

1 **Government Bill #19**

2 **2024-2025**

3 **A Ballot Question for Voting Student Regents**

5 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN) serves
6 as the representative voice of students and advocates for shared governance within the
7 University of Nebraska System; and,

9 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska is the governing body
10 for the University of Nebraska System consisting of eight Regents, elected by district,
11 making decisions and having discussions that impact students across all campuses; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, the Student Regents, who are elected by their respective student
14 bodies, currently serve without a formal vote, limiting the direct influence of student
15 perspectives on key governance matters; and,

17 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of the Student Regent position in 1974 was a
18 significant milestone in advancing student representation at the highest levels of university
19 decision-making; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, granting Student Regents a vote would align with the principles of
22 shared governance by ensuring that students, as primary stakeholders in the university
23 system, have a direct role in shaping policies that affect their education, tuition, campus
24 life, and overall university experience; and,

26 **WHEREAS**, students have an outsized investment into the university, as compared
27 to citizens of Nebraska at-large, with tuition representing large portions of revenues¹ at the
28 various campuses of the university system; and,

30 **WHEREAS**, numerous university systems across the country have granted student
31 representatives voting power on their governing boards, including 66% of Big10
32 institutions: the University of Illinois, the Indiana University, the University of Iowa, the
33 University of Maryland, the University of Minnesota, the Ohio State University, the
34 University of Oregon, the Pennsylvania State University, the Purdue University, the
35 University of California, the University of Washington, and the University of Wisconsin.

37 **WHEREAS**, President Herbin and External Vice President McDermott have
38 researched the history of the Student Regent role and the feasibility of expanding its
39 powers, and engaged in laying the groundwork for this initiative with Regents, Legislators,
40 University Administration.

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¹ Tuition, not including student fees, represents 37.9% of UNK's revenues, 27.1% of UNMC's revenues, 55.5% of UNO's revenues, and 47.3% of UNL's revenues. This data comes from the [2024-2025 Operating Budget](#).

42 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED**, that ASUN formally supports granting voting rights to
43 the Student Regents on the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska; and,

45 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, that ASUN will lobby for an amendment to
46 the Nebraska State Constitution, Article VII, Section 10 to reflect this change to state
47 policymakers should the student body support the change through a robust university-
48 wide ballot; and,

50 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, that ASUN will lobby in this amendment to
51 the Nebraska State Constitution for the UNK Student Body President to be included in the
52 official list of Student Regents; and,

54 **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY ENACTED**, that the following question shall be
55 included on the ballot in the Spring General Election:

57 Should elected Student Regents at the University of Nebraska System be granted voting
58 power on the Board of Regents?

- A vote YES means that ASUN will formally advocate for Student Regents at UNL, UNO, UNMC, and UNK to have voting power on the Board of Regents.
- A vote NO means that ASUN will not formally advocate for Student Regents at UNL, UNO, UNMC, and UNK to have voting power on the Board of Regents, maintaining the current non-voting status.

65 SUBMITTED BY President Herbin DATE 03/07/2025

66 AUTHORED BY EVP McDermott and President Herbin DATE 03/07/2025

67 FLOOR ACTION DATE

68 PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE DATE