

Faculty Affiliate

Role Description

www.smu.edu/residentialcommons

Commons Introduction

The Residential Commons (RC) will provide an *integrated academic and residential experience* that incorporates a Faculty-in-Residence (FiR) and Faculty Affiliates (FA) who will be the intellectual leaders of each residential community with a Residential Community Director that will shape the social and overall experience of each commons. It is a collaborative initiative that will transform existing residential communities and add an additional five buildings to house both first and second year students at SMU. Each commons will develop traditions, gatherings, and other activities that build community and long-term bonds and affiliation among residents. This model supports a strong residential community with an emphasis on academic and social balance that will enhance personal exploration and growth for students.

Overview of Faculty Programs

Research shows that students interacting with faculty outside of the classroom produce positive outcomes (cognitive and personal development, student satisfaction, retention, etc.) that are attributed to student engagement in higher education. The two main opportunities faculty will have to be involved in the RC program are through the Faculty in Residence and Faculty Affiliated Programs.

The FiR program strives to create opportunities for students to know faculty members outside of the classroom to emphasize a culture of mentorship, intellectual discourse, and community that are cultivated in all aspects of the collegiate experience inside and outside of the classroom. The FiR role is a cornerstone of the residential life experience that will create opportunities for students to informally interact with faculty members living amongst them.

The FA program will be an opportunity for faculty who want to be affiliated with a RC, but may not be ready to or have the desire to live in a RC. Faculty members will get to know their communities early in the academic year and build relationships by attending programs, coming to the RC on a regular basis, and dining with residents.

Reasons to Become and FA:

- Get to know students in an informal environment
- Support students through social and academic ways
- Meet other faculty members from different disciplines
- Share in the prestige of being affiliated with a RC

Dining

One of the most important ways FAs can interact with students is through regular dining experiences. FAs will be given a certain number of dining hall meals throughout the year to interact with students.

Faculty Affiliate Expectations

FAs will be expected to:

- Build individual relationships with residents by interacting with them regularly
- Be visible in the community by creating and attending events and programs at least on a monthly basis
- Communicate often with Residential Community Director and Assistant Director of Academic Initiatives and Outreach
- Serve as an intellectual leader of the residential common for an academic year

Specific Responsibilities (Unless through exception):

- Facilitating a Common Reading discussion group
- Welcoming parents and students during first year move-in day
- Attend First Year Convocation as part of the procession