

Housing & Residence Life Change Team End of Year Report 2017-2018

Members

Amanda Perrin - Chair
Alexis Austin - Full-Time Staff
John Schmidt - Full-Time Staff
Ben Thompson - Full-Time Staff
Heather Quarstrom - Student
Lexie Franek - Student
Brooke Feia - Student

Number of Meetings During 2017-2018

15 meetings for 60 minutes each

Priorities

Leadership & Identities in New Contexts student retreat - implementation
Research how to support homeless student population at UMD
Research exceptions policy for those who need an accommodation but it isn't a "medical" need
Guidebook Translation - implementation

Successes and Accomplishments

LINC - the retreat was a large success that helped students find their voices and access to resources on campus, such as staff, with whom they would not regularly access for support. Students reflected on themselves as individuals and practiced listening and empathy to hear of others' experiences.

Homeless Students - this project was taken on by our United Residence Society Association to do research, meet with campus partners, and research need on campus.

Exceptions Policy - This one was harder to nail down. No one in the country (to our knowledge) currently has a model other than "if capacity allows it, we'll do it." We have started working with campus partners to learn more about student need and then hope to continue this initiative into next year to collaborate on options for solutions.

Guidebook Translation - We hired 2 translators and they translated the entire guidebook from English to Mandarin to support Mandarin speaking students and support systems about our policies and procedures. We also had our Rights & Responsibilities for Students translated so ESLI students could better understand their rights as students when going through our conduct process.

Not successful & why?

While I wouldn't refer to these moments as "not successful," I would say that there is still a lot of work to be done and space for movement on our exceptions policy and homeless student support.

Can others help?

If anyone has resources for any of the initiatives above, we'd love to listen/learn/collaborate.

Next Steps

Next year we hope to continue working on all 4 initiatives listed above as well as taking on our Hate & Bias reporting structures and procedures within housing & residence life communities.