

# UConn

## NEAG SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### Curricula & Courses Committee

To: C&C Committee Members

From: John Zack, Chair

Date: September 18, 2024

Re: Minutes of the Curricula & Courses Committee Meeting held September 17, 2024

In attendance via Microsoft Teams: John Zack, Alex Freidus, Adam McCready, Jaci VanHeest, Joe Madaus, Ann Traynor, Dorothea Anagnostopoulos and Diane Matteau

---

- 1) Approval of May, 2024 meeting minutes
  - o *John Zack began the meeting at 10:02am. Ann made a motion to adopt the May, 2024 minutes, Adam seconded, and all voted in favor. (5-0) Joe abstained as he was not at the May meeting.*

- 2) Course Revisions

- a) **EPSY 3235: The Resident Assistant Experience (CAR 24-25371)**

**Explanation:** Looking to change current 3-credit class to a 1-credit class as we reshape the use of the class experience as part of the RA position.

**Current Catalog Copy:**

EPSY 3235 The Resident Assistant

Credit: 3 credit

Catalog Description: Focuses on the development of college students as it relates to college residence hall life and the Resident Assistant position. Topics include leadership, community development, select (human) student development theories, and issues of social justice. Students will develop a working knowledge of human development theory for college students and associated practical applications.

**Proposed Catalog Copy:**

EPSY 3235: The Resident Assistant Experience

Credits: 1 credit

Prerequisites: Open to Resident Assistants in their first year as an RA only

Grading Basis: Graded

Course Description: This course focuses on the development of individuals in the Resident Assistant (RA) position at the University of Connecticut. Throughout this course, students will explore the theoretical foundations of emotional intelligence, student and community development, DEI, conflict management and communication. Through a combination of discussions, experiential activities, case studies, and self-reflection exercises, students will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of emotional intelligence and develop practical skills that are essential in navigating the many components of the RA position.

**APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT:** April 5, 2024

**APPROVAL BY DEPT. HEADS:** April 8, 2024

**Not approved by C&C** – Zack sent an email for further clarification on this change.

**Additional Explanation received on 4/18/2024:**

First, when it was a 3-credit class it was split into a 1-hour lecture and a 2-hour discussion per week for all first year RAs. This proved to be problematic and impractical for many RAs as this is an additional commitment to their required coursework. With the addition of the RA position on their already busy schedules the class caused additional strain on them and therefore wasn't as effective as we had hoped. Through our assessment of the RA class the RAs felt the discussion was valuable and provided better learning opportunities. Similarly, they felt the lecture didn't provide much additional substance that could be used for their job.

One of the main rationales behind this adjustment is to enhance the course's accessibility and flexibility for the RAs. By reducing the credit hours, we aim to make the course more manageable for the RAs, while still providing content and maintaining the successful discussion component of the previous class. The approach will hopefully lean towards a better learning opportunity for RAs to further engage with the chosen topics, which will help them become more effective and well-rounded Resident Assistants.

In terms of content adjustments, we have reviewed the previous course curriculum and identified certain topics that could be condensed or integrated more efficiently without compromising the learning objectives. We will still focus on conflict management, student development, group development, DEI and interpersonal skills, which are all important to the RA position and were included in the previous class. We have removed some topics such as writing a learning outcome and creating a facilitation guide as those will no longer be required for RAs to do. Other topics have just been adjusted to approach the class with a focus on interpersonal skills, DEI and emotional intelligence which are needed for the success of RAs.

- *Zack revisited the course revision above and opened it up for discussion.*
- *Adam shared his concerns again about this course falling under EPSY and not EDLR. He feels that this item shouldn't be voted on until that is sorted out.*
- *After a lengthy discussion, Mike made a motion to table this item, Adam seconded, and all voted in favor. Dorothea will set up a meeting with EPSY and EDLR representatives to discuss.*

**9/11/2024 update:**

Dorothea and Adam will inform the committee about the conversations they had with department heads about cross listing this course in the future.

- *Zack revisited the course revision above and opened it up for discussion.*
- *Adam talked about his meeting with Dorothea and the 2 department chairs. They are all in agreement that this course could be cross listed in the future but for now we should approve the change to a 1 credit course.*
- *Jaci made a motion to approve the above course change, Adam seconded, and all voted in favor. (6-0)*
- *Adam will touch base with someone from Residential Life and ask them to submit a new CAR to address the cross-listing change.*

**APPROVAL BY C&C COMMITTEE:** September 17, 2024

**APPROVAL BY NEAG FACULTY:** September 26, 2024

3) C&C Committee Chair for AY 24/25

- *Zack then opened a discussion on the new C&C Chair for 24/25 and explained that since he has already served for 2 years, he can longer do so.*
- *Jaci offered to serve as Chair again, but this will be her last term. Adam made a motion to support this, Ann seconded, and all voted in favor of electing Jaci as Chair. (5-0) Jaci abstained.*
- *With regards to the Vice Chair position, Dorothea will reach out to Rachael to see if she would like to continue. If not, we will have the committee vote on this position.*
- *Zack will speak to Todd to see if he can continue as a C&C member or if there is someone else to replace him.*
  
- *The meeting adjourned at 10:26am.*