

# Spectrum House Charter

## **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Spectrum House is to create a welcoming, comfortable, and safe setting for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities to reside in. Spectrum House will serve a critical need as a true gender inclusive housing option and will also be a residential space for queer students to feel fully at home on campus. Spectrum House will seek to treat any and every person; regardless of gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnicity, native language, age, religion, or any other aspect of that person's identity; in an inclusive and equitable manner. All residents and guests in the Spectrum House should feel free and be encouraged to learn about different aspects of the LGBTQ+ community in a caring and respectful manner.

## **Community Standards:**

At the beginning of each semester, as well as periodically throughout the semester, the house will meet as a whole to discuss community standards. During the first meeting, house rules, the house's mission statement, as well as, how the residents view the house's role in the Dickinson community shall be discussed and ratified. The house manager is responsible for presenting a set of basic ground rules to the house and modifying them as needed. A mandatory house meeting will be held during each semester; this meeting shall review the house rules and their enforcement. Meetings may also be held throughout the semester in order to discuss any events the house wishes to host or any ideas that students wish to present to the house community. The house policies as they stand are:

1. Respect everyone living in our community as well as our house. If the proper respect is not being shown, speak with the person(s) involved in a courteous manner or speak with the House Manager.
2. Keep the communal living spaces clean, such as the kitchen, common rooms, porch and yard. If the space is disrespected, the community may be empowered to sanction anyone responsible for such behavior.
3. Before using an object left in a common space, such as dishes, speakers, etcetera, residents should ask the owner of that object for permission to use it.
4. Quiet hours are from 11:00 PM to 8:00 AM on weekdays.
5. If a resident invites a guest over, that resident must get them from the door. If someone knocks on the door to be let in, residents should ask who they are at the house for.
6. Residents are responsible for making their guests aware of the house rules, as well as taking responsibility for their actions.
7. If a problem arises that cannot be solved by the residents, the house advisor and/or Residence Life should be contacted to resolve the issue.

### **House Membership:**

Students wishing to live in the Spectrum House for a given semester must apply during the previous semester through a form devised by the house manager. The applications shall be submitted to the house manager, who will review them with the other residents, with input from the advisor and the executive board of the Spectrum club if required. If a fall resident in a multi-house occupancy room leaves to go abroad, their roommate will be involved in the selection process of a replacement.

### **Events:**

Events may be hosted at the house, though they must be pre-approved by the house manager. The house manager will share the event with members of the house and if any object to the event, a vote will be taken. If some residents are strongly opposed to an event, then the community will discuss a possible altering of the event in order to make all residents comfortable. Guests at events must also adhere to the house rules, especially rule 1. Events shall not continue into the quiet hours without approval from the residents, so as to respect the pre-established rules of the house.

### **Evaluation:**

In the middle of the semester, residents shall convene to evaluate the state of the house in general. During this meeting, residents may voice ideas for what they would like to see happen at the house before the end of the semester. Residents may also voice comments and concerns, as well as present new rules or revisions to rules that the house will then vote on. This evaluation shall serve as an open forum in which each resident has the opportunity to speak to our community as a whole. At the end of the semester, the community will meet for a last time to discuss what went well during the semester and what changes could be made for the next semester. If there will be a new house manager the next semester, they will also be invited to come to this meeting in order to hear suggestions and concerns for the upcoming semester.