

Faculty Senate Meeting
Tuesday, December 2, 2025, 3:30PM

Senators Present: Felix Delmonte (MCE), David Wilder (SOBA), Chris Bashur (CCE), Nakin Suksawang (MCE), Alan Brown (CCE), Tim Muth (COB), Amanda Thayer (SOP), William Bowman (Library), Tom Marcinkowski (MSE), Jessica Wildman (SOP), Robert Weaver (OEMS), Marcus Hohlmann (APSS), Gary Zarillo (OEMS), Marshall Jones (SOP), Yanek Mieczkowski (SAC), Robert Joel Deacon (SAC), Anna Muenchrath (SAC), Spencer Fire (OEMS), William Arrasmith (MSE), Wanfa Zhang (SAC), Angel Otero (COB), Thomas Eskridge (EECS), Charles Bryant (COB), Melissa Borgen (BES), Adam Prinkey (MSE), Mehmet Kaya (BES), Ratan Jha (APSS), Csaba Palotai (APSS), Adam Aboueid (COA)

Proxies: None

Senators Absent: Madhur Tiwari (APSS), Siddhartha Bhattacharyya (EECS), Georgio Anagnostopoulos (EECS), Chiradeep Sen (MCE), Shawn Scott (COA), Matt Taylor (COA)

Other attendees: John Nicklow (President), John Z. Kiss (Provost), Nasri Nesnas (CCE), Jacqueline Zappala (Residence Life), Norm Cole (Residence Life), Elijah Rines (Residence Life), Nancy Garmer (Library), Natalie Dorfeld (SAC), Kaylee Erdos (Library), Heidi-Hatfield Edwards (SAC), Lisa Steelman (SOP), Jason Martin (Library), Penny Vassar (COB), Pallav Ray (OEMS), Gary Burns (SOP), Robert Taylor (Emeritus), Rudi Wehmschulte (CCE), Ted Richardson (SOB), Raymond Bonhomme (Emeritus)

Call to Order

Open Forum/Q&A with University Leadership

President Nicklow

- Florida Tech was recognized by the Princeton Review as a top institution for supporting the mental health of students.
- Newsweek ranked Florida Tech #1 in Florida and #10 in the entire country for high quality online education.
- The Global Employability Ranking Survey, put together with feedback from hiring managers, ranked Florida Tech #1 in Florida and #20 in the nation.
- The Conflict-of-Interest Form is intended to protect individuals as well as the institution. Responses will be reviewed by legal to see if there is a risk to either the individual or the institution. If there is deemed to be a risk, there will be a discussion about how to mitigate it.
- SACSCOC will be issuing reaccreditations on Sunday.
- Commencement is on Saturday, December 13th.
- The Holiday Party is on December 16th.

Question from Sen. Zarillo about the restrictions on H1B visas. President Nicklow says that this is still in the courts, but the existing wording suggests that transfers of visas are ok, and renewals of H1B visas are ok. It is brand new H1Bs that would cost \$100,000. If it sticks in the courts, it will be retroactive, which means anyone who has gotten an H1B visa since September 25th

would be charged \$100,000. It also isn't clear whether or not the fact that transfers seem to currently be exempt will hold in the future either. This will primarily impact Florida Tech in hiring searches, where it cannot offer to support H1B applicants.

Question from Sen. Hohlmann about the new policy of having all granting contracts sent through legal review. President Nicklow says that this came from not having a centralized review structure and various people obligating the university by signing contracts. The board mandates that only three people on campus should be signing contracts. Once a standard contract has been reviewed, for example an NSF contract, it will speed up the review in the future. Some funding agencies have changed their language recently with new clauses that the university needs to be aware of, but the review process should not be slowing down research. Sen. Hohlmann remarked that the review process has slowed down his research. Provost Kiss will follow up on this. If anyone has issues in the future, they can follow up on the contract review with the Chief Research Officer.

Jacqueline Zappala, Director of Residence Life, Norm Cole, Assistant Director of Residence Life, and Elijah Rine, Living Learning Coordinator, to gather feedback on Living and Learning Communities (LLCs)

- The content of the presentation can be found in the appendix to these minutes.
- Questions to the faculty (these can also be answered in a survey circulated through senators to the faculty):
 - What aspects of your academic discipline would you love to see students explore more deeply outside the classroom?
 - Suggestions from those present included: the appropriate use of AI (which was integrated this year as a two-week segment of the first-year experience course), learning tools and study skills, and personal finance skills,
 - Do you know of faculty members looking for more hands-on opportunities to advise and support student learning?
 - Residence life is seeking faculty champions to champion the work of the LLCs in their departments. They are also seeking volunteers to give TED talk style presentations or hands-on workshops in the residence halls or professional development mentoring.
 - Are there aspects of your research, labs, or design work that students could meaningfully engage with through small, introductory, or hands-on experiences in an LLC?
 - Residence life is seeking faculty champions to champion the work of the LLCs in their departments. They are also seeking volunteers to give TED talk style presentations or hands-on workshops in the residence halls or professional development mentoring.
 - What hands-on skills or practices would you like your first-year students to start developing earlier, and how could a residential community help reinforce them?
 - Suggestions from those present included: conflict resolution, teamwork and collaboration, meeting science, reading and attention, self-regulation and motivation, leadership, how to interact with industry, research experience for undergraduates.
 - What would make you or other faculty interested in supporting the LLC?
 - Suggestions from those present included: clearly framing the time expectations, ensuring student attendance and engagement, and clarifying

with deans whether this would count meaningfully toward service-work.

Approval of Minutes

The November 4, 2026, minutes were approved.

Reports

President - Sen. Wildman

- Sen. Wildman received a question about whether or not faculty would need to report or disclose things happening outside of a 9-month contract. Sen. Wildman reported that yes, there may still be a conflict of interest, even if there is no conflict of time.
- Sen. Wildman received another question about the CFO report and who has access to budget information in Workday. Department Heads and Heads of Schools (and above) are the ones who currently have access to the budgetary information on Workday.
- Sen. Wildman received another question about whether or not students will have access to the computer buy-back program. The answer was no; the program is for staff and faculty only.

Secretary - Sen. Muenchrath: nothing to report

Academic Policies - Sen. Jones:

- There is a draft recording policy that should be ready soon.
- There are also new members of the Academic Policies committee; a list will be circulated by the next meeting.

Administrative Policies - Sen. Kaya:

- Sen. Kaya encourages all faculty to familiarize themselves with the policies in the faculty handbook.

Faculty Excellence - Sen. Wilder

- The call for nominations for the faculty excellence awards went out yesterday. The deadline is Friday, February 6th, 2026. The prize is \$3000 to be used toward professional development.

Scholarships - Sen. Brown

- The committee will begin its work when fall grades are released.

TRI - Sen. Bowman

- The committee will be meeting with IT later this week, so please submit issues to Sen. Bowman or other members of the committee.
- Sen. Marcinkowski asks whether the staff in IT that work on faculty professional development should be housed in IT or whether they belong in a different area, such as the Provost's office. Sen. Bowman says that he will mention it in the meeting.

Welfare - Sen. Arrasmith

- There are three things the committee has been pursuing. The first has to do with sick leave. Sen. Arrasmith asked HR about sick leave, how it can be used, and any restrictions on its use. An anonymous faculty member was directed toward using FMLA (Family and Medical Leave Act) rather than sick leave. HR says that they do not direct people to make choices, but rather present information about different choices. There is a third-party vendor at Florida Tech called Symetra that administers, approves, and denies the use of sick leave. Typically, sick leave can be used for individual or family reasons subject to the approval process through Symetra. After 40 hours of sick leave, supervisors

are required to reach out to HR for awareness. HR says that it is to the benefit of the employee to switch to FMLA as it provides job protection, whereas sick leave only covers the pay component.

- The second item has to do with sabbatical leave. Sen. Arrasmith asked: a) what is the policy regarding tenure track verses non tenure track faculty in eligibility; b) what is the policy regarding faculty that earned the right to sabbatical prior to the tenure system; c) do sabbaticals accrue to faculty who are granted sabbaticals, but are not able to take them because no suitable teaching replacement can be found? HR pointed Sen. Arrasmith to the Provost's office, and Sen. Arrasmith will update the Senate once he has more information.
- The third item has to do with wealth management, which has not yet been resolved and will be brought to our attention at a future meeting.

Old Business

- Executive Committee: Motion to revise bylaws regarding April elections (Amendment to Article II, Section 2: Officers, see Appendix)
 - There was discussion about whether the retiring president or current president should give the Faculty Senate report at the annual meeting of the academic faculty. It was clarified that although the bylaws say that the retiring president gives the report, it does not prohibit the presiding president from also speaking at the annual meeting. There was also clarification that the "(s)" after meeting covers the possibility of multiple follow-up meetings during with the existing president would continue to preside and existing senators (i.e. not the new slate) would continue to preside. (Sens. Brown, Wildman, Jones, Hohmann)
 - Bylaws state that voting must happen at the meeting after the motion is presented, so we'll vote on this in the next meeting.
- Discussion of COI form
 - There was a suggestion that the COI form should include examples of what would be appropriate to include and what could be left off. (Sens. Suksawang, Weaver, Muenchrath, Jones).

New Business

- Sen. Brown made the following motion: Motion: Ad Hoc Research Committee: "RESOLVED, the Senate will create an AD Hoc Committee on Research, with the following charter: 1. To consider issues relevant for the Research enterprise, and 2. To liaise with the Research Council"
 - Sens. Brown and Hohmann clarified that this committee fills a gap in the existing committees that is currently only being filled by the Research Council that exist in the Provost's office. Sen. Thayer clarifies that members of the Research Council are nominated by Deans through an open call and then go through the Research Council's approval process. Sen. Hohmann also specified that the intention was to create a faculty-driven committee from within the Senate that may have better access to the University leadership. Sen. Thayer clarifies that the Provost attends the Research Council meetings upon request or invitation, and the Chief Research Officer attends most if not all meetings of the Research Council. Sen. Thayer raised this motion for an ad hoc committee within the faculty senate with the

Research Council, which is in support of it. The Research Council does have suggestions about how to manage the relationship between the two bodies so that they are not making competing recommendations to the administration. The suggestion is that the Ad Hoc committee would include the Research Council chair as a liaison and that the Ad Hoc committee would bring suggested changes to the Research Council, which would incorporate those changes into its recommendation, which would, in turn, be passed through the faculty senate before being sent to the administration. Sen. Hohlmann suggests that in reciprocity the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee should also be invited to sit as a liaison on the Research Council (not as a voting member). Sen. Thayer says that she will present that proposal to the Research Council, as it sometimes discusses matters that are of a sensitive nature, and the meetings are not public in principle. Sen. Zarillo remarks that the Research Council's web presence is outdated, talks about research incentives that no longer exist, and does not make available meeting minutes. Sen. Thayer says that one of her initiatives for this year, as Research Council Chair, is to improve the infrastructure and web presence. Sen. Zarillo asks whether or not there is something secretive about the Research Council and whether it is composed of faculty members. Sen. Thayer responds that the Council is made up of faculty members, representatives from OSP (the Office of Sponsored Research) and the Chief Research Officer. Sen. Thayer acknowledges that there is a lack of awareness about what the Research Council does, which is why she started attending faculty senate meetings in order to open up more dialogue. Dr. Nesnas asked about the composition of the Council, how many faculty members from each college, and where that information can be accessed. Sen. Thayer says that this information is outdated but will hopefully be updated soon. Sen. Weaver mentions that there used to be an Academic Information and Technology Committee, but once the Faculty Senate stood up its own committee on Technology, Resources and Infrastructure, the other committee was not needed anymore. He says he would be in favor of one committee in the faculty senate, and that if the Research Council is defunct then maybe it should be sunset. Sen. Thayer clarifies that the Council is not defunct and has been meeting on a monthly basis, but that it has closed meetings (not open meetings like the Senate). Sen. Zarillo asks why the dealings of the Research Council are so covert, why researchers like himself don't know what goes on in the Council meetings, and whether its agenda is to cut research funding. Sen. Thayer says that on the contrary, programs like DGRATS (Doctoral Graduate Research Assistant Tuition Scholarship Program) and RSS came out of the Research Council. Although those programs have been cut or changed, Research Council is working on a plan for new incentives based on financial information provided by Dr. Nicklow, Dr. Kiss, and the CRO. The Research Council is working on behalf of faculty and students doing research at Florida Tech. The Research Council makes recommendations to the Provost's office. This year, the aim of the Council is to work with the incoming CRO to develop new strategies and policies for supporting research. Sen. Zarillo suggests that the Research Council should be surveying the faculty about their needs for research. Sen. Wildman says that the idea of dissolving the Research Council is not a good idea, since they have a group of people who are

already doing the work, when it is difficult to find people to step up into voluntary roles. Sen. Zarillo says he supports the idea of single committee since there are too many committees across campus working on the same issues in their own silos. Sen. Arrasmith mentions that it seems like because of the differing auspices of each group there could be a need for each. Sen. Thayer clarifies that they are not at the service of the Provost, but rather they make recommendations to the Provost. For example, they met with and provided feedback to the consultant who looked at research incentives last year. Sen. Zarillo says that this seems to have been a mysterious process, and that he didn't see any questions from the Council or a consultant about research. Sen. Thayer says that a survey went out via email to all faculty. Sen. Hohlmann asks about how the open call for nominees works. Sen. Thayer says that in the spring an open call goes out to all faculty, but the nominations go through Deans because there were issues with the nominations going directly to the Research Council. Sen. Brown clarifies that the function of the motion is not to take over anybody's role, and the motion is not even for a standing committee, but rather an ad hoc committee (although it could eventually become a standing committee). Sen. Hohlmann says that the rationale for the motion is to address recent changes made at the administrative level that affected research and with which many faculty have had issues. Since the administration asked the faculty to make suggestions about what we'd like to prioritize, the committee would help to do this. Sen. Thayer reiterates that the Research Council is in support of working collaboratively with a senate committee on research. Sen. Suksawang mentions that we should stop focusing on how much money IDC (indirect costs) are. IDC is a recuperation of an investment. The recommendation of spending on research should not be tied to IDC. The role of the university is to invest in research, and the role of the faculty is to go out and recuperate some of that investment in the form of IDC. The idea that we have to cut research program because IDC is down should not necessarily be the case, and the research committee of the Senate has an opportunity to communicate this point to the faculty.

- The motion passes in a vote by voice.

Open Forum/Discussion

1. Sen. Zarillo asks if we can find a way for the Faculty Senate to improve lines of communication between facilities and faculty who have research labs? Sen. Weaver seconds this and says that we need more maintenance support for labs. Sen. Wildman asks if this is part of the TRI committee as Infrastructure, but Sen. Bowman says that Infrastructure refers to technology infrastructure. Sen. Brown says since it is research-related, it could fall under the purview of the new ad hoc committee.

Announcements/Reminders

1. The [Faculty Senate handbook](#) with all AY24-25 changes made is available on the [Senate website](#). If there are any corrections or revisions needed, please bring those to our Administrative Policies Committee Chair, Dr. Mehmet Kaya, at mkaya@fit.edu.
2. The following standing committee chairs will have completed their 2-year terms and be up for election (or re-election) in **March 2026**. Please consider nominations now through February:

- a. Administrative Policies (Fall 26-28)
- b. Scholarship Committee (Fall 26-28)

3. The following Senate Officers will be up for election in **April 2026**. Please consider nominations now through March:

- a. President-Elect (FY26-27, President AY27-28)
- b. Secretary (AY26-27)

Adjournment

Appendix

Proposed Amendment to Article II, Section 2: Officers

The officers of the senate shall be elected at the regular meeting held in April of each year. ~~In the case that the elections are not completed at the regular meeting held in April for any cause, the presiding officer shall call a special meeting prior to the end of April in order to complete elections. This special meeting will act as an extension of the original April meeting, and as such, will be presided over by the retiring president. The retiring officers shall serve at the regular April meeting and any special meeting(s) needed to complete elections. The incoming officers shall assume their respective offices on adjournment of the April meeting(s). The retiring president shall give the Faculty Senate report at the annual meeting of the academic faculty.~~

Elections of officers shall be by a simple majority vote. In the case of the withdrawal of an officer other than the president by resignation or other cause, the senate should elect a successor for the unexpired term at the next regular meeting. In the case of the withdrawal of the president, the president-elect shall serve the president's unexpired term as well as the normal term as their president's successor.

~~The retiring officers shall serve at the April meeting, and the retiring president shall give the Faculty Senate report at the annual meeting of the academic faculty. The incoming officers shall assume their respective offices on adjournment of the April meeting.~~



Living-Learning Community Update

September 2025

Defining "Living-Learning Community"

Living-Learning Communities (LLCs) are a campus housing unit based on a "neighborhood model", where residents are clustered based on shared academic, social, or cultural interests, with the goal of fostering an integrated environment for students to live and learn through mentorship, programming, and collaboration.

Key components of the LLC neighborhood model include:

- Shared/common interests
- Proximity to peers
- Peer or faculty mentorship
- Out-of-classroom Engagement
- Integrated programming

Positive Impacts of LLC Residency

- Ease of social transition to college
- Academic support
 - Students live among academic peers and have access to mentors, who can assist students in navigating coursework and developing study skills
- Increased student engagement

LLCs in Florida Tech's Strategic Plan

- Programs Driven By Innovation
 - Advancing the university via empirical research and academic success
- Outcome 3
 - “Provide professionally accredited, technology-driven curricula that cross educates students in both classroom and experiential learning across all disciplines.”
 - 3.4: “Implement more student living/learning communities to increase student success and involvement in academics and co-curricular activities.”

Tactic 3.4

3.4.1

- Creating specialized residential communities around academic disciplines, career pathways, or shared interests
- Begin with pilot communities

3.4.2

- Assign faculty members directly to specific LLCs as mentors and programming leaders
- Create governance structures that provide opportunities for student development

3.4.3

- Establish structured peer tutoring, study groups, and academic support systems within each LLC, creating sustainable academic success frameworks



Operating LLCs

Established and Pilot Programs as of Fall 2025

Seven Active Living-Learning Communities

- First-Year Academic Communities - Roberts Hall
 - Let's Fly (Aeronautics)
 - RISE - Relentless Innovation in Science and Engineering
 - Women in Stem
 - Psychology
 - Business
 - Computer Science
- Seven-story, traditional-style residence hall limited to LLC students and ResLife staff
- Inspired Living - Mary Star of the Sea, Newman Hall
 - Focused on personal holistic wellness
 - Offers activities and programming to guide personal growth, reflection, mindfulness, and spirituality
 - Apartment-style; open to any interested student, regardless of class standing

Let's Fly – Founded 2019



- Open to all first-year College of Aeronautics students
 - Represented majors: Aeronautical Science, Aviation Management, Aviation Human Factors, Aviation Meteorology (flight and non-flight)
 - Planned/upcoming programming for Fall 2025: MLB Airport and Air Traffic Control Tower Tour, Endeavor Airlines Pilot Pathway Meet and Greet, alumni guest speakers
- Academic components
 - Exam study sessions and peer tutoring available for common first-year courses, including FAA ground school
 - Aeronautics Student Coordinator resides nearby on-campus as staff-in-residence, offering early connection within the department and helping build programming that will aid in residents' professional/career development

Women in STEM – Founded 2018

- Represented majors: Aerospace Engineering, Biomedical Science, Forensic Psychology, Aeronautical Science w/ Flight, Computer Engineering
- Exam review and study sessions available for common first-year courses
- Interdisciplinary LLC dedicated to women's empowerment in her academic and professional life
- Community-driven programming includes social, wellness, academic, and development events
- Residents are encouraged to participate in similar organizations across campus



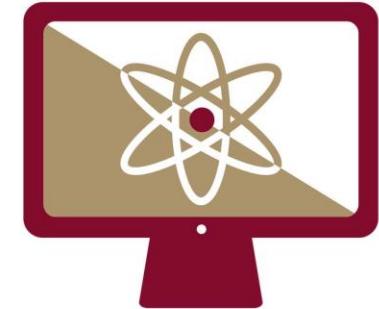
RISE – Founded 2022

- Represented majors: aerospace eng., mech. eng., physics, civil eng., computer science, ocean eng.
- Preference is given to engineering majors
- Shared study sessions for common first-year COES courses including Calc 1, Chem 1, and Physics 1
- Programming designed to engage students through shared understanding and complex problem-solving
- Social programming strategically planned to not overlap significantly with first-year deadlines/exams



Computer Science – Founded 2024

- Represented majors: computer science, software engineering, computer engineering
- *Pilot Program – started in 2024*
- Programming provides students opportunities to prove their abilities and growth through hands-on projects and collaborative coding
- Planning workshops surrounding developing technology, including cybersecurity and artificial intelligence



Psychology – Founded 2024



- Represented majors: forensic psychology, clinical psychology, animal behavior and cognition, applied behavior analysis, child advocacy
- *Pilot Program – started in 2024*
- Workshops designed to help students in finding their study concentration through advising and faculty connection
- Providing networking opportunities with faculty, staff, and community/ internship partners
- Opportunities for practical training, including data collection and observational learning

Business – Founded 2024

- Represented majors: entrepreneurship, finance, accounting, management
- Currently organizing for faculty involvement from the College of Business
- *Pilot Program – started in 2024*
- Professional development events like pitch competitions, LinkedIn workshops, and alumni networking events
- Study groups offered for College of Business courses and core requirements



Inspired Living – Founded 2025



- Community-driven, aiming to ask students: “what inspires you?”
- Integrating these responses into programming
 - Wellness workshops
 - Bible talks facilitated by professional staff and volunteers
 - Areawide events themed around healthy living and lifestyle choices
- Housed in MSOS Newman Hall
 - “Inspired Living” is a larger program shared across multiple Newman residences across the country



LLC Components

All LLCs

- Program “champion” – faculty or professional staff in shared department to aid in coordination
- Programming designed to support needs of residents
- Hall staff (RDs, CDs, RAs) share the common interest

Academic-Residential

- Professional development programming tailored to needs of community
- Shared course components
 - First-year shared sections
 - Planning FA26 FYE partnership, with courses hosted in facility classrooms

Programming

Residential Programming

- Facilitated wholly by hall staff
- Includes monthly area-wide event (all communities), hall/wing relationship builders
- Attendance incentivized through fun events, giveaways, free meals, etc.

Development Programming

- Tutoring and study sessions hosted by SSSC staff, coordinated by resident director or staff-in-residence
- Program-specific events (ex: Airport Tour, Bridge-Building competition, PSY Concentration Conversation)

Current Community Standing

- Let's Fly, RISE, and WiSTEM are our strongest communities
 - This is the result of faculty and staff involvement as well as student "buy-in"
 - Success might be in-part due to encompassing nature of these communities (all COA in Let's Fly, RISE open to all COES, WiSTEM open to any woman pursuing a B.S.)
- Roberts Hall is the highest performing residence hall for FA25
 - **100%** of residents interacted with
 - **99%** of residents have attended a hall program (CV 95%, QUAD 83%)
 - **39** hall programs *so far* in Fall 2025



Tactic 3.4

Living-Learning Communities within Strategic Plan

Tactic 3.4

3.4.1

- Creating specialized residential communities around academic disciplines, career pathways, or shared interests
- Begin with pilot communities

3.4.2

- Assign faculty members directly to specific LLCs as mentors and programming leaders
- Create governance structures that provide opportunities for student development

3.4.3

- Establish structured peer tutoring, study groups, and academic support systems within each LLC, creating sustainable academic success frameworks

3.4.1

“Create specialized residential communities around academic disciplines, career pathways, or shared interests such as STEM, innovation, entrepreneurship, aviation, etc. Begin with pilot communities in specific residence halls or specific student populations before scaling university-wide.”

- Three established communities (Let’s Fly, RISE, WiSTEM) strategically placed to increase student success in Roberts Hall
- Four pilot communities (CS, Psychology, Business, Inspired Living)
 - Pilot communities allowing for community needs assessment—assists in determining what each independent unit requires to have a measurable impact on success of residents
- New communities in development that will serve additional student populations

3.4.1 (Cont.)

- A guideline has been developed to implement new LLCs, in partnership with the Student Affairs team
 - Norm Cole named Assistant Director of Living-Learning Communities, Elijah Rines fulfilling Staff-in-Residence role
 - AD of LLCs and SIR working together with Housing and academic departments to draft plans for additional LLCs and assist in programming/assessment for existing communities
- Improve the current Honors College, STEM, and Aviation LLCs, aligning them with student success strategies and QEP III initiatives for the current academic year
 - Honors College students currently housed within RISE—seeking independent LLC opportunity
 - Let's Fly and STEM LLCs (RISE and WiSTEM) successfully serve ~80 students each (plus overflow) and show evidence driven success

3.4.2

- Assign faculty members directly to specific LLCs as mentors and programming leaders
 - Faculty-student events and guest speakers planned for Aviation and STEM LLCs
 - Working with Student Life to identify faculty volunteers that serve as club or organization advisors
 - *Assistance required in identifying and incentivizing academic and faculty partners to participate and take an active role*
- Create governance structures that provide opportunities for student development
 - Utilizing the existing Residence Hall Association (peer-elected first-year students that participate in programming) as a focus group
 - Developing mentorship program between first-year LLC residents and second-year residents who participated in the prior term

3.4.3

“Establish structured peer tutoring, study groups, and academic support systems within each LLC, creating sustainable academic success frameworks”

- Academic Affairs has partnered with Director of Residence Life and Student Success and Support Center to pilot a peer tutoring initiative at residential halls
 - Peer tutoring currently offered by certified tutors for common courses per LLC prior to major tests
 - LLC RAs offering small group tutoring as Community Interaction events
 - Looking to develop pathway for residents to participate in SSSC tutor training and certification

3.4.3 (Cont.)

- “Explore ideas for potential LLCs that could be implemented in the near future, especially focusing on new housing complex and freshman dorms to complement retention and student success initiatives”
 - Examining feasibility of moving first-year LLC program to Columbia Village, which would allow the program to grow by ~50% (215 resident beds in Roberts vs. 323 in CV)
 - Honors College LLC placement will be determined based on needs of community—considering options for a mixed-class HC LLC
 - Considering new LLCs designed to attract second-year and upperclassmen students
 - Leadership LLC, ROTC LLC, Sustainability LLC, Wellness LLC



Moving Forward

Next steps to increase program success

Increasing Intentionality: Applications



LLC Applications will be collected from interested first-year students once housing deposits have been paid, on a PER LLC basis (may apply for multiple)



Housing and LLC placements can be focused on shared study, similar schedules, or personal interests identified during the application



Hall staff have a better grasp on community and engagement expectations; understanding allows for enhanced/expedited student leader emergence

Addressing Subtactic 3.4.2

Expanding faculty involvement in LLCs

- Partnering with student life to identify faculty who have co-curricular service records
- Incentivization of participation
- Active vs. passive recruitment--meeting action with action

Building student governance structure

- LLC application will launch for AY 26-27, providing useful information about resident skillsets and interests
 - Roommate/hall pairings can be established sooner, giving students the opportunity to form connections with peers early
- Empowering RAs to encourage student leadership in the halls

Expansion Through Involvement

- Faculty involvement in living-learning communities drives the connection between students and their academic pursuits
- Faculty partnerships assist in “humanizing” instructors, allowing students to form bonds not limited to course accessibility
- Provides an ample opportunity for interested faculty to work directly with students post-advising changes



Faculty Involvement

- Faculty are the direct link between a student and the knowledge that they're seeking upon arrival
 - Early involvement allows for students to build trust in their department, often leading to increases in student academic success, retention, and co-curricular involvement
- Faculty are taught how to educate
 - Where faculty members might not be directly available during the time of a hall event, collaboration during event planning can provide valuable insight on how to meet the learning needs and goals of students within their chosen field

Increasing Campus Connections



- Partnering with student groups with similar interests to offered LLCs--and their faculty/professional advisors
- Partnering with faculty to introduce first-year students to research opportunities
- Establishing a mentorship program between LLC-alumni and current first-year students
- Working closely with the SSSC
 - Study sessions with certified tutors
 - Expansion of FYE 1000 themes to match LLCs

Planning for Expansion

- Each community will be evaluated yearly, assessing:
 - Programming success
 - Student success
 - Support from academic/campus dept.
- Feasibility and placement of Honors College students in LLCs
 - Honors College previously hosted LLC in Evans Hall
 - Current Honors College first-years placed in RISE
- Proposed interest-based housing
 - Leadership Interdisciplinary LLC
 - Wellness LLC
 - ROTC Housing
 - Sustainable Living Community

Evaluation Criteria

Student Success

- AY 25-26 GPA
 - Goal: 90% over 2.5, 50% over 2.9
- Avg. credit earned
 - Goal: 29+ cr/h
- Retention
 - % enrolled in FA26
 - % enrolled within same major prog.

Programming

- Attendance %
 - Total FA25 *and* SP26
 - Assessment by type: Areawides, CIs, CPs
- Resident Interactions
 - Goal: each resident entered 3x per semester
- End of term surveys
 - Issued week 15 FA25 and SP26

Academic/Faculty

- Does the LLC have a designated faculty?
- Does the LLC have a working relationship with its academic dept.? (if applicable)
- Faculty survey

Support Needed

Faculty Recruitment

- Assistance is required in finding faculty who wish to serve in this additional capacity, and in developing ways to incentivize active participation
 - Potential: inclusion as “service” responsibility within faculty contract
 - Potential: inclusion of involvement as valuable evidence for tenure consideration

Funding and Space

- Identifying/creating a “perfect” LLC would consist of:
 - Residences
 - Classrooms
 - Collaborative Spaces
 - Green Space
 - “Coffee shop”-like central gathering location
- LLCs currently being run with no additional operating budget over other ResHalls
 - Even a minimal LLC-allocated budget would allow for growth