

I am extremely honored to serve as Student Body Vice President of UNO. I want to start by thanking the students of UNO for voting for Patrick and I. None of this would be possible without their support, feedback, and involvement on campus. I also want to thank my parents, Jeff and Joan, my grandparents, Charlie and Sue, my brother Luke, and my boyfriend Jake. God has blessed me with a wonderful family. They have been very supportive of all my involvement on campus and I truly wouldn't be here without them. I also want to thank my Sustainability mentors, Dan Shipp, Sarah Burke, and Patrick Wheeler. My accomplishments are due to their encouragement, support, and enthusiasm.

A few weeks back, at the Student Government banquet, Dr. Bounds said something that really stuck with me. He said, "the University of Nebraska should be the best place to be a student." I've been thinking about what makes UNO the best place to be a student. For me, it was the opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of my school. As I thought back on this year's accomplishments, they all seemed to have one point of origin, and that is the outstanding faculty, staff, and administration. Not only do they care about and listen to students, but they also go above and beyond to help students reach their full potential.

This year, as I served as Student Government's Sustainability Chair, I was able to help make strides in Sustainability through collaboration with administration. With the help of Eric Hager, the Bookstore Manager, Student Government approved the launch of a Bag-less Bookstore pilot program that will reduce UNO's plastic bag use by approximately 50,000 each year. Student Government started the discussion with UNO's Service Learning Academy that led to the establishment of UNO's first Food Recovery program that will collect and donate left over food on campus to children in need. UNO's Transit program was recognized by Omaha by Design after Student Government partnered with Parking Services and the College of Business Administration to expand the MavRide program.

I am excited to see these programs, and several other initiatives that I do not have time to mention today, grow and expand next year. As Student Body Vice President, my main duty will be to organize and run Freshman Leadership Council, an introductory organization to Student Government. I will have the incredible opportunity to work with incoming Freshman leaders and help them develop the skills necessary to be outstanding leaders at UNO. Amanda Chapin has done an amazing job with the program this year, and I hope to build on her success in order to make next year's Freshman Leadership Council the best yet. Thank you.