



Welcome & Happy 4th of July!

As we approach the middle of the summer, we hope you are finding time on your campuses to reflect and recharge for the 2014-2015 academic year!

Since the ACPA Convention, the Commission for Housing & Residential Life (CHRL) directorate body has been busy reflecting back on successes from the past year, and looking ahead to future opportunities for CHRL members. In this newsletter, we've outlined a summary of an assessment of the CHRL and more information about the organization of the CHRL directorate body.

Get Involved!

There are many opportunities within the CHRL working groups to experience something new, give back to the commission membership, and share your expertise. Write an article! CHRL newsletters will be sent to members once every other month. The next newsletter will be sent in September! [Submit an article!](#)
Share your expertise! Tell us about a new initiative on your campus!

We wish you all the best as you work toward staff training and hall opening!





Update from Commission Chair

Member Feedback about the Commission

In May 2014, The *Commission for Housing and Residential Life* undertook the task of assessing member knowledge of and participation in commission activities. The survey was sent to all 376 individuals who identify as commission members. The response rate was meager (18%) but helpful in giving us a snapshot of actionable perceptions. In the spirit of using assessment to inform practice, we want to share what we have learned (So What), and how we will use this information (Now What), and where you can contribute (Where You Fit In).

SO WHAT:

In terms of **products and services**: Almost half of the individuals surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the commission has provided valuable "deliverables" to its members. This, for us is a classic "half empty/half full" finding that begs further analysis. Accordingly, we looked a bit deeper into specific aspects of our efforts that are recognized and those that are not. High points include:

- **Fifty three percent** of those surveyed indicated that the Commission for Housing and Residential Life designs priorities to fit both ACPA strategic goals and our entity's mission. In addition, **53%** also indicated that we cultivate sponsored programs for presentation at the national conference.
- More than **40%** of those responding indicate that we produce useful products and or services (41%) and we understand member needs (43%).
- The areas that concern us:
 - One third of those surveyed indicated that we create community among entity members (31%) and that we have a signature program or event (35%). The later is particularly concerning given that the Residential Curriculum Institute was borne out of the Commission for Housing and Residential Life and we are still solid sponsors of this event.
 - For us, an area of focus will be in creating year-round, multi-layered opportunities for member engagement (14% indicated we do this) and

scheduling activities to occur at regular, consistent and predictable intervals (16% indicated we do this).

We also surveyed individuals about **communication and process**: By all accounts, the communication among DB members and between the DB and constituent groups has improved dramatically over the past year. Points of pride include:

- Seventy percent of the membership and 100% of the directorate body indicate having at least some awareness of programs and initiatives.
- The majority (50%) of our members believe we use technology and social media effectively.

Finally, we assessed our **effectiveness as an ACPA entity**: Our commission achieved 50% or higher agreement on all but two indicators associated with effectiveness as an entity. Seventy-three percent of directorate board and 53% of general respondents believe the CHRL incorporates ACPA goals, values, and strategic plans into our work. Among members, 62% believe we have clearly articulate pathways to leadership roles, while 62% of directorate body members indicated understanding ACPA beyond just the work of our commission.

NOW WHAT:

Ultimately, our goal will be to build upon our strengths and address our more limited areas. The commission has done solid work over the past year(s). However, we need to step up our game in two areas:

- Clearly and regularly communicating what we're doing and how members can participate.
- Engaging members in commission activities and programs. Just as we tell our RAs, "you can program FOR people (students) all day long – and that's okay. . . But it's more effective to INVOLVE people in your efforts." The pay off in terms of awareness, engagement, and retention are outstanding!

We believe part of increasing member engagement will center around the organization of our efforts:

- Typically, at conference, we've used our open meeting time to solicit ideas from our constituents and invite them to become involved with us. However, in our efforts to incorporate member feedback during the ACPA conference, we lose precious time and organizational ability to get things off the ground upon return from the conference. Our goal is to re-calibrate when we gather feedback and how we utilize the open meeting at conference. We want to get folks involved immediately!
- Another operational goal has been to create a calendar of by-weekly topical areas that we can publicize to our membership. These topical areas will align with our four working groups (that are focused on the competency areas

identified by ACPA). We believe this will add much needed structure to our efforts, lending to our desire to host regular and consistent initiatives and programs.

- Continue to identify mechanisms to contribute to ACPA's strategic goals – particularly as it relates to up and coming member involvement and involvement of lesser tapped regions (in the South and Southwest).
- Make better use of social media. Though 50% of those surveyed think we use this effectively, 50% do not.

WHERE YOU FIT IN:

- Read the newsletter, emails and Facebook posts. When you see an opportunity to become involved in planning – jump in. Contact any one of us and we'll get you hooked into the efforts!
- Please invite others to join in the commission. Send an e-mail to your departmental colleagues and or graduate students working in the halls inviting them to join the commission. Forward our newsletter and Facebook posts to colleagues, friends in the field, etc.
- Involve RAs in the commission. Send them information. Help them to see that they're a part of something far bigger than their staff or the department.
- If you have expressed interest and receive an e-mail to participate, join in. Many initiatives demand only a little time and effort to get them off the ground. What a great way to get yourself involved and contributing!



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Organization of Directorate Body Leadership

Directorate body members of the Commission for Housing & Residential Life

(CHRL) are elected by commission members to lead CHRL initiatives. To best support the initiatives of the CHRL and ACPA, directorate body members are then divided into one of four workgroups divided by professional competencies:

1. Ethics & Legal Issues
2. Social Responsibility, Civic Engagement, Pluralism & Inclusion
3. Advising & Leadership
4. Assessment, Student Learning & Development, and Teaching

Below we've outlined more information about workgroup initiatives and opportunities for involvement!

Social Responsibility, Civic Engagement, Pluralism and Inclusion

The **Social Responsibility, Civic Engagement, Pluralism and Inclusion** workgroup within the Commission for Housing and Residence Life is committed to providing members of the commission with the opportunity to research, write and dialogue around topics of diversity and inclusion that impact us as residential educators and student affairs professionals.

This year, we have broken up the year into several topic areas and will be focusing on providing opportunities for interested members to read and review our selected book, write blog posts and engage in twitter chats. It is our hope that by engaging our commission members that you will be able to dialogue and share resources provided with colleagues on your campus and within your professional networks, therefore extending the work of our commission to all. Topics for this year include:

- "Your authentic self" (May-June)
- "Faith and Spirituality" (July-August)
- "Gender Equality" (September-October)
- "Social Justice" (November-December)
- "Students with Disabilities" (January-February)

Members of this workgroup include: Meredith Carpenter, University of Maryland-College Park; Katie Newcomb, SUNY Potsdam; Cat Kellman, Syracuse University, Ashley Staples, New York University; and Kyle Williams, Texas A&M University-Commerce.

If interested in working with this workgroup, please contact Kyle Williams, at williams.kye@gmail.com, with your interest to participate. Please include topical areas and if you would prefer to work with our twitter chats, blog, and/or book reviewers.

Thanks you very much and look forward to working with you all soon!

Advising & Leadership

The **Advising and Leadership** workgroup within the Commission for Housing and Residence Life aims to provide members of the commission with professional development opportunities as they relate to the ACPA competency areas of advising and leadership.

There are many areas of focus within advising and leadership, so it is our goal to provide members of the commission with education and resources on one topic under each area of focus. We plan to carry this out with the use of webinars, blog posts, newsletter articles, and twitter chats. Our topics are as follows:

- July – Programming for Apartments/Upper Class Communities
- August – Service/Comfort Animals
- September – NRHH/RHA Advising Best Practices
- October – Navigating Departmental/University politics
- Ongoing – The experience of the live-in partner

As you can see, November and December are not included. We've decided to leave these months open so that we have the opportunity to use those months to tackle relevant issues/topics that may come up over the course of the semester!

The Advising and Leadership Workgroup: Ali Guokas, New York University; Scott Helfrich, California University of Pennsylvania; Steve Knepp, Binghamton University; Kohya Lu, UMass Lowell; Sean Sherwood, Binghamton University; and Leah Shaw, Binghamton University.

We encourage you all to get involved with the work that we're doing! If you have an interest in any of the topics listed above OR if you have ideas for what you'd like to see us tackle in November and December, do not hesitate to contact me (lshaw@binghamton.edu) and let me know! We welcome and appreciate any time you are willing to give!

I look forward to hearing from you!

Leah Shaw

Assessment, Student Learning & Development, and Teaching

The *Assessment, Student Learning and Development, and Teaching* workgroup within ACPA's Commission of Housing and Residential Life is made up of an exceptional group of professionals who volunteer their time to help move our field forward. Those members are Dawn Aldrich, John Ross Campbell, Rike Habbel, Derrol Rhodes, Megan Wyett, and Andrea Young. We have the opportunity to create and facilitate many exceptional tasks over the course of the year. These include being a key member in the planning of the annual Residential Curriculum Institute and in the selection of various ACPA scholarship and award winners. In addition, we get to focus our programmatic efforts in developing different professional development tools that will benefit all our members. We are also continuing to develop strong academic ties with faculty members. This relationship can be used to cultivate our graduate students and engage them in all that Housing and Residential Life has to offer. Lastly, we are working to develop a list of assessment tools and resources that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of programs at all levels. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Commission of Housing and Residential Life, especially the Assessment, Student Learning and Development, and Teaching workgroup. If anything shared here sounds interesting and you would like to get more information about how to volunteer to assist us please reach out. Whether you can offer 2 hours a week or 2 hours a year, we would love your help in support.

Scott Schuher
Vice Chair for Assessment, Student Learning and
Development, and Teaching
Commission of Housing and Residential Life
sschuher@binghamton.edu

Associate Director of Residential Life
Residential Operations and Crisis Management
Binghamton University

Ethics & Legal Foundations

The *Ethics & Legal Foundations (ELF)* workgroup within ACPA's Commission of Housing and Residential Life is comprised of a dedicated group of professionals who volunteer their time and talents to help advance knowledge and resources within our field of student affairs.

Based on feedback gathered with colleagues at the 2014 ACPA Convention, relevant ACPA&NASPA competencies, and emergent topics, the following will serve as our overarching vision to guide efforts for the upcoming year:

- Campus SAVE Act
- Affordable Health Care Act – impact on staffing, classification, and compensation
- Duty of care around social media
- Resource list of various Ethical & Legal Foundations resources – for CHRL website, newsletter, etc. This could include the resource similar to the salary grid of “hot button ELF issues” by State.

Opportunities for involvement include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hosting one or more webinars on ELF topics
- Submission of one or more program proposals for ACPA 2015 focused on above ELF topics
- Establishment of a comprehensive resource list for various ELF-related resources
- Social media postings regarding ELF topics and diverse professional development opportunities for housing & residence life professionals
- Contribution to monthly newsletter

We welcome your innovative ideas and hope to engage many colleagues from across the country in our efforts!

Members of the ELF workgroup include: McKenzie Whitaker (Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville), Lindsay Whipple (American University), Sarah Mansfield (Stevenson University), Aaron Hart (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis), Erica Hendrick, and Hilary Lichterman (University of South Carolina).

If interested in becoming involved within this workgroup, please contact Hilary Lichterman at hilaryl@sc.edu, and include your interest areas or general thoughts to help us maximize your talents.

Thank you!

Hilary Lichterman
2014-2015 Vice Chair for Ethics & Legal Foundations
Commission of Housing and Residential Life
hilaryl@sc.edu / (803) 777-5412

Want to write an article?



Have a topic you want to know more about?
Have information or an event to share?

Just follow the link below!

<http://tinyurl.com/kcou3kv>

The next newsletter is coming in September! **Submit an article by September 5th.**

Call for Convention Program Reviewers!

Deadline to sign-up is July 21st. Email Meredith Carpenter, CHRL Sponsored Program Chair at mcarpent@umd.edu

You may have received an email from ACPA soliciting your assistance to review programs for the 2015 ACPA Conference in Tampa, FL. While it would be wonderful for you to sign up as a general program reviewer, you have the unique opportunity to help our Commission select programs that will be sponsored by the Commission for Housing and Residential Life (CHRL)!

The commission is able to sponsor 5 programs. The programs, naturally, are ones our commission membership believe will best inform our practice as housing and residence life practitioners. When individuals submit a program proposal, they have the opportunity to request our sponsorship. These are the programs our program reviews will evaluate. If you are submitting a program proposal, we also encourage you to request our sponsorship.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REVIEW PROPOSALS

The commission will conduct a "closed" program review, meaning that only commission members can review program proposals for sponsorship. If you have never reviewed program submissions before, don't worry. We will provide all the instructions you need and ACPA will offer a webcast "How to Review Programs for ACPA 15". Reviewers will be assigned to a number of specific program submissions as each program submission needs to be reviewed by 3 – 5 reviewers. Reviewing involves reading the program submission, scoring the submission on a series of criteria, and providing written feedback to presenters. Program reviewing occurs over three weeks in September. The full timeline is below.

Proposing a Program for ACPA Convention 2015?

Apply for sponsorship from the Commission for Housing and Residential Life!

ACPA and the Commission for Housing and Residential Life (CHRL) invite you to submit a program proposal for the ACPA 2015 Convention in Tampa, FL. CHRL is able to sponsor 5 programs at Convention. These programs will receive special notice as sponsored by CHRL in conference materials and will be advertised directly to commission members for special recognition. If your program is not selected for sponsorship by CHRL, it will still be eligible for consideration as an un-sponsored general program. There is no disadvantage to requesting sponsorship by CHRL.

BONUS! Coordinating Presenters for each of the 5 selected programs will receive complimentary regular conference registration from the Commission for Housing and Residential Life. Please note, we are not able to split this benefit between co-presenters. Only the Coordinating Presenter is eligible for this benefit.

Deadline for submissions is September 4 with Program Presenters notified on October 16. Program submissions may be submitted here: <http://cdms.myacpa.org/>

We look forward to receiving your program proposal!

[Residential
Curriculum
Institute](#)

Here are the details:

- **July 21** – deadline to indicate that you would like to serve as a CHRL program reviewer. Notify Meredith Carpenter, CHRL Sponsored Program Chair at mcarpent@umd.edu. You will be directed to register as a reviewer via a specific website.
- September 4 - Educational program submissions are due to ACPA
- **September 5** – CHRL Sponsored Program Chair will assign programs to reviewers
- **September 24** - All programs must be reviewed by reviewers
- October 17 - Educational program acceptance/decline emails sent out

We hope you will consider becoming a program reviewer for sponsorship by the Commission for Housing and Residential Life. This is a great professional development opportunity, a chance to become involved in the commission and to help influence the educational sessions offered at Convention. Join us!

In addition to individual professional development opportunities, ACPA's Commission of Housing and Residential Life partners with the Commission of Assessment and Education to host the annual Residential Curriculum Institute. This October those attending will have the opportunity to view an alternative to traditional programming models; discover the connections between the residential communities on your campus and your institution's educational mission; practice developing assessable learning outcomes; and examine the impact this shift in thinking and practice has on you, your department, and students. Sessions offered have been designed both for schools new to the residential curriculum approach and for those with more advanced experience. Whether it is your first RCI or your eighth, you will leave inspired with new insights, new collegial connections, and new energy. This information and more can be viewed by going to <http://www.myacpa.org/events/2014-residential-curriculum-institute>.



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