RA Panel Reflection

Attending the RA Panel session provided valuable insights into the responsibilities, challenges, and rewards of being a Resident Assistant. The panelists shared their personal experiences, explaining how they initially joined the RA role and how they have grown through different stages. Many of them have continued in the role for several years, with one RA even serving for five years while following in their sibling's footsteps. This showed the long-term commitment and personal fulfillment that comes with the position.

One of the key takeaways was understanding the balance between academics, work, and RA duties. The panelists emphasized the importance of time management, as RAs must plan events, manage diverse groups of residents, and enforce rules and regulations within residential life. They also shared their experiences with student conduct and the significance of maintaining fairness and professionalism in enforcing policies.

Another interesting discussion revolved around the motivations behind becoming an RA. Many students expressed their interest in leadership, community building, and, of course, the appeal of free food at events! The panelists also asked attendees about their own reasons for wanting to become an RA and what they felt nervous about in the role. This interactive discussion helped us reflect on our motivations and expectations.

Additionally, the panelists shared real-life incidents they encountered in their RA journey, providing practical examples of how they handled difficult situations. They discussed training, documentation, responding to calls, and the overall skills needed for the position. A strong emphasis was placed on being confident, staying true to oneself, and presenting oneself effectively during the interview process.

Overall, this session was both informative and motivating. It gave me a clearer perspective on the RA role and the responsibilities that come with it. The experiences shared by the panelists highlighted the importance of leadership, adaptability, and strong communication skills. Their passion for the role was inspiring, and I now feel more prepared and excited about the possibility of becoming an RA.