Message from Juan N. Franco

As we approach the dog days of summer, it is time to reflect on this past year. In many ways it was a great year and at the same time we have faced some challenges. Both the State and nation went through a political season that seemed to never end. The results of the various elections, both at the state and federal levels, will reverberate through the education system for years to come. Locally, I was very proud of how engaged our students were with the election process. Last year UNL students approached the Election Commission about having a voting site in the center of campus. We provided space in the City Union for this purpose and the results were phenomenal. Students started lining up to vote before the polls opened and the lines continued for the entire day. It is great to see our students involved in the political process.

We had another good year enrollment-wise. In the fall we had 600 more students than the year before, and the freshman class had the highest average ACT score in the history of UNL. We had five freshmen who had perfect ACT or SAT scores. We continue work on the Gaughan Multicultural Center which is expected to be ready for use in January, 2010. The new residence hall on 17th and R is taking shape and should be ready for occupancy in time for Fall, 2010. The new child care center (http://childcare.unl.edu/) will open this August. Tish Roland is busy hiring staff for the Center and accepting applications for the first group of little huskers. According to our most recent numbers, we still have slots open in the toddlers and preschoolers programs. If you are interested in placing your child(ren) on the University Child Care waiting list, please contact Tish Roland via phone at 472-2101 or via email at proland1@unl.edu.

The new Students Affairs Staff Council was formed this year and is featured in this newsletter. I look forward to meeting with the Council on a regular basis and hearing ideas from staff on how we can improve our work environment.

We are in the middle of installing a new student information system. We are installing the PeopleSoft system with the help of CedarCrestone, a company that helps implement such systems. I want to thank Earl Hawkey and the many employees who are working very hard to make the transition to a new system as smooth as possible. We hope to have the system ready for the Fall, 2010 entering class.

On the negative side, we are dealing with the effects of a bad economy. For the coming year UNL faces a $3.7 million shortfall. Unfortunately, 56 positions will be impacted university wide. Student Affairs, like other units, will feel the impact. We have tried to minimize the effect on students and student services. Working together, we will weather this storm.

I hope you are enjoying the summer. As I sit and listen to the heat advisory for today, I remember just a few weeks ago complaining about the cold. If all I have to complain about is the weather – then we must be doing OK.

Find calendar information at:
UNL Calendar: http://calendar.unl.edu/
Student Affairs Calendar: http://stuafs.unl.edu/
Student Involvement: http://www.unllife.com/

“At UNL we look for ways to help students, not reasons why we can’t.”
The mission of Student Affairs Staff Council (SASC) is to “enhance communication with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and to give the Student Affairs staff a voice to help enhance leadership support, promote a sense of community, and recognize successes in the Division, both individually and collectively.” Student Affairs Staff Council Mission Statement, Adopted January 2009.

The Student Affairs Staff Council was formed in early December of 2008. Members from a variety of departments across the Student Affairs division are charged with representing their department and reporting back on University and Student Affairs updates.

The Staff Council meets on the third Friday of each month, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. After an update on University affairs from Dr. Juan N. Franco, members of the Council divide into one of three subcommittees, each reflecting a point of the Staff Council mission statement. The Leadership Support subcommittee focuses on fostering an environment that enables employees to accomplish work responsibilities and providing employee growth opportunities. The Community subcommittee is centered on promoting opportunities for employees to develop healthy relationships with others on campus, promoting morale and celebrating accomplishments and connections. The Recognition subcommittee aims to observe, acknowledge and celebrate successes in the Student Affairs Division.

Each subcommittee creates its own goals and has the option of meeting outside of monthly Staff Council meetings. Currently, the Leadership Support subcommittee is planning a series of “Brown Bag Lunch” speakers to be held over the noon hour. In order to best represent the interests of the Student Affairs staff, they plan to survey staff members. The Community subcommittee is planning ways to provide staff members with opportunities to get to know one another individually and collectively. To begin, they have suggested that our Council meet at different locations around campus, as well as start meetings with a short tour of the host facility. The Admissions Office, the University Health Center, and the Campus Recreation Center have already volunteered. The Recognition subcommittee is formulating plans to honor department successes, as well as provide staff members with opportunities to acknowledge and reward individual accomplishments.

The Staff Council will continue to work towards the goals set by each subcommittee. As we push further into the year 2009, the Council anticipates exciting changes and new opportunities for Student Affairs.


Community Subcommittee
Paula Allen, ASUN
Diann Daniels, University Health Center
Kareon Miles, Registration & Records
Kim Schafers, Career Services
Charles Watermeier, Campus Recreation
Melissa Wulf, Services for Students with Disabilities (Council Secretary)

Leadership Support Subcommittee
Dave DeLashmutter, AS Facilities Operations
Mary Guest, Student Affairs
Beth Jacobson, TRIO Programs
Matt Petr, Scholarships & Financial Aid

Recognition Subcommittee
Sandy Airan, Admissions
Bill Conkling, Custodial Supervision
Pat Tetreault, Student Involvement

Nicole Leafy, Greek Affairs (Council Facilitator)  Linda Major, Student Affairs (Council Advisor)

“At UNL we look for ways to help students, not reasons why we can’t.”
Featured Student .................... Sammy Nabulsi

My name is Sammy Nabulsi and I am currently the President of the Residence Hall Association. I am originally from Omaha, Nebraska, where I graduated from Millard West High School prior to matriculating at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. I am pursuing a Pre-Law track with a major in Political Science and a minor in Economics. I am pondering adding a minor in Spanish as well because I do have a great passion for languages, being bilingual myself in Arabic and English. Some of my accomplishments at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln include being chosen to serve as a Freshman Campus Leadership Associate, helping chair the very successful 2008 Homecoming Parade, being elected as the President of the Residence Hall Association by the resident student body, and being selected by the Midwest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls as the Regional President of the Year amongst seven candidates for the award from universities all over the Midwest. Within the Residence Hall Association, I have implemented the distribution of bio-degradable key cards, advocated for the implementation of tray-less dining in all dining centers, and created a recycling task force for residence halls to improve sustainable and green initiatives on campus. I have worked very hard with other Residence Hall Association members to put together a bid to host a regional conference for Residence Hall governments, in which we won and will be hosting in February of 2010. Furthermore, I put on a very successful tailgate at the beginning of the year that garnered approximately 500 students to serve as a safe, alcohol-free alternative for residence hall students before the first football game of the year.

Sammy Nabulsi, President
UNL Residence Hall Association
snabuls1@huskers.unl.edu
unlrha@gmail.com
(402) 250-3701

Hold the Date
Student Affairs Fall Welcome
-September 25, 2009-

Watch for more information on this event coming this fall.

“At UNL we look for ways to help students, not reasons why we can’t.”