



Provisions for Student Government

Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska Bylaws

Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska Policy

Bylaws of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

This document contains the provisions for student government within the University of Nebraska System and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. These policies provide the scope and extent to which student governments may operate within the NU system.

This document is only to serve as a reference to Board of Regents Bylaws and Policy and the Bylaws of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Official Board of Regents Policy and Bylaws can be found [here](#), and the Bylaws of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln can be found [here](#). ASUN neither votes upon these policies and bylaws, nor maintains their respective websites.

Board of Regents Bylaws

2.13 Provision for Student Government. The students of each major administrative unit may create democratic student governing agencies at the campus, college, school, department, or living unit level. One of said agencies of each major administrative unit shall be designated by a majority vote of the students voting as the official representative of the student body. Each administrative unit will develop its own criteria for student representation. The Constitution and *Bylaws* of all student governing agencies at the campus level shall be subject to approval by the cognizant Chancellor in compliance with § 1.2 of these *Bylaws* and shall become a part of the Rules of the Board. Following approval by the Chancellor, a report of any amendments to the student governing agency's Constitution and *Bylaws* shall be made to the Board at the next meeting of the Board. The representative student agencies shall have the opportunity to exercise the following privileges, if they so desire:

- (a) Select student representatives at their particular level of governance;
- (b) Make recommendations to the Board concerning the budgeting of all funds collected through fees designated for the use of student organizations;
- (c) Serve on those committees that directly affect the nonacademic aspects of student life; and
- (d) Participate in other appropriate committees.

Board of Regents Policy

RP-2.8 Provisions for Student Government

RP-2.8.1 Eligibility to Hold Office

1. In order to be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve in an office of student government, a student must:
 - a. be officially registered as a student in good standing (minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and not on academic or disciplinary probation as determined by each major administrative unit) during the academic term while running for and/or holding office.
2. In order to be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve in the position of President of student government or the next office in succession on a given campus, a student must additionally:
 - a. be continuously enrolled in at least six class credit hours on that campus (excluding thesis, correspondence and independent study courses, and summer session credits); upon written verification by the Dean for Graduate Studies that a graduate student is devoting full-time effort to thesis or dissertation-related research and is to be considered a full-time student, a graduate student may register for fewer than six class credits and still maintain eligibility for office;
 - b. have completed 24 semester hours of credit on that campus during two years prior to the academic term in which the office is sought or held provided, however, that UNMC students shall be required to have completed 24 semester hours of credit at any accredited postsecondary institution within the last two years prior to the academic term in which the office is sought or held;
 - c. be elected by a majority vote of the students voting in the election or be elected by a margin over the next higher candidate of at least ten percent of the total votes cast for eligible candidates; and
 - d. not be convicted of a felony, unless all civil rights have been restored by the date set for filing for candidacy in Student Government elections. These requirements are applicable to all elections held and/or appointments made.

RP-5.1 Responsibilities and Rights

RP-5.1.2.3 (b) Student Government

Students should be free, individually or collectively, to express their views on issues of institutional policy and on matters of general interest to the student population. The students should have clearly defined means to participate equitably in the formulation of institutional

policies and procedures which affect student life. Student government is the principal agency for student participation in the decision-making process of the University.

RP-5.6 Campus Speaker Policy

RP-5.6.1 Sponsorship of Speakers with Student Fees

The student programming organizations administering the speakers programs on each campus shall abide by the following guidelines in sponsoring speakers on campus with the use of student fees:

1. The purpose of a speakers program is to advance the general educational mission of the University by putting before the University community a broad range of ideas on a variety of contexts and is not to advance any particular viewpoint.
2. In deciding how to allocate limited funds for campus speakers, a student organization may consider (a) the extent to which the speaker's intended message advances the educational mission of the University; (b) the overall breadth of topics covered by speakers on campus in the year in which the speaker would speak and the three prior academic years, with the goal of covering a broad range of topics; (c) if applicable, the academic reputation of the speaker and the quality of the speaker's academic or other published work; (d) the level of student interest in having the speaker come to campus; (e) the University's ability to ensure the safety of the speaker, students, and other persons; (f) any potential for damage to property; and (g) the cost of bringing the speaker to campus. The student organization may not consider the speaker's point of view on any issue in deciding whether or not to bring the speaker to campus and must comply with all applicable constitutional requirements.
3. The student government of each University campus shall develop and implement policies and procedures that (a) ensure compliance with this Policy; (b) set forth other written criteria not inconsistent with this Policy for the allocation of student activity fees to pay for speakers; (c) require the creation and preservation of a verbatim record of student fee funding deliberations by student organizations; (d) require that the reasons for the grant or denial of a funding request be made in writing; (e) provide a mechanism for avoiding conflicts of interest in student fee funding decisions; and (f) establish an appeal process in cases where it is alleged that a funding decision was not made in a viewpoint-neutral manner, including a final appeal to the campus Chancellor.
4. Student programming organizations shall organize internal committees with ongoing responsibility to make student fee funding decisions in compliance with this Policy and applicable law.
5. In considering an appeal of a student organization's funding decision, the person or body deciding the appeal may weigh all the factors in RP-5.6.1.2 as though the consideration of the question had come before it in the first instance and shall resolve the appeal in accordance with this Policy.

6. All speaker programs, regardless of the viewpoint of the speaker, will be administered in the same way.
7. All students are encouraged to join their programming groups and/or give their input to the speaker selection on their campus.

RP-5.9 Student Fees

Campuses must establish and adhere to a campus review and approval process for all proposed student fees. Administrative charges may not be charged against student fees by a campus.

RP-5.9.1 University Program and Facilities Fees

1. Definitions
 - a. Name. The official name for student fees is “University Program and Facilities Fees” (UPFF).
 - b. Fund A. That portion of UPFF designated for student activities which are managed by student groups shall be distributed according to an annual budget developed by the appropriate student government organization on each campus. This portion of the UPFF shall be called Fund A.
 - c. Fund B. That portion of the UPFF designated to pay debt services, staff salaries, maintenance of facilities and related expenses, and those additional items designated by the Chancellor will be budgeted separately with emphasis upon continuing support. This portion of the UPFF shall be designated as Fund B.
2. Use of Fund A Monies
 - a. Allocation of Fund A monies is restricted to the following three organizations on each campus: (1) student government, (2) student programming, and (3) student newspaper. Fund A monies may not be used for academic programs or functions directly related to academic programs.
 - b. Offices receiving Fund A support must benefit a broad based student population. Student governments may not distribute Fund A monies to individuals, except in the form of wages for services performed, nor to groups or organizations that are not established by and under the direct control of student government.
 - c. Student programming organizations may make grants of Fund A monies to other student groups and organizations to support the programming needs of such groups and organizations. Such grants may only be made on a one fiscal year basis; may be made only with the approval of the cognizant Chancellor; may not be expended for wages, equipment, office supplies, or travel; and may not be granted to a single organization more than once in a two-year period.
3. Approval of Fund A Budgets

- a. The Board of Regents hereby delegates authority to establish and allocate Fund A monies to the elected student governments subject only to approval by the appropriate Chancellor.
 - b. An allocations body comprised of students, faculty, and staff shall be established on each campus to recommend disbursements of Fund A.
 - c. Hearing dates for the initial meetings of the student government bodies established to allocate fees shall be published in the student newspaper (or appropriate campus news media) ten (10) days prior to such hearings with costs being defrayed by the UPFF allocation to student publications, and a tentative allocation shall be published in the student newspaper (or appropriate campus news media). This published information shall include the salaries, the operating budgets, and the capital expenditures of all groups receiving fee funding. The cost will be dealt with as above, and coinciding with the publication of the tentative allocation, there shall be a publication of the final hearing dates of the student government body responsible for fee allocations.
 - d. After a final hearing, the fees allocation body shall draw up the final allocation proposal to be submitted to the student government of each campus for approval; after such approval by the student government, the final allocation shall be published in the student newspaper (or appropriate campus news media), and after approval by the above bodies, the proposal shall be submitted to the responsible campus Vice Chancellor and Chancellor for approval.
 - e. Redistribution of Fund A monies among major categories within the student programming organizations may be accomplished only with the approval of the cognizant Chancellor.
4. Annual Referenda on Fund A Expenditures
- a. Any student government desiring to expend funds for, or allocate funds to, the support of a student newspaper, a speakers program, or salaries for student government officers, must first obtain, prior to the beginning of each fiscal year in which such expenditures are to be made, and in the manner set forth below, the authorization of the student electorate on that campus to do so.
 - 1) Said authorization may only be obtained through a referendum conducted among the body of students on a particular campus eligible to vote in student government elections on that campus, in which one or more of the following three questions shall be explicitly posed:
 - a) Do you approve the allocation by student government of a part of student fee income in support of the (name of newspaper) during the 20__-__ fiscal year?
 - b) Do you approve the allocation by student government of a part of student fee income in support of a campus speakers program during the 20__-__ fiscal year?

- c) Do you approve the allocation by student government of a part of student fee income for salaries for student government officers during the 20__ - __ fiscal year?
- 2) Authorization for one year only for any particular one of the questions in 4a(1) above shall be deemed to have been obtained if, and only if, a majority of the students voting in said referendum vote to approve that particular question.
- 3) Prior to said referendum, the student government on the campus on which the said referendum is to be held shall widely publicize the total proposed dollar allocations, as well as the pro rata dollar amounts attributable to each student, for each of said specific expenditure areas for which said student government is seeking authorization.

5. Refunds of Fund A UPFF

All students eligible to vote in student government elections shall pay the established Fund A student fee on their respective campuses at the beginning of each academic term. For a period of at least one month during each academic term, each student who has paid a Fund A student fee for that term shall be eligible to apply for, and each eligible applicant therefore shall receive a full or partial refund of his or her Fund A student fee for that academic term. No student who applies for and receives a refund of his or her Fund A student fee shall, by virtue of such refund, be denied the right to stand for election to any student government office, or be denied the right to vote in any student government elections, or be denied any other political right within or ancillary to student government on his or her campus.

6. Use of Fund B Monies

Upon recommendation of the campus Chancellor and the President, and with the approval of the Board, Fund B monies may be allocated for support of (i) University contracts requiring payment in whole or in part from dedicated student fees, (ii) student unions and centers, (iii) intercollegiate athletic programs, (iv) student health services, (v) student recreational programs, (vi) international student services, (vii) student transit services, and (viii) facilities related to any of the foregoing. Fund B monies shall not be allocated for the benefit of an individual student (including athletic scholarships) except for wages paid to a student who is an hourly paid employee, employed by and at one of the facilities above; for support of the University's physical plant, except for facilities used primarily for those student services or activities permitted above or facilities subject to bonded indebtedness requiring dedicated student fees; or for support of any academic program, or any function or facility directly related to an academic program. In the event a facility is used in part for those student services or activities permitted above, and in part for other purposes (such as academic programs, or faculty, staff, or community services and activities), Fund B monies may be used to support the facility only up to the proportion that the permitted student services or activities in the facility bear to the total use of the facility.

7. Collection of User Fees and Contributions by Student Organizations

Student groups and organizations may, with the approval of the cognizant Chancellor, establish, charge, and collect appropriate user fees for services and activities sponsored by such groups and organizations in University facilities or with University equipment or with the official sanction or assistance of University personnel. Any such fees must be collected, deposited, and disbursed in accordance with established University policies, and may only be used in support of the services and activities of the organization receiving the fee.

Any student organization, office, or group which has received official University recognition may, with the approval of the cognizant Chancellor, solicit and collect voluntary contributions. Such contributions must be solicited, collected, deposited, and disbursed in accordance with established University policies, and may only be used in support of the student organization, office, or group by which the contributions were solicited.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bylaws

4.2 Authorization for Student Government. Pursuant to the Regents Bylaws, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) is the official representative of the student body of UNL.

4.2.1 Powers of ASUN. The Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) is hereby empowered to adopt a Constitution and Bylaws for governance of ASUN and for securing and achieving the objectives and powers of the Association. The Constitution and Bylaws shall be subject to approval by the Board of Regents.

4.2.2 Requirements of ASUN Constitution. The Constitution of ASUN, shall: (a) Establish the general governmental structure, powers, and responsibilities; identify the person, persons, or groups constituting each unit of the structure; specify the process by which the person, persons, or groups are selected and the terms of office; (b) Guarantee that the governmental structure is responsive to the students of UNL through periodic electoral procedures; and (c) Provide powers and procedures, related to:

- 1) Recognizing and regulating other student organizations and activities;
- 2) Organizing and managing student rallies and migrations;
- 3) Furthering the general welfare of the students of UNL;
- 4) Functioning as a liaison between the students and the Board of Regents, the administration, the faculty, the state legislature, and the public;
- 5) Adopting policy statements on public issues and on issues affecting students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln;
- 6) The budgeting and expenditure of funds over which ASUN has jurisdiction; and,
- 7) Appointing student representatives to campus-wide committees and boards for which student representation is provided.