

Dear Faculty Senate Student Life Committee,

Hello and thank you for your commitment to review, provide feedback, and potentially approve the Office of Residence Life Upper Division Program Plan for 2013-2014.

The plan laid forth in the coming pages is very much a living document. The plan is our path guiding our efforts. The journey each year provides a great deal of insight into the success of reaching our destination – student engagement. Our professionals have gained knowledge since the approval of the 2012-2013 plan and changes have been proposed as reflected in this new plan.

Some areas have remained unchanged, some with very slight modifications to major modifications, and others are completely new. Here is a brief breakdown:

Unchanged from the 2012-2013 Plan: These areas are currently successful in implementation and goals.

- Community Meetings
- Community News
- After Class Showcase
- Student Spotlight
- Faculty Connection Opportunities
- Bulletin Boards
- Department Wide Opportunities

Slight modifications: These areas have had slight changes primarily due to a new supervision structure. We moved from graduate assistant supervisors to professional supervisors.

- Service Initiatives
- Weekend Events
- Leadership Opportunities – Complex Community Councils, Green Teams, Student Initiative Fund

Major modifications: This singular area is significantly altered because it was determined that previous initiatives were not reaching anticipated goals.

- Environmental Sustainability

New this year: These areas build off of opportunities which have arisen during this year.

- Community Connections
- Cultural Celebrations and Sharing
- Leadership Opportunities – Service Teams
- Living Learning Communities

Again, thank you for your continued commitment and our leadership team looks forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

Michele Kane
Associate Director
Office of Residence Life

University of Delaware
Office of Residence Life
UPPER-DIVISION HALLS
2013-2014
Student Life Approved Version
3-20-13

Introduction:

The upper division residence halls include Central, Christiana Towers, Independence and Ray Street complexes. In total these areas include a mix of approximately 3600 students comprised of sophomores (@ 55%), juniors (@ 30%), and seniors (@ 15%). The upper division halls have unique characteristics and traditions resulting from special programs such as Special Interest Housing, Upper-class Honors housing, apartment-style and suite-style living. Due to the variety in type of student and housing, a wider variety of programming options will be offered for these areas.

The upper division plan includes activities to promote student interaction, attend to social needs, and generate opportunities for students to contribute to community life. The upper division plan continues to provide students with opportunities for reflection and exploration of citizenship while also providing opportunities for them to examine their undergraduate goals and plan for their future success within and outside of the University.

Staff members are expected to follow the guidelines within the program plan in developing and advertising activities. An emphasis is placed on partnering with professionally trained staff, students, and/or faculty whose involvement will enrich the proposed plan.

With the exception of the floor and building meetings held at opening, all activities detailed in this plan are attendance-optional. Students will not face penalties, perceived or real, for failing to engage in residential activities and programs. Staff and students will be informed that no activity in the residence halls is mandatory for students to attend.

Repeating themes in the program plan are noted below. The selected themes place a heavy emphasis on student-to-student interaction and connection. Minor revisions made to the 2013-2014 plan are made in response to assessment data from the 2012 Floor Feedback Survey. This survey showed that while there have been gains in student engagement areas, residents in upper division residence halls would like additional structured opportunities that facilitate resident interaction, and a need to boost our efforts to engage students in the opportunities we offer.

Repeating Themes in the Upper Division Program Plan:

Community Meetings:

Monthly community meetings are about the residents – a time for them to learn what is happening in their community, discuss any events that might be coming up in the residence halls or elsewhere on campus, and a time for them to get to know each other. Resident Assistants will build the topic portion of their meeting based on their interactions with residents and discussions with their Residence Hall Coordinator so that relevant and timely information can be presented during these meetings. Resident Assistants will invite residents to develop and facilitate a social activity to take place during the Community Meeting. Resident Assistants will be available as a resource to the resident developing the activity and funding will be provided by the Office of Residence Life. These meetings will happen each month at the floor level (or combined floors as appropriate).

Community Connections:

Students in first year areas have become increasingly engaged in the Neighborhood Empowerment Teams (NET) which has resulted in increased engagement in residence hall and University activities. This growth is evident in the Fall 2012 Fall Floor Feedback survey and it is hoped that by having a similar opportunity in the upper division areas that residents can continue this high level of engagement. Residents will have the opportunity to work with their Resident Assistants to plan and implement activities at the floor level designed to promote connections between community members. With the support of Resident Assistants, residents who participate may form committees to plan these activities. Potential committees can include: social; appreciation/recognition; marketing; environmental sustainability; and others that residents suggest.

Service Initiatives:

Complexes will design and hold on-going service opportunities for students interested in "giving back" to their communities. In addition to providing service, these initiatives will allow residents to connect with other students in the complex community. Staff will identify the community service activities and organizations our residents are currently involved in and plan programs with these service opportunities in mind. The goals of this initiative include raising awareness about service organizations, creating methods to assist agencies, and developing relationships between residents around common interests. Each complex will continue to work with current service agencies to continue potential long term partnerships. Four service initiative programs will be held per month in each complex (excluding months with University designated breaks). Two programs will be focused on the complex partnership. The other two programs will be planned and implemented in collaboration with residents and focused around their interests. The complex partnership programs will be coordinated and overseen by the Student Engagement Advisor (with the assistance of the Complex Coordinator).

Environmental Sustainability:

In order to respond to increasing requests from students to participate in environmental sustainability efforts, upper division complexes will provide a monthly thematic approach to serve as a foundation for programmatic content and student interaction. The following chart outlines monthly themes and the programming list describes how themes will be integrated into existing programming areas.

Month	Environmental Sustainability Theme
September	Single Stream Recycling
October	Creative Repurposing / UD Campus Sustainability Day
November	Sustainable Eating/Dining
December	Water Conservation
January/February	University Efforts / UD Climate Action Plan

March	Carbon Footprint – Awareness of and How to Reduce
April	Energy Conservation / UD Earth Week Programming
May	Responsible Move-Out (UDon't Need It, Dumpster Detours)

Environmental Sustainability Themes in action -

Bulletin Boards – One bulletin board in each community will be dedicated to environmental sustainability throughout the academic year and will rotate monthly according to the provided themes. All other boards will include a prominently displayed visual message explaining ways in which the board was created sustainably (ex. No new printing, used old magazines for backing, swapped bulletin boards with RA on 4th floor, etc.). These messages will be updated on a monthly basis.

Weekend Events – One weekend event a semester (per Residence Hall Coordinator staff) must meet the guidelines of the Office of Residence Life Green Programming Guide.

Community News – Using the monthly environmental sustainability theme as a foundation, complex professional staff will provide related content to supplement each complex' community news. When relevant, monthly content will also include campus-wide events such as UD Campus Sustainability Day, UD Earth Week programming, and the Regional Sustainability Institute sponsored by the University of Delaware Environmental Sustainability Committee.

Student Spotlight – Resident Assistants will utilize the student spotlight to bring attention to the monthly environmental sustainability theme by recognizing environmentally sustainable practices of residents

Community Meetings – Resident Assistants will utilize community meetings to bring attention to the monthly environmental sustainability theme by engaging in a conversation, providing a grab-and-go initiative, or asking a student to lead an activity related to the monthly theme (as described in Community Connections).

Fall Eco-Showcase:

Students will have the opportunity to understand the importance of repurposing or up-cycling items and ways to produce functional, creative products from otherwise unwanted or unused items. Each complex will host an event to expose students to sustainable art and/or functional repurposing by providing the opportunity for students to create and display reworked and repurposed items. Audiences will vote on the items in categories such as most creative, most functional, and most sustainable. The winners from each complex will be displayed during Art Under the Stars to share ideas and knowledge on ways to repurpose.

HENStock

The Upper Division large-scale sustainability committee will partner with Registered Student Organizations who have an environmental sustainability focus to organize a yard sale and afternoon-long concert. Students will have the opportunity to bring their unwanted items to staff offices prior to HENStock as well as on the day of the event and will be given a credit for the

“value” of that item. HENStock credit or cash can be used to purchase items during the event. Donated items will be sought which will potentially draw a high interest for purchasing (i.e. gift certificates, etc.) to gain additional interest in the event. All left over items will be donated to the Salvation Army and/or UDon’t Need It and all money collected will be donated to the Registered Student Organization’s charity of choice. During the sale, a concert showcase of student talent will encourage sale attendance and provide entertainment for attendees. The committee will highlight the environmental sustainability benefits of HENStock to make students aware of their positive impact by participating in the sale. Program will be held on Laird Turf OR Central Green.

Weekend Events:

Weekend events will be held weekly on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. These events will be timed intentionally based on complex culture and needs but should take place no earlier than 9:00 PM. Resident Assistants will foster student participation and ownership in the complex community by obtaining student input in the planning and implementation process. Resident Assistants will identify student interests and involvement to determine which Resident Student Organizations to collaborate with on weekend events.

Cultural Celebration and Sharing:

The University of Delaware provides an abundance of activities to celebrate cultural theme months and events. The Office of Residence Life is asked to support these activities by the organizing departments and groups and this information is shared with the leadership team in each complex. Complex Coordinators will be responsible for disseminating information and coordinating support for these programs through advertising and encouraging students to attend these events. While no specific events will be excluded, particular attention will be paid to those events that are advertised through the President’s Diversity Initiative.

Each complex has display cases in common areas for the specific purpose of housing “cultural artifacts” such as clothing, pictures, or other objects of residents who wish to share. Students will have the opportunity for their object to be displayed, along with information describing its significance, in the display case. Any objects that students choose to share will be returned to them in a time frame that they choose. To gain student interest in sharing and viewing the showcases, each Resident Assistant, with the guidance of their supervisor, will host a sharing activity for their floor community and each complex leadership team will host a sharing activity appropriate for the building or complex level.

Community News:

Each complex will promote news of the complex and community on a monthly basis. A committee of staff chaired by a Residence Hall Coordinator will compile centralized information. Postings in the community news should include relevant UDaily articles, information shared from other units on campus, environmental sustainability information, activities from the program plan, and any topics students would like to contribute. The Complex Coordinator will have oversight for all items posted in the monthly news for their complex. The news medium will be electronic which can take the form of an electronic document sent via email to residents, a blog, Facebook, or other electronic methods that are attractive to residents and appropriate for the information.

Student Spotlight:

The monthly student spotlight is a way for the entire community to recognize the outstanding work done by our residents. Spotlitged efforts can include, but are not limited to, academic success, community contribution, environmental sustainability, and extracurricular activities. Students and staff members

can submit nominations for themselves or others. Students will need to provide permission to be spotlighted and will have full editing oversight for all information posted connected to this recognition. When a Student Spotlight nomination matches the National Residence Hall Honorary of the month award nomination for Student Spotlight, this recognition should lead to the student's nomination for the National Residence Hall Honorary process. Recognition can be done by building, area, or complex as appropriate for the structure of the complex. The Complex Coordinator will be responsible for setting up procedures for publicizing, nominating, selecting, and posting information about monthly spotlights.

After Class Showcase:

Each month, the complex staff will develop an activity in collaboration with a Division of Student Life unit or a student services unit (i.e. Writing Center, Communication Fellows, Library Workshops, Academic Enrichment Center, etc.) to highlight the services offered by that unit. This will allow our students to enhance or learn new skills as well as be encouraged to take advantage of campus resources. Residence Hall Coordinators will work with the Resident Assistants to decide which resource would best serve residents during that month's activity. The Complex Coordinator will coordinate invitations to campus units.

Faculty Connection Opportunities:

A wide variety of opportunities will be made available for University of Delaware faculty to take part in activities and events in the residence halls to engage with students in the residential environment. Faculty will be invited to offer presentations, take part in major events, spend time with students in the dining halls, participate with hall student government activities, or other interactive opportunities. Each complex will work with the Student Engagement Coordinator to offer at least two of these opportunities each semester based on availability of faculty members.

Bulletin Boards:

Bulletin Boards are an important visual representation of both information and the community. Resident Assistants will have access to a number of bulletin board topics developed by a variety of Residence Life staff members and approved by the Associate Director. RAs will be provided with current information and encouraged to create a creative display. Topics may include: Items related to the program plan (i.e. Community Meetings, Environmental Sustainability, Faculty Connection Opportunity, etc); recognition themes celebrated by the University (i.e. Hispanic Heritage Month, Constitution Day, Earth Week, etc.); and topics proposed and developed by residents. Bulletin boards will be changed monthly with chosen topics and quality approved by supervisors in the buildings.

Leadership Opportunities (includes Complex Community Council, Student Initiative Fund, Green Teams, and Service Teams):

Students who come to upper division residence halls often come with many leadership skills. Residence Life Staff have a responsibility to understand the types of leadership activities residents are currently involved in as well as new opportunities that can be offered to residents. Knowing the leadership activities of our students allows our staff to plan activities and find connections between residents. Connecting residents to leadership opportunities allows our residents to further develop their skills. There are four structured opportunities available in our residence halls as well as additional departmental initiatives residents can get involved in which impact our residents' ability to affect the living environment while connecting with their community members. These opportunities are also optional.

Complex Community Councils (CCCs) – Leadership groups that exist in each complex. Students will be encouraged to participate and become an active member of their community through the CCC. Student participation will allow them the opportunity to share thoughts and have an influence on the community. Each CCC is advised by the Complex Coordinator with assistance

from the Residence Hall Coordinator staff. Residence Life Staff will provide a kick-off event to introduce students to the CCC, facilitate the election process to maximize student involvement opportunities, and provide meeting space appropriate for all students to take part in their CCC regardless of involvement level. Ongoing CCC activities will be developed by members of the CCC and will take place each month, supported by Resident Assistants through promotion and attendance. CCC activities in the past have ranged from social and educational programming to community service and advocacy activities. Each year CCC members are provided with examples of past activities to stimulate the development of ideas for current year's activities which are developed by the current group.

Student Initiative Fund (SIF) – an Office of Residence Life opportunity that allows residents to create events in the residence halls designed to initiate and continue resident interaction. Residence Hall Coordinators will work with the Student Engagement Coordinator to develop an initial SIF kickoff event. This event will be held in each complex to make residents aware of SIF and residents will be encouraged throughout the year to apply for SIF.

Green Teams – are supported through the Office of Residence Life and funded by the Parent Fund. Student participants share an interest in environmentally sustainable practices and will be exposed to environmental sustainability information with the hope that they will continue living sustainably and responsibly and share their acquired knowledge with residents in their complex. Office of Residence Life staff members, who are guided by the work of the Residence Life Environmental Sustainability Committee, advise Green Teams.

Service Team – are groups of residential students who voluntarily assume leadership roles to assist in the ongoing implementation of their complex' Service Initiative as well as partner with University entities or other local agencies to create additional community service experiences for the residents of their complex. The complex' Student Engagement Advisor, who serves as the group's adviser and is supported through the indirect advisement of the Complex Coordinator and Resident Assistants within the complex staff, leads each Service Team. While agency partnerships periodically change, typical organizations include the Ronald McDonald House, the B+ Foundation (childhood cancer support), Friends of White Clay, Boys and Girls Club, the Emmaus House, and Kay's Kamp (children suffering from cancer).

Living Learning Communities:

There are three Living Learning Communities offered in upper division residence halls that support specific student groups who choose this opportunity through the housing assignment sign up process. These programs have been developed as a result of needs, which have been expressed by these students in Fall Floor Feedback surveys, National Survey of Student Engagement, and dissertation research. All programs have been developed with the help of UD offices who work with similar student populations and use the most current research for these populations to develop programming goals.

The Bridge Experience - located in the Independence Complex, provides programming aimed at student success for Associate in Arts program students who have transitioned from Delaware Technical Community College campuses to the Newark campus.

The Transfer Community - located in Ray Street, works with new transfer students and students who have transferred and have maintained their status to develop programming which emphasizes social connections as well as academic and career success opportunities.

The iHouse - located in the Central Complex, houses domestic and international students who are interested in living in a community where there are opportunities for dialogue about and exposure to cultures from around the world.

Department Wide Opportunities:

Staff and residents will have opportunities to participate in a variety of additional activities supported by the Office of Residence Life. Examples of this include “Art Under the Stars” which takes place in Central Complex and is planned by both staff and students; Special Interest Housing (SIH) programs in Ray Street, planned by the SIH communities; and the activities offered by the Residence Life Environmental Sustainability Committee. The Office of Residence Life also co-sponsors many programs held on campus that are organized by other departments including UD Campus Sustainability Week and Earth Day. These departments solicit our staff and resident input and participation. It is fully expected that our staff members promote these programs to our residents.