



## Nonelection for nongovernment

Editor's note: Vince Boucher is the Daily Nebraskan associate news editor. He was an ASUN senator in 1972-73.

"He trudged along, unknowing what he sought,  
And whistled as he went, for want of thought."

—Dryden

The ragged remnants of the current ASUN campaign prove that body is scraping bottom.

Characterizing student government during the last three years is an ever increasing nonentity. There has been nonviolence, nonaction, nonprogress and nonunity. Students in government have faced noneffectiveness and noninvolvement.

And now, there is a noncampaign. If the whole campus closed its eyes for longer than a minute, we all could have missed it. As it is, most of us will. Ergo, the nonelection.

Student leaders will claim some progress has been made during the past year. Yes, the campus now has a bigger Ko-op, a student legal services program and the book exchange still is running. Without demoting the importance of these efforts, anyone in government or even loosely associated with it knows that all of these are the result of the actions of individuals.

## staff opinion

Individuals worked on the book exchange. A person with good business acumen was hired to boost the Ko-op and did an excellent job. Two ASUN executives wanted a student lawyer and did most of the work to get one.

Yes, limited achievements. But what of influence? What of clout? What of the 35 or so senators that were elected last spring? They followed the predictable pattern. Predictable because it happens every year.

Some students run because it will look good on their records. Employers like to see that kind of thing. Most of these senators resign within six months because they are bored or "didn't realize it took so much time."

Some students run because someone else who is running thinks they would do a good job. These people usually are motivated by a commitment and will have some time to give to senate. Some find out soon after election that the structure for change is cumbersome, and the power needed for change is lacking.

Then there are the true politicians, gunners who often want a higher office in the future for whatever reasons. They often work on one project with varying degrees of success, so they have some notability based on their achievements.

People are not only to blame. Even the most devoted senator will realize the problem is also with senate itself. Senators can pass resolutions until they exhaust the forests of Canada, they can investigate until they drop in their tracks, and they can look for causes until they have found them all. But they can't really change anything until they have some power.

The senate votes on its budget, but only after administrative approval. Policy on nonacademic matters is decided by the Council on Student Life (CSL). Academic changes linger between student and faculty senates and advisory boards and college faculties. And the plethora of committees and subcommittees and task forces of these groups is confusing to all.

All the governmental groups could be replaced by one all-University senate which would have a limited number of joint faculty-student committees. If this senate passed a resolution, you can bet the administration would listen. It has happened elsewhere.

Power is important, for in the end it is power which moves universities into the future. In a state like Nebraska, where the University is often misunderstood by the conservative constituency, the power is even more crucial.

Now, all of the governmental groups play off each other, duplicating efforts and in many cases obstructing one another. In what nook or cranny does the power really exist?

No one knows, least of all the students who still try to follow it. And ever less, those students who have never seen it.

## A.S.U.N. ELECTIONS

### MARCH 13

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:

Preamble: We, the students of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, realizing the need for a more effective Student Association hereby establish this Interim constitution to provide for an orderly transition to a new permanent constitution.

#### Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska of Lincoln, herein referred to as ASUN.

#### Article II Purposes

The primary purpose of this interim organization shall be the drafting and establishment of a new permanent constitution for ASUN.

It shall also act in a custodial capacity in the administration of the existing functions of ASUN.

#### Article III Membership

All regularly enrolled students in the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, shall be members of the Association and shall be entitled to take part in all activities of the Association as herein after outlined.

#### Article IV Powers

##### Section 1. Establishing a new ASUN Constitution

The interim organization shall take such steps as necessary to draft and present to the student body for approval a new ASUN Constitution.

##### Section 2. Custodial Powers

###### A. Powers Relating to Organizations

- To recognize all proposed new student organizations and to approve their constitutions, without which recognition and approval an organization shall not be permitted to function.
- To establish, by majority vote of the Board of Trustees, new and uniform conditions for the continued approval of existing student organizations, to demand compliance with said new conditions within a reasonable and stated length of time, and to revoke, by conviction in Student Court, the constitutions and right to function of organizations failing to comply.
- To schedule and/or conduct all student elections of general University interest, not excluding those for contests sponsored by subordinate organizations.
- To make all student appointments to UNL committees, boards, and other appointed positions on campus organizations.

###### B. Powers Relating to Ad Hoc Assemblies

- To organize and/or control all student rallies or demonstrations.
- To organize and/or control all student migrations.

###### C. Powers Relating to Removal or Disqualification

- To suspend or dismiss from office, by conviction in Student Court, any student executive of the government of the Association who shall refuse to carry its legislation into effect.
- To disqualify, suspend or dismiss from Association office, for a stated length of time, by conviction of the Student Court, any student who shall violate duly-encated ordinances, regulations or other legislation of the Association.

###### D. Powers Relating to Liaison

- To serve as liaison between students and faculty, between students and the Board of Regents and/or their representatives, between students and the state legislature, and between students and the general public at such time as the general welfare of the students and/or the University shall require such service.

###### E. Powers Relating to General Welfare

- To exercise any other powers necessary for the general welfare of the students

#### Article V. STRUCTURE

##### Section 1 Board of Trustees

###### A. Composition

- The Board shall consist of 38 elected ASUN representatives of the 1974 election and the faculty advisor.
- The Board shall elect persons to fill any vacancies when deemed necessary.

###### B. Format of the Board of Trustees

- Chairman—the position of Chairman of the Board shall be filled by the person elected as "President" in the 1974 election.
  - The chairman's duties shall be:
    - presiding chairman of the Board with vote
    - to perform the necessary administration functions as head of the Association
    - to fill the role of student body president
- Two Vice-Chairmen—the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board shall be filled by the persons elected as "Second Vice-President" in the 1974 election. The duties of the Vice-Chairmen shall be designated by the Board.
  - Duties and Power of the Board
    - to draft a new permanent ASUN Constitution
    - establish its own procedures and rules for administration and policy making
    - to, if deemed necessary, remove the chairman and/or vice-chairmen by a two-thirds vote
    - to prepare if necessary an annual budget for submission to the Fee Allocations Board

##### Section 2. Interim Student Court

###### A. Composition

- The interim student court shall be composed of the persons appointed to the "student court" by the '73-'74 senate.

###### B. Judicial Powers

- The judicial power of the Student Court shall extend to the following controversies:
  - matters of impeachment
  - matters of interpretation of this constitution
  - matters of contested elections
  - matters concerning organizations when referred to the Court by the University of Nebraska Administration, the Student Senate, or an individual student.

###### C. The appeal of any decision of the court shall go to the Council on Student Life.

#### Article IV Ratifying New Constitution

##### Section 1 Publication

- Any new constitution drafted by the Board shall be submitted to the student body for approval and must be published in the Daily Nebraskan at least 3 times prior to the referendum at no less than one week intervals.

##### Section II Ratification

- The new constitution shall become effective upon the affirmation vote of a simple majority of at least 15% of the student body

##### Section III Failure to establish new constitution

- If a new constitution is not in effect by November 15, 1974, the constitution in effect on March 7, 1974, will again be in effect.

## POLLING PLACES

UNION LOUNGE	8 am.-8 pm.
EAST UNION	8 am.-6 pm.
ANDREWS HALL	8 am.-5 pm.
NEBRASKA HALL	8 am.- 8 pm.
HAMILTON HALL	8 am.-5 pm.