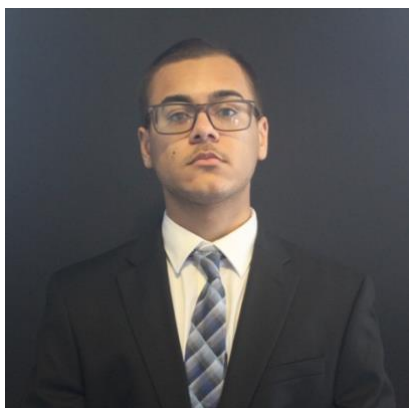
Regulation of AI technologies is one of the biggest concerns, at the moment. Though useful in productivity, overreliance may be deteriorating critical thinking skills for the students at the University. Prestige at a University, in part, is by individual student academic achievement. If those achievements are based on ideas generated by AI, can we truly call ourselves innovators? We need to think beyond economics and realize the real-world consequences of continuing to go down a rabbit hole of AI rather than preservation of academia principles. The solution is somehow implementing stricter regulations of AI, to be used for research and technological developments. The usage of AI for idea generation and malpractice should not only be prohibited but strictly monitored. For us students to be prepared for life after college, it's crucial that we are challenging ourselves in the ways we process information.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

One word: Drive. I am driven to accomplish the goals I set out, driven to go above and beyond to make sure students feel heard. I've been at rock bottom, so I understand quite well of what it means to take the bull by the horns. It's why I'm still at the University. Because instead of simply accepting things as is, I continued to fight for my beliefs, even if not a single person in that same room I stood in believed in me, I fought. And trust, there were a lot of situations like that. But now, given my age and experience, it's time to do my part in passing the torch to younger generations and encourage them to be bold in their actions and decisions. I can brag all I want about making chancellor's list or nominated for student employee of the year, or running live concerts, and all that. But the accolades don't make a person. It's drive. Thank you.

College of Information Science & Technology – Senator

(Choose up to 2)



Javon Jarmon (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I genuinely care about UNO and the students here. A lot of my time on campus has been spent helping people, whether that is through being a MavMentor, a Peer Advisor, or working in IT. In those roles, I have seen how much of a difference it makes when someone feels heard, supported, and pointed in the right direction. I want to be part of the Student Government because I do not just want to help students one-on-one. I

want to help create changes that make the campus better for more people as a whole. I care about making sure students know their voices matter, their concerns are taken seriously, and they have someone willing to speak up for them. UNO has given me a lot of opportunities, and I want to give back by helping make the student experience stronger and more connected.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One thing I think should be changed at UNO is how campus resources are communicated to students. UNO has a lot of helpful opportunities, programs, and support systems, but many students either do not know they exist or do not know how to access them. I have seen that firsthand while helping students who were smart, capable, and motivated, but just needed clearer guidance. I think UNO should do a better job of making information easier to find and easier to understand, especially for students who are new, busy, or trying to balance a lot at once. Better communication about resources, organizations, academic support, and campus opportunities would help students get involved earlier and feel more confident navigating college. Sometimes the issue is not that help does not exist. It is that students are not being reached clearly enough.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

What makes me qualified to sit on the Student Government is that I already spend a lot of my time serving and supporting students. Through my roles as a MavMentor, Peer Advisor, and IT Representative, I have worked directly with students, helped them solve problems, answered questions, and connected them with resources. Those experiences have helped me build strong communication skills, patience, and the ability to listen to what people actually need. I also bring leadership experience, professionalism, and a real investment in this campus community. I am involved, I care about student success, and I understand that leadership is not just about having ideas, but about following through and representing people well. I would bring a student-focused mindset, a strong work ethic, and a genuine desire to make sure students feel heard and supported.



Adrian Sebugwawo (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I believe leadership is not a title — it is a responsibility to serve. As a full-time cybersecurity student who also works full-time as a nurse, I have learned how to advocate for people under pressure, manage competing priorities, and show up consistently even when it is difficult. These are not just resume points — they are the skills that effective governance demands. I am running because I want to be a bridge between the student body and the administration, someone who does not just occupy a seat but uses it to push for measurable change. I'm running for Student Government to bring this blend of advocacy, communication, and community to the university level. I see a gap between what students experience daily and the decisions made on their behalf. I want to be that bridge. My faith grounds me in the conviction that service to others is the highest calling, and Student Government is where I can put that conviction into action for every student at UNO.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One critical issue I want to address is the accessibility and clarity of student resources. From my experience in leadership, I've seen how even the best support systems fail if students don't know they exist or how to use them. I was excited to learn that UNO has already taken a meaningful step with The HUB—a dedicated space where Student Care Coordinators help students connect with resources. This shows our university cares. However, the challenge now shifts from creation to connection. At UNO, vital resources like mental health services, academic advising, and career development opportunities are often siloed within different departments, making them difficult to navigate, especially for first-generation and transfer students. I propose a centralized, user-friendly Student Success Hub—a physical and digital one-stop shop. This would streamline access to information, simplify appointment scheduling, and ensure students are proactively connected to the support they need. By breaking down these bureaucratic silos, we can ensure no student falls through the cracks and that everyone has a clear path to thrive academically and personally. I want to build upon what UNO has already started. A truly integrated ecosystem where The HUB's physical presence is amplified by a seamless digital platform—a one-stop portal that demystifies campus services, allows for 24/7 appointment scheduling, and proactively reaches students who may be struggling

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

My leadership experience is practiced and proven across multiple environments. In high school, I served as Vice Head Prefect from 2016 to 2017, where I was directly responsible for student welfare, discipline coordination, and serving as a liaison between the student body and school administration. This gave me a firsthand understanding of how to navigate institutional structures effectively. I also led the Student Debate Club, which sharpened my ability to research issues thoroughly, cultivated the skills of persuasion, critical thinking, and public speaking—essential tools for representing student interests in committee meetings and administrative negotiations. Beyond school, I have held leadership roles in my youth fellowship, organizing events, mentoring younger members, and facilitating discussions on complex topics. Professionally, nursing has given me crisis management skills, the ability to make sound decisions under pressure, and deep empathy for people from every background. As a cybersecurity student, I bring analytical thinking and a problem-solving mindset to

every challenge. I bring leadership from the classroom, the church, the hospital floor, and the community — and that range is exactly what Student Government needs.

Fernando Rodriguez-Serrano (Senator)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government as a Senator for the College of Information Science & Technology because our students deserve to have a voice and be heard at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I have often found myself a neutral person. I did not care about making any hard decisions in my community because I thought it did not impact me. However, ever since I enrolled at UNO, this has changed. I used to think that I, a single person did not have the ability to make a change. My fellow students and professors have taught me that this thinking was very wrong. UNO has pushed me to become a better version of myself by making me look within myself and finding what drives me. Unfortunately, there are still students at UNO that have not yet learned how to channel that voice within. I wish for

everyone's opinions to be heard. I wish to be a megaphone for students that do not have the courage to shout.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

An issue that is shared among many students at UNO is the thin availability of our advisors. Our advisors have a great workload on their hands every semester by helping existing students, introducing new students, and teaching home room classes. Unfortunately, their busy schedule makes it really difficult to reach out to them sometimes. I think that there should be a helpline within the student community to be able to support each other with questions. When I was a new student, I had many questions about classes, credits, schedules, parking. Our advisors answered as many as possible, but it is impossible to answer all. It would have been really beneficial to have the support of students when I was first beginning university. I think it would also be a big relief for our advisors as well. I often hear how grateful advisors are when students come into appointments prepared with an idea of their trajectory. It would really help if more of our students knew how our course catalog and graduation requirements worked to make the jobs of the advisors easier.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

My qualifications to sit on Student Government are my drives and my past experiences. I think it is important to be a part of something greater than yourself, that is why I began supporting the community around me in any way I can. During my time in high school, I led my JROTC program as the Executive Officer and managed numerous events for our community. The largest project I participated in, was the naming of James Fous Ave. James W. Fous was a purple heart recipient from Central Highschool. My classmates and I brought up the proposition to rename part of Davenport St. to James Fous Ave. to the city once we got the Joslyn Art Museum, who shares the road with Central High school, to agree. Through this project, I reached to various veteran organizations within Omaha, KETV 7, and the Omaha World-Herald as the Master of Ceremonies. This particular project meant a lot to me, because I managed to see the impact it had on the family of James W. Fous and the

importance of civic engagement. In addition to this event, I have also hosted blood drives, veteran recognition ceremonies, and have volunteered at middle school VEX robotics competitions as a judge.

Julianna Muza (Senator)

No photo was submitted.

Why are you running for SGA?

Since starting at UNO, I have found my voice and have been more of a leader in my classes and group projects. I have learned that it is necessary to take the lead sometimes because other students may not feel comfortable participating. I have enjoyed finding my voice and using it to help others collaborate and exchange ideas. I am an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and I have been working within my community to meet our mission requirements. I enjoy being a part of a group that is working towards helping others.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

An issue that I would want to improve is the orientation process for new students. I would increase training on the various programs (i.e., Canvas, student Outlook account, etc.). It can be difficult navigating through the various programs while also learning your class schedule, campus layout, and dorm rules. The online orientation was helpful but additional resources would be ideal. I would do a poll among first year students to see what they struggle with, and then work towards improving those issues. I want to make sure that all students feel empowered to handle the new year.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, I meet with my fellow members every month to discuss planning, fundraising, and/or budget issues. I have learned how to lead and how to listen. I have a strong belief in making sure that everyone has a voice. I enjoy being part of the planning process, sharing ideas, and watching our efforts come to fruition. Additionally, I received an email that I was highly recommended for student body government. I am honored that someone thinks so highly of me. I would love the opportunity to represent UNO students.



Jahan Ergashev (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I'm running for Student Government to represent students in the College of IS&T so their perspectives are heard. I know many students are focused on academics, internships, and career prospects. Between tough classes, work, and other responsibilities, it's hard to advocate for themselves or stay aware of campus opportunities. As a student senator, I want to use a proactive approach to build strong communication between IS&T students and the student government. That means reaching out, relaying student feedback to meetings, and informing them of opportunities and resources. I also want to support initiatives that bring more events and engagement to Scott Campus so IS&T students feel more connected to our university community. Through campus leadership roles, such as serving as VP of philanthropy for my fraternity, I've gained experience in student advocacy and promoting engagement in events, service work, and feedback. I would bring the same collaborative approach by reaching out to students and working with other senators to advocate for IS&T students.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

UNO doesn't provide adequate support for student organizations, particularly those related to IS&T. For example, there's a cybersecurity club, but no computer science club, and engineering clubs on campus struggle to get funding and visibility. This limits students' opportunities to build the skills they need to be competitive in internships and jobs. It also makes it harder for students to find community and engage with other peers. As a student senator, I would advocate for providing more resources and support for IS&T-related clubs to make it easier for students to organize and participate in professional development events. This would start with strengthening existing IS&T clubs by meeting with their leaders to understand their challenges and what they need support with. I would increase participation and engagement by promoting these clubs and events through campus communication platforms like MavSYNC, email, and social media. These action items would create momentum and promote awareness, both of which are needed to create space for more IS&T clubs and involvement opportunities on campus.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

Through campus leadership roles, I've gained first-hand experience with student advocacy and engagement. In my VP of philanthropy role, I recently organized a dodgeball tournament for my fraternity. Through aggressive social media promotion and personally presenting the event to student organizations, I was able to bring 5 teams of 8 players across Greek life and student organizations to raise \$225 for the downtown YMCA. This experience strengthened my skills in event planning and outreach, which are skills I would bring to promote student participation in events that the student government is hosting or promoting on campus. My philanthropy role also taught me effective advocacy. I created a system to help my fraternity brothers complete their required service hours. I tracked hours through a Google form linked to a spreadsheet, compiled a list of nonprofits we could support, and organized a care package assembly event for Lutheran Family Services. This increased our fraternity's visibility and allowed us to support the larger Omaha community. I would bring my experience in advocacy, leadership, and event execution to represent IS&T students effectively.

Haroon Shaik (Senator)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I believe students should have a direct voice in the policies and decisions that shape campus life. During my time at UNO, I have seen how Student Government can be a bridge between students and the administration when it is working effectively. Serving as a Senator for the College of Information Science & Technology showed me how important it is to listen to student concerns and turn them into real action. Whether it involves improving policies, supporting student organizations, or strengthening communication between students and university leadership, Student Government has the ability to make meaningful improvements. I am running because I want to continue building a Student Government that is transparent, responsive, and focused on solving real problems students face every day. My goal is to help ensure that every student feels represented and that their concerns are heard at the decision-making table.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe should be improved at UNO is the overall student experience outside the classroom, particularly when it comes to parking and student life opportunities. For many students, especially commuters, parking can be a daily frustration. Limited availability, confusing policies, and the cost of permits can make getting to campus more stressful than it should be. Improving communication about parking options and continuing to explore solutions that make parking more accessible would make a meaningful difference in students' daily lives. At the same time, strengthening student life is equally important. Organizations like fraternities and sororities, along with other student groups, help build community and create opportunities for leadership, service, and connection. Supporting these organizations and encouraging greater student involvement can help make campus feel more engaging and welcoming. A strong university experience is not just about academics—it is also about community. Improving both parking and student life would help make UNO a place where students feel connected and supported.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

My qualifications come from both my experience within Student Government and my commitment to improving how it operates. I currently serve as a Senator for the College of Information Science & Technology and as Chair of the Rules Committee, where I help review and update governing documents to ensure they are clear, consistent, and effective. Through this work, I have gained a strong understanding of Student Government procedures, university policies, and the responsibilities involved in representing students. I have also worked collaboratively with other senators and student leaders to address issues and improve the structure of our organization. Beyond experience, I bring dedication and a willingness to put in the work required to represent students effectively. I take the responsibility of representing my peers seriously and strive to approach every issue thoughtfully and professionally.

College of Public Affairs & Community Service – Senator

(Choose up to 4)



Hung Nguyen (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I like being involved, I want to have a say in the legislation that is passed for the students at UNO, and I want to make the most out of my limited time in college. Those are the core reasons why I am running for Student Government. Once I finish the college chapter in my life, I would like to say that I contributed to UNO and took advantage of the opportunities of being a university student. Applying for and ideally attaining the role of Senator for my college are actions that help those goals of mine while enriching my college experience. Additionally, I'm interested in learning more about how the Student Government system works at UNO as somebody within that system.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

I believe that Resident Parking Permits should be changed. Namely, the restrictions on those permits should be lifted earlier than 5:00 PM, or there should be one with no restrictions available to purchase. While I do not live on campus, most of my friends do, and they get irritated at how unfair their parking permits are compared to the ones held by commuters, such as myself. A common building that many students work at is H&K on Dodge Campus. Of course, residents from Scott Campus work there as well. Imagine if you're a Scott Resident who has a shift at H&K earlier than 5:30 PM - you have to walk to the shuttle stop, wait there, ride the shuttle, and arrive at H&K with enough time so that you're not late. Should it be raining, snowing, extremely hot or cold, or windy; the commute becomes exponentially more difficult. The option of another Resident Parking Permit that would eliminate these unfair circumstances for Scott Residents, and even Dodge Residents going to Scott, would be a wonderful change that would be greatly welcomed by students.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

First and foremost, I am majoring in Aviation with a Professional Flight Concentration. In simple terms, I relate to students who take flight lessons for their major and who also must deal with the accompanying expenses and stresses. Therefore, those students in CPACS can better relate to me. I am also a part of UNO's Flight Team (soon to be part of its travel team headed to Nationals), Durango's Outfitters (clothing organization that hosts campus closets for students to take clothes for free), the Honors Student Association, the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies Learning Community, and a Powerlifting Club that two others and I are trying to establish this semester. Those extracurriculars have made my college experience very diverse so far, and I feel that to be vital for a Senator to have. On top of said activities, I have had a job at the DICK's Sporting Goods at Westroads Mall since August of last year. This makes me well qualified to relate to other students who must manage time between schoolwork, extracurriculars, and a part-time job.



Sabrina Yates (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I believe students deserve leadership that truly understands the realities many of us face while pursuing our education. As a working student balancing school, family responsibilities, and a career, I understand how difficult it can be to navigate higher education while managing real-life obligations. Many students—especially adult learners, working students, and first-generation college students—often feel that their voices are not fully represented in campus decisions. My goal is to advocate for practical solutions that help students succeed, such as flexible academic policies during unexpected life events, stronger support for nontraditional students, and better communication between students and university leadership. I want to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive, not just academically but personally and professionally. Serving in Student Government would allow me to bring real-world perspective, leadership experience, and a commitment to student success. I am passionate about creating a campus environment where all students feel supported, heard, and empowered to achieve their goals.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue that should be improved at UNO is flexibility in academic policies for students facing real-life responsibilities. Many students at UNO are not traditional full-time students; they are working professionals, parents, or caregivers who are balancing multiple obligations while pursuing their education. When unexpected situations arise—such as illness, childcare issues, work conflicts, or family emergencies—strict deadlines and rigid course policies can make it difficult for students to stay on track academically. While academic standards are important, there should be more structured options that allow professors to offer reasonable flexibility when legitimate life circumstances occur. Clear university guidelines for flexible deadlines, short extensions, or temporary academic support could help students remain successful without compromising the integrity of the coursework. Improving flexibility would support student retention, reduce unnecessary stress, and acknowledge the realities many UNO students face. By creating policies that reflect the diverse lives of our student body, UNO can better support student success and completion.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

What qualifies me to serve in Student Government is my leadership experience, ability to advocate for others, and my understanding of the diverse challenges students face. As a working student balancing academics, professional responsibilities, and family responsibilities, I understand firsthand the realities many students at UNO experience. This perspective helps me recognize issues that directly impact student success. Professionally, I manage apartment communities where I regularly solve problems, coordinate with teams, and make decisions that affect large groups of people. This role has strengthened my communication, organization, and conflict-resolution skills—abilities that are essential when representing student voices and working collaboratively with others. I will also be walking the stage this May as I complete my degree and plan to continue on to law school. This path reflects my long-term commitment to advocacy, policy, and helping others navigate complex systems. My background in psychology has strengthened my ability to listen, understand different perspectives, and advocate thoughtfully. Serving in Student Government would allow me to bring leadership, real-

world problem-solving experience, and a strong commitment to representing and supporting the UNO student body.



Joseph McNeil (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

Becoming a college senator would allow me to gain experience in leadership and positively influence university policy.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

I think a more significant effort should be made to allow clubs to have spaces on campus. From my experience as part of the Robotics club, getting a space to meet and store equipment is extremely difficult and limits clubs on campus. If clubs were more easily able to find a place on campus, it would make way for a more involved student body with more opportunities on campus.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I have leadership experience as part of being a chair member in the UNO Robotics Club, and am looking to further improve my leadership abilities. I will listen to the students and interests of CPACS, and make decisions based on what I believe will best benefit the students of the college.

College of Engineering – Senator

(Choose 1)



Ellery Potts (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I was a senator last year and really enjoyed it. Being in student government has been such a meaningful experience, between the people I've met and the work we've done. I want to continue to be involved with the university and continue to help the student body have the best experience at UNO possible.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

The recent closure of the Child Care Center-- student parents should have the help and resources that they need and deserve.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I served as a senator last year, so I have experience with Robert's Rules and how SGA is run. In addition, I have a leadership position as Outreach Chair in the Architectural Engineering Student Leadership Advisory Committee and am involved in various other university clubs that give me experience working with other students for the benefit of the university at large as well as in leadership.

College of Education, Health, & Human Sciences – Senator

(Choose up to 2)



Fernando Gonzalez (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for student government because I believe I can bring meaningful change to UNO. Coming from an unrepresented background as a first generation Hispanic student, I know what it feels like to be the only person from a different background in a room full of people whom you do not see yourself represented in. I want to bring an outside perspective into discussions where someone from my background may not be there to advocate for

themselves or for their group.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

An issue that comes to mind is the lack of opportunities of making new friends and connections at this school. I know at times it may feel that there are many events put on by the Spirit and Tradition office, but realistically during non-business hours and on non-weekdays campus truly feels desolate as there is no reason to ever come. Living on campus does not help with much either since rarely are there events, and the few there are as someone who's gone to many of them nobody really shows up. And it serves more as a meeting for RAs. I think investing in opportunities to bring people on campus even if they are not attending classes would help with people making new connections at UNO. UNO consistently has poor ratings on third party websites for social life, and I think it is a big factor when people decide to come to the school.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

Working a full-time job while attending school full time has shown me the level of responsibility and commitment I have for achieving my goals. Staying on track with multiple deadlines, being organized, and always following through with my commitments, are qualities needed in a senator. I served as an intern with City Sprouts, a nonprofit with a mission to bring communities fresh vegetables grown in Omaha proper. Working in this space not only taught me leadership, but how to work with a diverse group of people. Leader can only be effective if they do so in a manner that is empathetic and focused on the goal of serving others. Growing up as a Hispanic going to primarily White schools, taught me how to navigate spaces where I may not have felt represented in. Those experiences help me understand those of students who may feel disconnected or overlooked by the traditional academic environment. Having this knowledge will motivate me to make sure their voices are heard

in decision making. A final aspect of what makes me qualified to represent the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences is that I am on the pathway to becoming a future educator. A large part of my academics have been about creating inclusive environments and building supportive spaces. Student government is a place where I can practice these skills and take them with me into my future career.

Graduate Studies – Senator

(Choose up to 5)



Chika Idalah-Allison (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for student government because it is a platform for me to get more involved and committed to advocating for student's needs and well-being. Beyond academics, getting involve in leadership is a big passion for me because of the various leadership positions I have occupied in the past. This leadership opportunity is a platform for me to give back to my UNO Community. As a leader, interacting and advocating for student gives me a huge responsibility to always watch our for their needs and concerns so I can support where and when necessary. However, as a UNO student, I feel and understand the challenges that my co students go through, so I want to be there for them as much as I can when elected. In addition, SGA platform will help me exhibit what my faculties taught me in class in BSAD 8060-Skills for Leadership and BSAD 8250-Organisational Behavior. Thank you.

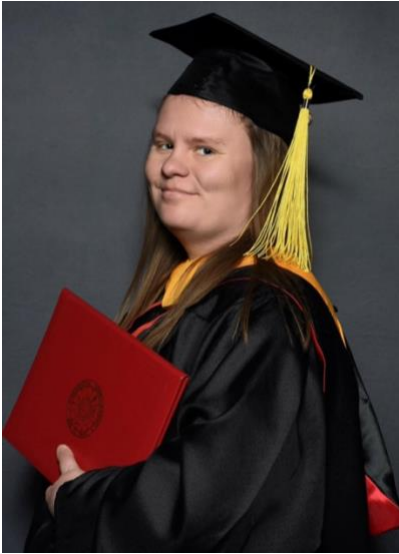
Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One key issue that is of great importance to me and the students is on Mental health and student's life balance. A lot of factors affects student's life and mental health on campus. Examples are academic pressure, students fees, students relationships, culture differences, just to mention a few. As a leader, I need all students to be aware of the great resource and support that UNO gives to them in various capacities. Leaders spread the good news to her immediate community. However, when the need arise for me to advocate for more support and interventions I am available, ready and happy to step in as a leader and be the voice that will speak up for our Students. UNO is one big family that brings all students together for great success. I love UNO.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I have been a part of the UNO Student Government in 2025-2026 academic year and also a member of the outreach committee in the senate. I was fully involved in both capacities and the operations of the senate. My empathy and emotional intelligence skills helps me to understand and respect the feelings and viewpoints of diverse peers to create an inclusive environment. Part of my core values are ethical standards and integrity. Analyzing situations to find creative and practical solutions are areas I deploy my leadership advocacy on. Taking ownership of actions and outcomes, including mistakes and following through on commitments are part of my leadership values. Time management and prioritizing mental health demands are key areas I can balance academics demands with extracurricular activities within my leadership responsibilities. Thank you.

Taylor McHugh (Senator)



Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for student government to ensure students are real partners in shaping our university. Our policies and services shape our experiences, and I want our voices to guide decisions. I care about the student government because I am committed to advocacy and public service. In my studies and work, I have sought ways to represent others and to improve systems for everyone. I earned a master's in criminology and criminal justice from UNO. Now, I am working toward a master's in social work. Both fields are about understanding institutions, finding barriers, and creating fair solutions. These ideas guide how I lead. I focus on listening, working together, and being accountable. Helping others and giving them a voice in decisions is at the heart of my work. As an advocate, I listen, find shared concerns,

and work together toward solutions—the same focus I'll bring to Student Government. UNO has students with a wide range of backgrounds and responsibilities. Some of us work full-time and earn our degrees. Others are the first in their families to go to college. Many are graduate students who juggle research, internships, and classes. Some are also parents or caregivers. Understanding this diversity is key to being a good student leader. Student Government connects students with university leaders. Students have valuable insights into their experiences, but sometimes they are unsure how or where to share them. Student Government acts as a bridge. We make sure that student concerns, ideas, and experiences shape campus policies and programs. If I am elected, I will focus on getting students involved and being open about what is happening. Good representation is more than a title. It means listening, encouraging open conversations, and making sure everyone feels comfortable sharing their views. I believe real leadership is about serving others and being responsible. Anyone who represents others should always be accountable to their community. Ultimately, I am running to represent every UNO student and make sure our voices shape campus life. Together, we can create a supportive, informed, and empowered community.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

UNO should make increasing awareness and improving access to its support services a top priority. While UNO has established a robust network designed to promote student well-being and success, many students do not know these resources exist or how to use them. Sharpening communication and outreach will directly enhance the student experience. UNO offers initiatives for both academic and personal needs. For instance, the Career Closet provides professional attire to students preparing for interviews, internships, and networking, helping remove financial barriers and enabling confident participation in professional settings. The Maverick Food Pantry and Diaper Bank offer crucial support to students facing food insecurity or financial challenges. These programs reflect the reality that many students juggle academic and financial pressures alongside jobs and family responsibilities. Access to basic resources can determine whether a student continues their education or struggles to stay enrolled. UNO provides the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), tutoring and academic support, career guidance, and accommodations for students with disabilities. The on-campus Child Care Center supports student parents balancing family and academic commitments. Despite these strong programs, many students remain unaware of the resources available to them, as information is often introduced only

during orientation or through university websites, where it can be overlooked or forgotten later. Additionally, accessibility is a challenge; some services operate mainly during business hours, making it difficult for students who work, commute, or take evening and online classes to use them. Improving awareness does not require creating entirely new programs—just better communication and outreach. Clear, consistent messaging is often underestimated. Information on student resources can be integrated into syllabi, digital platforms, advising, and campus events. Faculty and student groups can help by regularly sharing this information. Student Government can play an important role in advocating for these improvements. By collaborating with university departments, student leaders can help identify communication gaps and develop strategies to ensure students are consistently informed about available resources. When students know where to find help—academic tutoring, counseling, career support, childcare, or basic needs—they are more likely to succeed and stay engaged. Improving awareness and access strengthens student success and affirms UNO's commitment to every student.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

My qualifications for student government come from academic training, advocacy, leadership, and public service. I focus on understanding complex systems, representing others, and collaborating to improve policies and programs. I earned my Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska Omaha and am pursuing a Master of Social Work. These fields emphasize critical thinking, policy analysis, and the ways institutions shape opportunities and outcomes. This training enables me to analyze issues, consider multiple perspectives, and develop thoughtful solutions to complex challenges. Beyond academics, I have served in public service roles focused on advocacy and community engagement. I worked with people facing challenges as they navigated support systems, such as those related to healthcare, housing, and social services, to ensure they received the assistance they needed. Through this, I developed strong communication, documentation, and collaboration skills with diverse stakeholders. Advocacy work requires careful listening and responsible decision-making. Often, individuals in advocacy roles must represent people whose voices may not always be heard within institutional systems, such as marginalized communities or underrepresented groups in society. This responsibility requires empathy, integrity, and a commitment to fairness. These same qualities are essential for individuals serving in the student government, where leaders must represent the broader student body. I also bring experience in systems that require accountability and collaboration. Many institutional decisions involve balancing priorities and perspectives. I have learned to gather information and work toward solutions, considering many needs, such as those of students, faculty, and administrative staff, to ensure that all voices are heard in the decision-making process. Leadership requires humility and openness to diverse perspectives. Universities unite students from many backgrounds, disciplines, and experiences. Effective leaders listen to diverse ideas and engage in respectful dialogue to achieve constructive outcomes. Beyond my qualifications, I am committed to the UNO community. This university has shaped my academic journey and growth. I care about ensuring students have opportunities, support, and an environment for success. Student Government is about service—responsibly representing students and improving the university community. I would approach this role with dedication, integrity, and a commitment to advocating for the University of Nebraska Omaha students.



Corey Hannan (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I have been incredibly fortunate to have been a Maverick for the past four years, first returning to school to finish my undergraduate degree, and now about to begin the final year of my master's program. Serving as a senator for the Graduate Studies program is an opportunity for me to give back to this student community and to provide a voice for, and the perspective of, non-traditional students balancing professional, family, and educational commitments.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

If elected, I would push for expanded services and access for students whose primary means of accessing the university is online. I have been fortunate to be able to participate in a handful of on-campus courses during my time at UNO, and the sense of connection I have felt in those classes is clearly different from online courses. Ensuring that online learners have maximal opportunities to feel a part of the UNO community and that their voices are heard and interests are represented would be my biggest priority in student government.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I have over a decade's worth of experience in team leadership, including the development and implementation of strategic plans in a variety of industries. I have excellent time management and prioritization skills, and a strong commitment to meeting obligations and deadlines. My experience as a student while having to balance career and family commitments with three school-aged kids makes me a representative voice for the large population of working students with families enrolled in graduate programs.



Narges Shakerian (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I would like to be part of a team that works to improve the educational and research aspects of student life in academia. Also, as an international student, I believe my experiences navigating international student life would allow me to bring a valuable perspective to this position and contribute to improving the quality of life for UNO students.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

The College of Health and Education has many graduate students involved in research projects that require IRB approval. Because the IRB committee is located at UNMC, delays in the review process can sometimes occur, in part because they may not be fully familiar with our research activities. One of my goals is to help improve this process by fostering stronger communication with UNMC.

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Agustin Roman (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I am running for Student Government because I genuinely care about this school and the community we have built together. Our school is already a place filled with talented students, passionate staff, and countless opportunities, and I feel grateful to be part of it. At the same time, I believe there is still so much more potential for us to grow. Student Government offers a chance to help bring student voices forward and turn ideas into meaningful improvements for everyone. I want to help create more opportunities for students to feel involved, heard, and excited about the experiences our school provides. Whether that means supporting school events, encouraging school spirit, or helping communicate student ideas to leadership, I want to be someone who helps strengthen the connection between students and our school community. I love being part of this school, and I believe that by working together we can continue building something even better. Serving in Student Government would allow me to contribute positively, represent my peers, and help our school reach the incredible potential I know it has.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe should be strengthened at UNO is the support for the social, emotional, and academic well-being of students who are preparing to become future educators. Many of us in teacher preparation programs are not only students, but also future teachers who will soon be responsible for supporting the learning and well-being of our own students. Because of this, it is especially important that we are supported holistically during our time at UNO. Balancing coursework, field placements, jobs, and personal responsibilities can be overwhelming. Expanding resources, mentorship opportunities, and spaces for collaboration could help education students feel more supported both academically and emotionally. When future teachers feel prepared, confident, and supported, they are better able to enter classrooms ready to positively impact their students. By investing in the well-being and preparation of current education students, UNO is also investing in the future classrooms and communities those teachers will serve. Strengthening this support would help ensure that UNO continues to develop thoughtful, resilient, and effective educators.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve on Student Government because of the experiences and perspective I have gained during my time at UNO. I graduated from my undergraduate program with honors and was actively involved in TEDO, which gave me opportunities to collaborate with other education students and grow as a future educator. These experiences helped me develop strong communication, leadership, and advocacy

skills. I am also currently a teacher who is continuing my higher-level education at UNO. Being both a student and an educator allows me to bring a unique perspective to Student Government. I understand the challenges students face academically and personally, while also recognizing the importance of strong educational support systems. Having spent the past five years at UNO, I have gained valuable wisdom about the university community, its strengths, and the ways it can continue to grow. I care deeply about this institution and the students who are part of it, and I would be proud to represent them while working to support a positive and inclusive campus environment.



Sajjad Roudsari (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I want to run for Student Government because I would like to contribute more actively to the UNO student community and represent graduate and international students. As an international student, I understand that adjusting to a new academic system and campus environment can be challenging, and I believe it is important that these perspectives are represented in campus decisions. My background is in engineering and data science, and I am currently involved in research, teaching, and collaborative projects with students from different programs. These experiences have helped me develop strong problem-solving and communication skills, and I enjoy working with people from diverse backgrounds. I believe

Student Government is a place where students can bring practical ideas to improve the campus experience. I would like to help strengthen communication between students and university leadership, support opportunities for professional development, and encourage collaboration across different colleges and programs at UNO.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I think could be improved at UNO is the connection between students from different colleges and programs. Many students spend most of their time only within their own department, and there are limited opportunities to interact with students from other fields. As someone working in engineering and starting a Master's in Data Science at UNO, I have seen how valuable interdisciplinary collaboration can be. Students from different backgrounds often approach problems in very different ways, and this can lead to better ideas and innovation. I believe UNO could benefit from more cross-college initiatives such as interdisciplinary workshops, project-based events, and student collaboration programs. These kinds of opportunities would help students build broader professional networks, learn from different perspectives, and better prepare for real-world careers where collaboration across fields is very common.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I believe I am qualified to serve on Student Government because of my academic experience and my interest in contributing to the student community. I am currently a PhD student in engineering, and I am also pursuing a master's program in Data Science at UNO. Through my graduate studies and data science coursework, I have developed strong analytical and problem-solving skills that help me evaluate complex situations and think about practical solutions. I also have experience working

closely with students as a teaching assistant. In this role, I helped students understand technical concepts and supported them with coursework and assignments. This experience helped me better understand the challenges students face and the importance of clear communication and support. In addition, many of my research and academic projects involve teamwork and collaboration with people from different backgrounds. I believe these experiences will help me listen to different perspectives and represent students thoughtfully in Student Government.



Blaire Bruening (Senator)

Why are you running for SGA?

I'm running for Student Government because, as a graduate student, I'm constantly seeing some of my peers struggling to find their footing when entering graduate school. It's a big jump from undergraduate studies, and many students may need a crutch to lean on when transitioning to further education. I hope that if I become a speaker for graduate students who are lost or confused, I can be a voice that guides them through the stressful times.

Please explain one issue you think should be changed at UNO.

One issue I believe should be changed at UNO is the transition from graduate studies from undergraduate programs. This can be a terrifying transition for some, and there should be students by their side to show them what to do and where to go. Particularly, there should be more opportunities for students to learn about the process of creating a thesis or capstone project. These projects are especially stressful when students don't know the guidelines or don't have peers they can go to for guidance. As Senator for Graduate Studies, I would put in place a student-lead program for students beginning to think about their thesis or capstone topics.

Please describe what makes you qualified to sit on SGA.

I am qualified to sit on Student Government as Senator for Graduate Studies because I know first-hand what it's like to move into higher education completely blind. I am a second-semester graduate student in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and I wholeheartedly understand the stress and pressure graduate students feel when it comes to big projects and theses. I can be a guide through the trenches of graduate school and create opportunities for students to connect with each other and ask for help when needed.

Non-Degree Seeking – Senator

There are no filled candidates for this position.

Write-in candidates will be accepted.

Referenda for Fund A Allocations (2026–2027)

Student Government Association voters will also vote on the following referenda regarding **Fund A student fee allocations**.

Fund A allocations support three student-governed entities:

- **Student Government Association**
- **Maverick Productions**
- **The Gateway Student Newspaper**

These allocations determine the distribution of the student fee used to support programming, student services, campus engagement, and student media.

Students will vote **Yes or No** on each referendum.

The table below outlines the approved allocations for UPFF Fund A for the 2026–2027 academic year. These allocations have been reviewed and approved by both the Student Activities Budget Commission (SABC) and the Student Government Association Senate, in accordance with policies set by the NU Board of Regents.

The "Per Student Per Semester Assessment" is an estimated figure based on projected enrollment for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. If the proposed referenda are approved, the current per-semester fee will decrease from \$26.48 to \$20.02—resulting in a reduction of \$6.46 per student.

Organization:	2026-2027 Allocation	Portion of Student Fee
Student Government Association		
SGA Student Senate General Budget	\$89,214.00	\$2.47
Student Legal Services	\$218,589.76	\$6.05
American Multicultural Students (Student Agency)	\$21,559.00	\$0.60
First Generation Student Association (Student Agency)	\$23,741.40	\$0.66
International Student Services (Student Agency)	\$19,959.00	\$0.55
Network for Disability Awareness (Student Agency)	\$17,459.00	\$0.48
Queer and Trans Services (Student Agency)	\$25,944.00	\$0.72
Women and Gender Equity Center (Student Agency)	\$47,609.00	\$1.32
Student Government Subtotal	\$464,075.16	\$12.85
Gateway Newspaper Subtotal	\$134,438.40	\$3.72
Maverick Productions Subtotal	\$125,000.00	\$3.46
UNO TOTALS:	\$723,513.56	\$20.02

*Totals may vary by \$0.01 due to rounding to the nearest cent

Questions:

Referendum 1 – Gateway Newspaper Allocation

1. Do you approve the allocation by the Student Government Association of a portion of student fee income to support The Gateway during the 2026-2027 fiscal year?

Referendum 2 – Maverick Productions Allocation

2. Do you approve the allocation by the Student Government Association of a portion of student fee income to fund a campus speakers' program during the 2026-2027 fiscal year? At UNO, this refers to Maverick Productions (MavPro).

Referendum 3 – Student Government Association Allocation

3. Do you approve the allocation by the Student Government Association of a portion of student fee income for salaries for student government officers during the 2026-2027 fiscal year?