

STAFF SENATE

ADVOCATE. SERVE. ENGAGE.



Message from the President

Meeting the moment.

We are witnessing a unique inflection point of turbulent change and transition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. You've likely felt this turbulence recently during your daily interactions on our 500-mile campus. And, while change is to be expected for a university as large as ours, it seems the rate of change and uncertainty has increased exponentially.

We're creatures of habit. We prefer stability, certainty, and the known. However, growth and reinvention are synonymous with times of change and transition. Our university community faces many financial and political challenges. And, while it's easy to be overwhelmed by everything that is happening around us, it's important for us to focus on what is in our own sphere of influence and concentrate on what we can control.

Things will change. Transition will occur. Yet, our mission to ensure that every person and every interaction matters will remain steadfast.

The Staff Senate is uniquely equipped to meet this moment. Our seven standing committees are working collaboratively with university experts and leadership to address the nine overarching objectives identified in the [Task Force on Workplace Culture and Engagement](#). The Task Force provides us with a strategic direction for the next two years. It's broad, high-level vision outlining how we will work together to improve the workplace culture and engagement experience for all staff employed at UNL. This important work will not change.

Going forward, we will do our best to embrace the unknown, as the future is inherently uncertain. We must focus on what we can individually control in the present moment and respond to whatever comes with reason and resilience.

As with the coming of a new season, the weather of everyday activity may slip back and forth for a while, and you may be unsure whether the new season is really at hand. But in a little while the early signals turn into unmistakable signs, and everyone can recognize that a significant change is at hand.

Spring is coming, and we will leverage the energetic momentum associated with this season of change to continue making a positive impact on the staff experience at UNL. We will meet the moment. We will get through this—together.

Jordan Gonzales
Staff Senate President



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What is Staff Senate?

The purpose of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) Staff Senate is to be an advisory body on issues, institutional policies, and practices that relate to the staff, to serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, to promote common interests among the staff, to advocate for staff welfare and development, to suggest revisions and initiatives to improve staff policies, and to participate in the formulation of institutional policy and governance.

Read this online



go.unl.edu/staffsenatenewsletter

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UPCOMING DATES

February 14

Valentine's Day

Staff Senate

Nominations Close

March

Staff Senate Elections

March 11

Spring Wellness Event

March 15— 23

Spring Break

May 12-16

Final Exams

May 17

Spring Semester

Commencement

Subscribe to the Staff Senate Newsletter to receive updates from the staff senate and the latest information on happenings at UNL.



Staff Senate Awards



University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Staff Senate's Recognition Committee developed an exciting opportunity for current UNL and Nebraska Extension employees to nominate staff members for eight staff awards that connect to the aims and overarching principle of the University's N2025 Strategic Plan

<https://staffsenate.unl.edu/staff-senate-recognition-awards/>

All Staff Conference seeking presentation proposals, hosting workshops

The fifth annual University of Nebraska–Lincoln All-Staff Conference is soliciting proposals for presentations. The conference will feature presentations that engage staff in conversation and interactive experiences around professional development, encouraging cross-campus dialogue/collaboration and providing support for the University staff at every level.

The conference is July 22-23 in Howard L. Hawks Hall.

<https://staff-conference.unl.edu/>



Signs of Spring: Early Spring Blooming Flowers

Spring Flowers are beginning to bloom, read more on what you can look out for across campus.

<https://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/staffsenate/18152/100010>

Decode the Husker Lingo: New Resource Helps Employees Navigate UNL Terminology

Organizational Development and Training (ODT) in Human Resources has launched the Husker Language Decoder, a valuable new resource designed to help UNL employees quickly understand unfamiliar university and higher education terms, acronyms, and abbreviations.

<https://hr.unl.edu/training/>

HealthierU Spring Wellness Event

The HealthierU Employee Wellness program is excited to announce the annual Spring Wellness event will take place on March 11th, 2025 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the East

Unions in the Great Plains Room. <https://healthierU.unl.edu/>

Engage with the Staff Senate!

Are you interested in getting involved with UNL's Staff Senate but not sure where to start?

Here are some ways to connect with the Staff Senate:

- Staff Senate Newsletter: Sign up to receive the newsletter to stay informed about Staff Senate activities, opportunities for staff, and other relevant updates.
- Submit an Article for the Staff Senate Newsletter: Do you have a story, event, or other information to share with staff at UNL? Submit an item for the newsletter .
- Participate in Staff Senate Meetings: Did you know you can attend Staff Senate meetings? Find dates and times on the Upcoming Events calendar on the Staff Senate homepage. Meetings are available both in person and virtually. Can't attend? Meeting minutes are shared on the Staff Senate website.
- Serve as a Senator: Each year, the Staff Senate holds elections for open seats. We would love for you to consider serving alongside us!
- Share Your Voice with Senators: Have concerns or ideas? Contact us through the Staff Senate contact page. We want to hear from you!

<https://staffsenate.unl.edu>