



**Residential Education Committee
Executive Board Proposal
April 7, 2017**

**Kimberly Beardsley, David Ferguson,
Nathan Gordon, Dave Grimes, Joshua Hettrick,
Catherine Kellman, Timothy Touchette**

Background

At the February 16, 2017 Executive Board meeting, President Shelly Keniston brought concerns with the Risk Management and Legal Issues Committee to the board for discussion. During the past several years the committee has struggled to find a purpose within NEACUHO. The committee has never had significant interest from the membership and it is the only committee that does not have an identified focus throughout the year. As a result of this Jon Bragg, current chair of the committee, recommended NEACUHO eliminate this committee at the conclusion of the 2016-2017 year. The Executive Board voted 9-0-0 approving the elimination of the committee.

Following the vote a discussion was held regarding the creation of a Residential Education Committee. Residential education has become a primary functional area of the college housing profession. There was strong feeling that NEACUHO should have a stronger focus on this area moving forward. Shelly requested Past-President Joshua Hettrick work with a group of current board members to draft a proposal that would:

- Create a Residential Education Committee if the group believes it is in the membership's interest
- Define the focus of the committee
- Create the language for the Constitution and Bylaws
- Determine if a conference focused on residential education should be held by NEACUHO each year.

Recommendations

Should NEACUHO create a Residential Education Committee to address this functional area of the housing profession?

There was a strong group consensus that NEACUHO needs to address the residential education functional area given the increasing focus on college campuses. Members of the board had previously discussed whether or not this area could be addressed by existing committees instead of a new committee. The New Professional Development Committee and Professional Development Committee were two mentioned given their responsibility for multiple conferences throughout the year.

Other board members expressed an interest in having a dedicated committee given the existing committees that are solely responsible for residential operations and equity, diversity, and inclusion. It was also pointed out that NEACUHO could move in the direction of having committees of two types: 1) Ones that focus on membership development based on their experience level and 2) Ones that focus on membership development based on functional area.

The group discussed the fact that other professional development organizations already focus on this area and have a high level of interest in their conferences and events.

Many of those events are national and outside the reach of new/entry level professionals. That restriction creates an opportunity for NEACUHO to provide professional development regarding residential education in our region. Having considered this information, the group felt confident that the creation of a Residential Education Committee would be the most effective way to address this area.

What should be the focus of this committee?

Having settled on the need for a new committee, the group identified several areas the Residential Education Committee would be able to focus on:

- Residential curriculum
- Residential colleges/affinity housing
- Living Learning Communities
- Shared student experience focused on class year or housing type
- Housing assessment practices.

These areas were identified by the group as intentionally broad given the changing nature of the housing profession. It was felt that these areas have been common to residential education for a significant period of time and would be applicable in the future regardless of changes to the profession.

Although these areas were identified by the group as the primary focus for the committee, it was also felt that we should not define it farther. Once the committee has been established it would be more appropriate for committee members to work with the chair on any additional language.

How will the committee be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws?

Under the NEACUHO Constitution and Bylaws updated on June 7, 2016, Article X – Amendments, Section 2. Bylaws, letter a. states:

The Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Member Institutions in attendance at the annual business meeting held at the annual conference, by a 2/3 majority vote of the respondents in the event of a ballot by correspondence, or by a 2/3 majority vote of the Elected Officers.

As such this group proposes the following amendment to the Bylaws under 2. Duties and Selection of Appointed Board Members, Section 6. Committees:

Residential Education Committee: *The purpose of this committee is to coordinate and organize activities and programs related to residential education. This includes the specific areas of residential curriculum, residential colleges/affinity housing, living learning communities, shared student experience*

focused on class year or housing type, and housing assessment practices. The committee shall work to promote education and awareness around these topics and to support members of NEACUHO involved in this aspect of the housing profession. Reports to the President-Elect.

Should NEACUHO hold a conference/event focused on residential education?

Members of the group identified the need for an event focused on residential education. Although there are national conferences that address this area, they are not accessible for many professionals due to their cost. NEACUHO has an opportunity to fill that void with a regional conference at a much lower price point. It was also pointed out that many of the program proposals submitted for the Annual Conference and Drive-In address areas of residential education demonstrating this area as one that has a great deal of interest from members.

Although there was broad support for an in-person event focused on residential education there was also concern about how many events are already hosted by NEACUHO and whether or not the organization could handle another event. The group identified challenges the organization has had with the Fall/Spring Drive-In in recent years. The broad focus of the Drive-In has contributed to members unaware of whether or not there would be programs of interest to them. The group contrasted that with the high level of interest in the Residential Operations Conference and EDI Retreat where the programs are focused on specific areas.

The group is recommending NEACUHO discontinue the Spring Drive-In beginning in the 2017-2018 year and replace it with a Residential Education Conference. This would be a one day event possibly hosted in late spring when it would not be competing with other national and regional events. This would allow NEACUHO to focus half of its events on three functional areas of housing through equity, diversity, and inclusion, residential education, and residential operations. The other half of the events would focus on the professional experience level of members through the RD2B, Mid-Level Institute, and SHO Summit.