Elle Boeding  
NISG Senate Questions

1. Why are you running for this position?

I am running for this position because I am invested in bettering our campus community and I believe the best way to do so is by advocating on behalf of our diverse student body. During my time here at UNI, I have been incredibly fortunate to have been given some amazing on-campus resources that have helped to make me a well-rounded individual. Northern Iowa Student Government provides numerous tools for student success, but I believe there is much work to be done. It is incredibly important that we listen to all voices in order to support our student population in whatever way they deem fit, and I hope to be an approachable resource for students who share the same passion for improving the university that I do. If elected to this position, I hope to become an active part in the progress that has been made and work to facilitate positive change within the university so it can serve the student body in the most effective capacity.

2. Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?

My involvement with Student Admissions Ambassadors, Summer Orientation Staff, National Student Exchange, Student Conduct Board, Public Relations Student Society of America, and various other organizations at UNI has provided me with a unique set of experiences which make me well-qualified to hold this position. All of these student organizations have given me a greater appreciation for the university and have helped me to grow as a leader. I believe I would bring a distinctive skill set with my experience in social media management, public speaking, recruiting, and facilitating conversations with students and faculty. These skills would be very helpful in a senator position because, in order to make NISG more accessible to the students, we must create an open conversation with the student body. I also have a great deal of experience working with students from different backgrounds, so I am comfortable having an open discussion on topics that may arise from these differences. Overall, my wide variety of involvements have given me the tools necessary to be a proponent for progress at UNI.

3. What do you believe are some important issues facing the UNI student body?

Some pressing issues facing UNI students would be the rising textbook and education costs, a need for more inclusive language, and finding ways to address systematic inequalities at the university level. These issues are all very different, but also incredibly important in their own right because they impact a students experience at the university. The rising textbook and education cost is an issue all students can relate to, and there must be a shift to alleviate some costs for students by providing options for textbook sharing or free online resources. The need for a campus-wide initiative addressing inclusive language and systematic inequalities at the
university level is especially important because we must hold ourselves to a higher standard if we wish to be a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds.

4. What goals would you like to accomplish in your position?

Two goals I would like to prioritize if elected would be a textbook sharing system and implement a program that aligns NISG with Summer Orientation Staff in order to create a more approachable environment for new students. These issues both stem from my personal experiences as a student and are both widely agreed-upon gaps in our institution. A textbook sharing initiative would ask students and faculty to put old books that either cannot be returned or will not be used again on reserve at the library. This program would expand upon the textbook sharing initiative already in place, and help to connect faculty with the means of more effectively putting books into the system at Rod Library. Ideally, this information would be available before the first day of classes so students could decide which books they would need to purchase for that semester. I also believe that there is a great opportunity to develop a consistent program with NISG and Summer Orientation Staff regarding diversity and inclusion. Having a representative of the Northern Iowa Student Government involved in the Orientation process would make students feel more comfortable approaching NISG members and developing meaningful connections with them. This program could potentially motivate a student to get involved with NISG as well. These connections will allow NISG to hear diverse opinions from the student body, and formulate positions that will best serve their constituents.

5. How will you achieve these goals?

I intend on working towards implementing these policies by utilizing on-campus resources and other NISG members; by working as a team, we can accomplish far more than we could separately. I also believe it is very important to enlist the viewpoints of students who may be interested in the causes, so holding a “town hall” for these initiatives will be crucial. Bringing awareness to the issue through a social media campaign, and then meeting with faculty involved in order to get them on-board will also be a very important aspect of making these dreams of a more affordable and inclusive campus a reality for the UNI student body. It is with these fresh ideas that we change the culture at UNI, and we cannot do it without a group effort.