

Kathryne (Katy) Pelton

Sam Houston State University

Associate Director for Residence Life Facilities & Risk Management

Qualifications: Please discuss the job positions, professional development activities, and other qualifications that prepare you for the board position for which you are applying.

My current professional role supports facilities management, custodial operations, and risk management for the Department of Residence Life at Sam Houston State University. I collaborate closely with our maintenance and custodial teams to ensure that residential facilities are maintained both proactively and responsively. In addition, I help ensure that our department is effectively represented during residential capital projects, working to align renovation and construction efforts with departmental standards and expectations. Building and maintaining positive, productive relationships with campus partners and external vendors has been essential to advancing our facilities, custodial, and project initiatives. Beyond facilities, I oversee risk management components for our department. This multifaceted role allows me to integrate policy, procedures, and project management with a strong emphasis on innovation and customer service. I also actively pursue professional development opportunities through teaching and leadership programs on my campus, as well as through involvement with the SWACUHO region (committee involvement, past president) and ACUHO-I (past chair for Awards committee and active roles in the Programming committee). I am committed to developing a broad understanding of both housing operations and the wider university environment, enabling me to provide well-rounded support and guidance to students and colleagues alike.

Thought Leadership and Technical Credibility: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

I believe I am uniquely positioned to serve our membership due to my experience across multiple functional areas and my commitment to continuous professional development. To stay current with emerging trends in higher education, I actively engage in learning opportunities offered by a variety of professional organizations, including ACUHO-I, APPA, ACUE, and CUPA-HR. I am also an avid reader, regularly engaging with articles from the Journal and contributing to the field through my work editing manuscript submissions. My involvement with ACUHO-I has deepened my understanding of both my professional role and the broader influence of the organization within the political and legislative landscape. In addition to my ongoing engagement, I have remained committed to service within ACUHO-I, including past leadership as Chair of the Awards Committee and current contributions on the Program Committee as a program review coordinator and subcommittee chair.

Openness to a Multitude of Perspectives: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

In my professional capacity, I serve as a communicator and translator between our residential education and facilities teams. This role uniquely positions me as both a problem solver and an influencer as we plan, coordinate, and respond to a wide range of situations, events, and operational needs. I value serving as a bridge between teams that often have competing priorities and differing perspectives. Each day, my focus is on doing what is best for our Bearkat students, and I would bring that same commitment to ACUHO-I. If elected, I would work collaboratively to make decisions in the best interest of the organization and its membership, while actively seeking out and engaging diverse perspectives and viewpoints.

Strategic Thinking: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

If elected, I look forward to collaborating with the Executive Board and work groups to advance our strategic plan and priorities. This includes thoughtfully considering trends, encouraging innovation, and maintaining a solution-oriented approach, all while staying grounded in the organization's strategic plan. As our organization continues to assess the evolving higher education landscape, it is essential that we embrace forward-thinking approaches. By doing so, we can develop meaningful recommendations and pathways that support the ongoing success and experiences of both our individual and institutional members.

Developing Others: Please describe what you would bring to the board in the realm of this competency.

When collaborating with others, I prioritize building genuine connections by understanding each person's perspective, strengths, and what motivates them professionally. This approach helps me identify opportunities to leverage individual skill sets while also encouraging people to stretch beyond their comfort zones in meaningful ways. In committee and work group settings, I place strong emphasis on engagement and shared ownership of the work. I believe that clear contributions and an inclusive workflow not only strengthen outcomes but also ensure that everyone's time—especially in volunteer roles—is used purposefully. I strive to set realistic goals and expectations while remaining transparent about boundaries and constraints. This clarity creates an environment where individuals feel empowered to innovate, collaborate effectively, and deliver thoughtful, high-quality results within defined parameters.