

TO: Robert Dana, Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students  
FR: Andra Bowen, Acting Director for Residence Life  
RE: Living Learning Committee Charge and Proposed Committee  
DA: September 12, 2019  
CC: Kenda Scheele, Associate Vice President and Sr. Associate Dean of Students

In response to your recent request to develop and deliver a written plan for the implementation of living learning communities at UMaine, I submit the following background, draft committee charge, and committee membership recommendations for your consideration and approval. Also attached is a draft appointment letter from you for consideration as well. Once finalized, I will call the group together to begin this work.

### **Background**

As you know, the University of Maine maintains a variety of special interest/themed housing options for students, there are currently no true “Living Learning Communities” (specific areas of campus housing that intentionally integrate the students’ academic experience and career aspirations with their housing assignment and residential programming) within the residence halls. As a part of the Provost’s First Year Student Success Plan, recommendations to enhance the First Year Residential Experience focused heavily on the development and implementation of these integrated Living Learning Communities for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. A complete report of these recommendations is attached.

### **Recommended Charge**

The recommended charge to the Living Learning Community Implementation Group (LLCIG) follows:

1. Develop a concrete plan to develop and begin implementing Living Learning Communities for Fall 2020 and deliver this written plan to Vice President Dana by 10/30/19.
2. Review Housing and Residence Life policies, timelines, and procedures to identify and mitigate potential barriers to the successful development and support of Living Learning Communities.
3. Reexamine current special interest/themed housing options and coordinate with New Student Programs to develop robust themed communities that align with the diverse interests of the incoming first year class.

### **Implementation Group Proposal**

In order to successfully develop and implement Living Learning Communities at The University of Maine, substantial collaboration will be necessary from a variety of campus constituents. The proposed group reflects participation from the units on campus most vital to this collaboration:

1. Residence Life
  - a. Andra Bowen, Acting Director and Chair of the LLCIG

- i. As the acting director, Andra has primary oversight for all residence hall programming to include special interest/themed communities and Living Learning Communities.
  - b. Shane Smith, Area Coordinator
    - i. Shane served on the First Year Student Success group tasked with the initial development of a plan for Living Learning Communities in 2018-2019 and is familiar with the work that predates this charge.
- 2. Auxiliary Services
  - a. Richard Young, Auxiliary Operations Director
    - i. Richard oversees all Housing assignments and operations and will be critical in the evaluation and amendment of policies, timelines, and protocols that may hinder the successful development of Living Learning Communities for Fall 2020.
- 3. Academics
  - a. Mary Mahoney-O'Neil, Associate Dean for Academic Services
    - i. Mary is the associate dean for academic services within the College of Education and Human Development. Residence Life has successfully partnered with Mary in the past to develop a themed housing option for education majors.
  - b. John Mascetta, Director of Advising for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
    - i. John oversees all aspects of student advising for those students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Residence Life has successfully partnered with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in the past to develop a themed housing community dedicated to the support of first year, first generation students who have yet to declare a major.
  - c. Ryan LaRochelle, Lecturer in Leadership Studies
    - i. Ryan helped to implement the Dirigo Leadership Living Learning Community in 2017-2018, which was placed on hiatus for the 2019-2020 Academic Year. Ryan is familiar with the process by which we have initiated a true Living Learning Community in the past and may be instrumental in our efforts to bring the Dirigo Leadership Community back to the residence halls in the future.
  - d. Susan Tardiff, Lecturer of Nursing and Director of Academic Advisory and Progression
    - i. Susan served on the First Year Student Success group tasked with the initial development of a plan for Living Learning Communities in 2018-2019 and is familiar with the work that predates this charge. Moreover, the nursing program has indicated some interest in developing a Living Learning Community in the future.

### **Meeting Schedule**

With a report due to Vice President Dana no later than October 30, this group will need to meet several times between September 2019 and the end of October 2019 to address the three areas of the committee's charge.

1. Meeting I: Not later than September 27, 2019
2. Meeting II: Not later than October 11, 2019
3. Meeting III: Not later than October 25, 2019

### **Information for Group Members to Consider**

Prior to the first convening of the implementation group, members should review the attached document titled "Living Learning Communities Final Report."