Faculty in Residence and Faculty Guides

Mission Statement

Goals and Values of Faculty Programs

The central mission of university life is fostering the practice of creative and critical inquiry, using methods that are artistic, humanistic, scientific, social-scientific, quantitative and culturally aware. Faculty in Residence (FiR) and Faculty Guides (FG) serve to model these valuable practices in GW residence halls, and work to facilitate student interaction with others who do the same. As our students develop both academically and personally, FiR and FG can encourage them to adopt these practices by providing informal academic advising, promoting mature growth, teaching citizenship and leadership, fostering the University community, and challenging students intellectually. FiR and FG provide programs and initiatives that engage students in these ways, and promote GW’s central mission.

Vision for Faculty Programs

Students become most fully engrossed in university life when their curricular and co-curricular activities are integrated. But there are barriers that keeps students from connecting their classroom learning with their personal and career development, particularly their unfamiliarity and discomfort with faculty interactions. FiR and FG programs and initiatives seek to overcome this barrier in three ways: first, by providing events with a familiar faculty member that directly tie together the curricular and co-curricular (speakers, debates, discussions, etc.); second, by facilitating students’ success in the classroom (through informal advising, modeling the habits of mature engagement, etc.); and third, by encouraging students to see all of their faculty members as approachable and helpful mentors. Even when the purpose of our residence-based events is primarily social, we seek to increase the likelihood that GW’s students will see their faculty members and their academic work as being an integral part of their holistic GW experience.

As the FiR and FG programs develop, we wish to achieve our vision in part by offering credit-bearing courses in the residence halls, along with the successful programs we organize already. Whether we create living-and-learning communities headed by the FiR or FG, interdisciplinary programs involving faculty in and out of the residence hall, academic affinity communities that pull from multiple residence halls, or 1-credit courses offered within a single residence, we can best achieve our goals by becoming the direct nexus of students’ curricular and co-curricular activities.
FiR and FG Operational Guidelines

Expectations for Faculty in Residence and Faculty Guides:

To ensure the success of this program each FiR and FG will be expected to:

- Support the Provost’s emerging strategic plan, which includes teaching citizenship and leadership, encouraging interdisciplinary learning, and creating connections between curricular and co-curricular activities for students;
- File the FiR/FG Activity Report for each completed program or initiative;
- Work collaboratively with CSE staff and House Staff to develop a calendar of programs and initiatives for each semester that touches upon each of CSE’s curricular goals;
- Attend monthly lunch meetings with the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs;
- Initiate regular communication with the Area Coordinator, including weekly email/personal interaction;
- Attend meetings twice a semester with CSE Director, Assistant/Associate Director, Area Coordinator, and Residence Director to discuss:
  - Program plan,
  - Weekly interaction plan,
  - Ongoing support from CSE to promote, market, and bring students to programs;
- Review each year’s activities to assess for successes and areas for improvement.

Additional Expectations for Faculty in Residence:

- Create opportunities for weekly resident interaction beyond basic daily contact (in the hallways, elevators, etc.);
- Attend House Staff meetings two times a month and build strong relationships with all staff members in the residence;
- Attend monthly meetings with the Residence Director and Area Coordinator.

Fostering Resident Interactions

The ultimate purpose of all FiR and FG programs and initiatives is to encourage students to develop relationships with faculty that might otherwise not be achieved in class, in particular those relationships that model the intellectual practices so crucial to the core mission of the university. On the largest scale, FiR and FG should make all residents of their buildings aware of their presence, their purpose and their events, in order to show all students the roles that faculty can play in their college experience. On smaller scales, FiR and FG can focus on year-long programs or one-time initiatives that model intellectual practices for small groups of students, or even provide guidance to individual students in academics and beyond.

The beginning of the academic year is a crucial time for meeting students and raising community awareness of faculty presence. FiR and FG should be present and participate during Move-In, Welcome Week, and most residence events during the first few weeks of classes. A high level of investment during this period will pay substantial dividends throughout the year.
FiR and FG should primarily focus on the residence to which they are assigned, and the residents who live there. But they are encouraged to interact with residents outside of their assigned hall as well. Programs and initiatives that are advertised broadly, or that attract students because of intellectual interests (regardless of residence), can engage residents who hear about the FiR and FG through word of mouth from classmates and neighbors. The faculty member must strike a careful balance, because his/her primary responsibilities are in one residence hall.

It is important to challenge students during all interactions – even those that are entirely informal – so as to prompt intellectual discussions and cause students to reflect on their own citizenship, community membership and personal growth. Getting to know residents is important, but not enough: the goal of the FiR and FG programs is to take those relationships that have been constructed and use them (in conjunction with the efforts of House Staff) to help students in their academic and personal growth.

**Developing Programs and Initiatives**

Programs and initiatives provide opportunities for Faculty to interact with residents in ways that further the core mission of the university. They can come in many different forms, from large group social events, to small group intellectual discussions, to events that provide information or encourage discussion among students through bulletin boards or tabling. Events can occur within the residence halls in common spaces, or in unique off-campus locations.

It is important to plan a variety of events, as the program seeks a wide exposure to different kinds of residents. It is likewise important to have opportunities for residents to meet FiR and FG in informal ways, but also more formal interactions centered on a particular academic area, topic of discussion, personal or career skill, or unique D.C. experience. This will expose students to the variety of ways their faculty can contribute to their college experience.

Effective planning for an entire semester will allow for better use of resources – particularly funding from the Provost’s office and from CSE – as well as successful promotion of all events. The Community Director and House Staff are eager to assist but will require advanced notice.

**Managing Budget Allocations**

Each FiR and FG is expected to work within the annual expense budget allotted to him or her. Tracking expenses across the academic year for each faculty member will be handled out of the Vice Provost’s office. If for some extraordinary reason, an activity is planned where expenses might exceed the allocated amount, prior approval for the extra expense must be received from the Vice Provost. Prepayment and reimbursement for expenses related to FiR and FG activities are handled through the Vice Provost’s office.