

## **RA Role in the Bobcat Residential Experience**

In the past, the Resident Assistant (RA) served as a community builder through creating social programming, educational programming, door decorations, bulletin boards, and resident conversations.

This document will help Resident Assistants learn that things haven't changed a whole lot, but they have definitely become more intentional and require more thought in the planning and reporting process.

### **Expectations for RAs**

The following items below are expectations for each RA to follow within the Bobcat Residential Experience.:

#### **Educational Outreach**

- RAs will provide input and assistance to the Residence Directors to meet the requirements of the Bobcat Residential Experience.

#### **Social Events/Community Building Initiatives**

- RAs will build community through social events, passive programs, etc.
  - The Residence Director (RD) will provide expectations on how many community building events/passive programs should happen.
- RAs should assess the interests of their community. This could be done in a variety of ways, but it is recommended that you do this more than once throughout the semester. Recommendations for assessing interests include:
  - Giving your residents a Resident Interest Survey
  - Have an interactive bulletin board where residents may post answers to questions developed to identify their interests
  - Talking to residents face to face!

#### **Educational and Community Building Bulletin Boards**

- RAs will complete bulletin boards that enhance their community building efforts or are educational in nature.
  - RAs will work with their Residence Director and staff to develop intentional educational bulletin boards
  - RAs can complete bulletin boards based off lesson plans developed by the Residential Curriculum Committee
  - RDs will provide expectations for the hall staff based off of the needs of the hall

#### **Resident Conversations – Bobcat Chats**

- RAs will attempt to meet with each student on their floor/wing/apt. building, and have a conversation 15-30 minutes in length 3 times during the academic year. During these meetings, RAs will follow the Bobcat Chats lesson plans were developed by the Residential Curriculum Committee.
  - Conversation Occurrences
    - Conversation #1 – August/September
    - Conversation #2 – October/November
    - Conversation #3 – February/April
- The Bobcat Chat Lesson Plan is provided to give some consistency for each conversation and to be able to assess the responses given by the residents.
  - The intention behind the response assessment is to be able to see issues and concerns that we can address/give resources for as well as find what is being done well

## Roommate Agreements

- RAs are required to have all residents who have roommates to complete a Roommate Agreement form.
  - RAs will give the roommates a Roommate Agreement form and the roommates are required to meet and discuss the information on the form with each other.
  - RAs will also meet with the roommates to go over the decisions that were made regarding each topic.
  - RDs will give start date and due date information to the RAs

## Community Agreements

- RAs will facilitate a Community Agreement discussion with their floor/wing/building in the fall semester and review the agreements again in the spring semester.
  - RAs will have a conversation with their community around a variety of community-related subjects and take notes on what the community decides.
  - At the end of the conversation, each community member will sign the paper in understanding of what the community has agreed.
  - Below are some possible subjects to bring up during the community agreement discussion:
    - Noise
      - Noise level
      - Study hours
      - Conversations when there are concerns
    - Cleanliness in the public spaces
      - Hallways
      - Bathrooms
      - Lounges/Floor Lobbies
      - Study Rooms
      - Kitchenettes/Kitchens
      - Water fountains
      - Recycling
    - Bathroom Usage
      - Opposite sex ability to use or not
    - Personal Safety
      - Addressing non-residents
    - Damages
      - Addressing and reporting damages
    - Floor representation on Hall Council
    - Floor activities and meetings
      - Floor dinners
      - Birthday celebrations
      - Floor Intramurals