AHGSA
Agronomy and Horticulture Graduate Student Association

MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ROLES FOR THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (AHGSA)

Executive Committee (Officers)

The elected officers, which include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the AHGSA between its meetings, coordinate the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and encourage active membership. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the membership, and none of its acts shall conflict with the action taken by a majority of active membership. In addition, it shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to listen to suggestions and problems from graduate students and prepare them for discussion at the association's general meetings. The Executive Committee will also act on the recompilation and allocation of funds. Some specific activities are detailed below:

President

a. Preside over meetings and act as the official representative of the association.

b. Schedule and preside over general meetings of the AHGSA.

c. Communicate club activities to the department.

d. Help coordinate general club activities.

Vice President

a. Assume responsibility for all Presidential duties in the event the president is unable to fulfill his or her role.

b. Coordinate and direct the activities of all Special Committees of AHGSA.

c. Help coordinate general club activities.

Treasurer

a. Maintain financial records for inspection at any time by members of the AHGSA.

b. Collect, keep records of, and arrange safekeeping of funds that AHGSA may obtain, whether collected or distributed for formal or informal events.

c. Pay organization's bills, at the direction of the President and advisor, such as expenses required to meet the obligations of the AHGSA.

d. Report for approval at all regular meetings, all income and expenses and maintain records of all transactions.

Secretary

a. Record and file records of the activities of AHGSA.

b. Handle and maintain all AHGSA correspondence.

c. Take and maintain minute's notes of the meetings.

d. Serve as the chair for the document revision and amendments.

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Committee Chairs (10)

Mentoring and Orientation Chair
Organize the welcoming meeting to new graduate students in the Department. Usually, in the beginning of every fall semester when new students are officially welcomed. Danielle Lopez is always a good point of contact for this. The meeting is intended to introduce each other into the student body and share overviews of the student club. Introduction of officers and chairs is desired. Present the preliminary plan for academic year of AHGSA is helpful too. Additionally, introduce relevant points of contact within the department, example: TJ McAndrew (tmcandrew2@unl.edu), Danielle Lopez (danielle.lopez@unl.edu), and Casey Lundberg (clundberg2@unl.edu).

R Club Chair
The AHGSA R Club is dedicated to teaching graduate students, postdocs, and faculty the use of the R statistical programming language. In biweekly meetings, the club meet to discuss how to manage data, apply statistical tests, and plot publication-quality figures in R. Each session is led by mentors who have experience using R for data analysis and who are available to support participants 1 on 1 throughout the meetings and outside.

Activities:

- Mentored sessions to learn the basics of R and R Studio, each participant proceeds at own pace.
- Bring-your-own data: participants work on their own data sets while mentors are available for help.
- Tips and tricks for data analysis and plotting in R are presented by mentors or external speakers.
- Participants also have the opportunity to present their own data analyzed in R.
- Plotting exercises: participants are shown a plot and tasked to reproduce it.

Duties:

- Reserve meeting room for biweekly meetings during Fall (and/or Spring) semester.
- Curate email list of R Club participants, send out timely information about meeting schedule and content.
- Curate R Club GitHub page to collect example code.
- Be available to mentor meeting participants 1 on 1 during sessions and outside on request (mostly via email).
- Find and schedule external speakers to present R-related topics.

Safety and Training Chair
The committee's role is to be proactive in all matters pertaining to health and safety issues related to our work operations and environment. The committee should also identify opportunities to ensure that all employees receive updated information and training regarding health and safety issues. In this capacity, the committee serves in an advisory role to the

department head. Michael Livingston (mlivingston1@unl.edu) is a good point of contact for lab and COVID-19 safety trainings.

Scholarship Chair
This committee role is to help emphasize, distribute, encourage scholarships, fellowships, travel grants, etc. opportunities available to students. Such opportunities can come from the Department but they are not limited to that. Other offices such as CASNR, ARD, Graduate School, and/or IANR regularly offer scholarship/fellowship opportunities too. In addition, external announces can be advertised as well. The chair can help distribute announcements and raise awareness of those via AHGSA email listserv. Actively seeking opportunities available and encouraging students to apply is desired. Danielle Lopez (danielle.lopez@unl.edu) can be of help on this.

Recruitment and Retention Chair
As the recruitment and retention chair, the duties are to attend once a semester recruitment and retention committee meetings and provide a graduate student insight to the recruitment planning process. In addition, help to provide feedback on the branding of the department and other related activities.
The R&R committee is mainly focused on recruiting undergraduate students; however, it is important to have a graduate student's perspective (as someone who has generally been an undergrad in the more recent past than most of the people on the committee). The committee usually plans recruitment events over the summer semesters but it can be Spring or Fall as well. The Department appreciates your service on this committee as recruitment and retention is a high priority for all. It is critical to increase enrollment to be able to effectively serve our clientele in the state and beyond.

The responsibilities of the committee are to:

- Provide guidance to the Head and Committee Chair concerning recruitment and retention strategy.
- Develop a strategic plan to increase enrollment into the department's programs.
- Participate in the planning and execution of major recruitment events.
- Encourage faculty and staff to become involved in recruitment and retention.

Seminar Chair
The seminar chair of AHGSA mainly participates in the organizing of the coming seminars, sometimes hosting the seminars, hosting the meeting between graduate students and seminar speakers, helping with cleaning the seminar room. This is a great chance to meet seminar committee (faculty members) and get familiar with the process of planning a whole set of seminars in our department.
Please make every effort to develop the Fall and Spring seminar program in collaboration with the rest of the Team. Fran Benne (fbenne2@unl.edu) and Lana Johnson (ljohnson1@unl.edu) will provide media announcement support. Kaye Wolfe (kaye.wolfe@unl.edu) and Casey Lundberg (clundberg2@unl.edu) will assist the committee with arranging refreshments (if

applicable) and managing technology for seminars, liaise with speakers including arranging travel and reimbursements, and circulating notices so that faculty, emeriti, and students are aware of this weekly event.
While most of the speakers should be identified from among the faculty, visiting scientists, students, and postdocs within our department and UNL, the committee has a budget line to cover the costs of 1-2 external speakers each semester. This budget should cover airfare, lodging, and food.

Activities and Entertainment Chair
The duties/activities of the entertainment and activities chair are mostly to attend the Agronomy and Horticulture Social Committee meetings twice or three times/semester and help to organize the department events (e.g. Harvest sweet corn, Halloween, welcome breakfast, etc.).
Additionally, this chair helps to organize, lead, and coordinate social get together events for students in AHGSA. Activities done in the past: happy hour of food in a pub, watch a hockey game in town, wine tastings, etc. Please coordinate and discuss it with the officer's team.

Graduate Chair
Attend graduate committee meetings (The graduate committee consists of different faculties and office associates from the department, the GC chair from AHGSA will be the only graduate student representative in the committee).
Provide insights from graduate students' perspective on the meeting agendas. Typical meeting agendas for 2019/20 included Revision of the Working guidelines for the Graduate Committee, departmental assistantship amount limits, new student admission selection process, and available resources for the students and plans for some kind of mentorship programs. Dr. Keenan Amundsen (kamundsen2@unl.edu) and Danielle Lopez (danielle.lopez@unl.edu) are the contacts for this.

Agronomy Farms and Greenhouse Facilities Chair
This Committee is responsible for providing guidance to the Head concerning policies and operating procedures for the Agronomy Farm, Stewart Seed Laboratory, the Turf Facility at Mead, and the garden/orchard area on East Campus. TJ McAndrew (Agronomy Farms, tmcandrew2@unl.edu) and Jeffrey Witkowski (Greenhouse, jwitkowski2@unl.edu) are good points of contact for this committee chair.

ASUN/GSA Chair
As a representative at The Graduate Student Assembly - GSA, you must attend the monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Before the meetings, you receive in your email the agenda to know in advance the planned activities, you also receive information related to the aspects of the committees, you must read them to know what will be discussed. The committees are Academic Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion, Graduate Travel Awards Program, Professional Development, Quality of life, and Social events. In the meeting session, the bills are briefly outlined, and you have a voice and vote to make a final decision on whether to approve or reject them. Also, as a GSA representative, you must be part of a committee. Additional

meetings to plan activities may be needed as part of committee membership. Some of those planned activities included: Lunch and learn, Career fair breakfast, and review Special Projects Grants Program (SPGP) applications. By participating in GSA and any committee, you meet new people; learn more about the dynamics of graduate students and student government organizations. For questions, please contact gsa@unl.edu.

Membership

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Non-enrolled students, significant relatives, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment. One can be considered an **active and full member when**:

- Have at least 75% attendance of the meetings;
- Have active participation of the events held by the Association, i.e. Sweet Corn harvest, Fall Barbecue, Spring Banquet, etc.
- Off-campus students should get alternate opportunities to make up for on-campus association activities and volunteer services.

Additional Notes

- For more information on the student association, please refer to the association's constitution at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oJq9br3VavGYkXd_Xtmk6ZhdKqAs1H26/view?usp=sharing
- For more information on main yearly activities, please refer to the introductory meeting at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rF3tpTWpM2RxY6VUCRcb4GXs_qca0-Dy/view?usp=sharing

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"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." ------ Henry Ford

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THANK YOU

On behalf of AHGSA and the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, thank you for your time, leadership, and service to our department and students. It truly is a Team effort.

Revised: April, 2022

AHGSA
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OFFICERS AND CHAIRS: 2019-2020

OFFICERS

- President: Alex Rosa, alexandre@huskers.unl.edu
- Vice-President: Jose de Sanctis, jhsanctis@huskers.unl.edu
- Treasurer: Osler Ortez, osler.Ortez@huskers.unl.edu
- Secretary: Tara Harms, tara.harms@huskers.unl.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Safety & Training: Samantha McConaughy, samanthamcconaughy@gmail.com
- Scholarship: Chris Chen, chenxinzheng6830@gmail.com
- Recruitment & Retention: Brittany Kirsch, bkirsch@huskers.unl.edu
- Mentor & Orientation: Sarah Johnson, sarah2017@huskers.unl.edu
- Seminar: Fang Wang, wangfangapril04@gmail.com
- Graduate: Deepak Ghimire, deepak@huskers.unl.edu
- Farms & Greenhouse: Shawn McDonald, shawn.mcdonald@huskers.unl.edu
- Activities and Entertainment: Estefania Polli, estefania.polli@huskers.unl.edu
- ASUN/GSA: Erika Sanchez, esanchezbetancourt2@huskers.unl.edu
- R Club: Michael Meier, michael.meier@huskers.unl.edu

OFFICERS AND CHAIRS: 2020-2021

OFFICERS:

- President: Osler Ortez, osler.ortez@huskers.unl.edu
- Vice-president: Fernanda Krupek, krupek@huskers.unl.edu
- Treasurer: Santos Barrera, sybarreral@huskers.unl.edu
- Secretary: Alyssa Kuhn, akuhn2@huskers.unl.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Safety and Training: Shawn McDonald, shawn.mcdonald@huskers.unl.edu
- Scholarship: Chris Chen, chenxinzheng6830@gmail.com
- Mentor and Orientation: Jose de Sanctis, jhsanctis@huskers.unl.edu
- Seminar: Milos Zaric, milos.zaric@huskers.unl.edu
- R Club: Michael Meier, michael.meier@huskers.unl.edu
- Recruitment and Retention: Yavuz Delen, yavuzdelenn@gmail.com
- Graduate: Tauana Almeida, tauana.almeida.agro@gmail.com
- Agronomy Farms and Greenhouse: William Neels, william.neels@huskers.unl.edu
- Activities and Entertainment: Jasmine Mausbach, jmausbach@huskers.unl.edu
- ASUN/GSA: Michael Carlson, michael.carlson@unl.edu

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AHGSA
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OFFICERS AND CHAIRS: 2021-2022

OFFICERS:

- President: Michael Carlson, mcarlson28@unl.edu
- Vice-president: Alyssa Kuhn, akuhn2@huskers.unl.edu
- Treasurer: Fernanda Krupek, krupek@huskers.unl.edu
- Secretary: Deepak Ghirmire, deepak@huskers.unl.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

- Safety and Training: Alfonso de Lara, adelaraaldalur2@huskers.unl.edu
- Scholarship: Elizabeth Oys, eoys2@huskers.unl.edu
- Mentor and Orientation: Juan Jimenez Pardo, jjimenezpardo2@huskers.unl.edu
- Seminar: Tauana Almeida, tferreiradealmeida2@huskers.unl.edu
- Recruitment and Retention: Judy Jean, cjean2@huskers.unl.edu
- Graduate: Victor de Sousa, vdesousaferreira2@huskers.unl.edu
- Agronomy Farms and Greenhouse: Trey Stephens, trey.stephens@huskers.unl.edu
- Activities and Entertainment: Balpreet Kaur Dhatt, bdhatt@huskers.unl.edu
- ASUN/GSA: Jaspinder Singh, jaspindersingh@huskers.unl.edu

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