

Human Cultures House Charter

I. Philosophy:

The Human Cultures House works to promote interest in Archaeology and Anthropology on the Dickinson College campus through educational and social events. In addition to engaging student interest, Human Cultures House encourages members to think critically about the methods, theories, and ethics of Anthropology and Archaeology and to engage the current field in new and creative ways.

II. Development of a Community:

As part of the Human Cultures House, members are expected to engage with students interested in Archaeology, Anthropology, and related fields. Every student who comes to live in the house will be provided with an open and safe environment in which to live and express ideas, opinions, and beliefs about the fields of and issues pertaining to Anthropology and Archaeology. Whether this comprises questioning what is ethical in practice and theory or questioning findings, students will find a space where ideas will be met with respect. While the debate of issues is encouraged, a student's beliefs and opinions will not be met with hostility or derision.

Through living together in a collaborative environment, students in the Human Cultures House will form a community based around a common interest in archaeology, anthropology, and related fields. The house will provide a place to share news and developments in the archaeological and anthropological spheres, as well as a space in which to discuss the academic programming related to archaeology and anthropology. Residents of the house should also be able to seek advice or discussion regarding their classes in anthropology or archaeology from other house members, in an informal environment free from judgment.

The House will also provide a location for members of the Archaeology and Anthropology Departments to host events, promoting interaction between faculty and students outside of the classroom or office hours and contributing to the faculty-student relationships in these departments.

III. House Rules and Procedures:

A. Choosing or Replacing a Faculty Advisor:

The faculty advisor shares an interest in the goals for the house and collaborates on events. The advisor agrees to be an active resource for the house, interacting with participants by holding academic talks and contributing input to house events.

Should the current Faculty Advisor need to be replaced for any reason, the house manager must choose a new advisor from the Archaeology and Anthropology Department, ideally based on a recommendation from the previous advisor, and pending the agreement of the faculty member in question.

B. Selecting or Replacing and Roles of a House Manager:

The prospective House Manager will submit an application to the current House Manager and House Members. After House Member approval, an election will be held between the candidates for all members of the house to vote in. Qualifications required

of the house manager include:

- Commitment to fulfilling the goals of the house.
- Submission of a statement explaining how they will fulfill current goals and proposing new goals and initiatives for the next year.
- Maintaining good academic standing
- Holding no alcohol or drug violations

Should a House Manager need to be replaced, the procedure for choosing a House Manager will be implemented (as outlined above) pending final approval from Residence Life.

The responsibilities of the House Manager include:

- Acting as a liaison with Residence Life and the House members
- Attending meetings with Residence Life
- Making rules with discretion as they pertain to the development of a community or the safety of house members
- Adhering to the initiatives set forth in the charter.

Rules proposed by the House Manager must be approved by the House by a majority vote at the house meeting preceding implementation of the rule(s).

D. Plan to Fill Vacancies

1. For mid-semester vacancies:

A waiting list has been established with prospective members who have already filled out applications. These students will be approached should a vacancy occur during the semester. To become part of the waiting list, students may apply at any time during the semester (including students currently abroad). Applicants on the waiting list will have priority for house membership in the spring semester.

Should there be no waiting list applicants, the House Manager should work with Residence Life and Housing to fill the space if necessary.

2. For the spring semester:

Any vacancies will be advertised to the campus at large. Prospective members will be required to fill out an application, which will then be reviewed by the Executive Board and House Manager.

3. For the next academic year:

All current members of the House who wish to remain there another year must reapply but will have priority over new members. Other prospective members are required to fill out and submit the house application form.

House membership is to be approved by the current House Manager based on strength of application. Specific attention will be given to Archaeology and Anthropology majors. Other majors, however, are in no way forbidden from applying or living in the house.

E. Procedures and Expectations

1. Violations of Residential Standards:

Should a house member violate Residential Standards, they will be referred to the House Manager for a mediation session. After two sessions the house member who is in violation will be referred to Residence Life.

2. Violations of Community Standards:

For serious matters Residence Life will be contacted immediately and will deal with the violation as they see fit.

3. Expectations of House Members:

- Reside in the House.
- Be involved or have a demonstrated interest in: Archaeology or Anthropology; or any field that actively encourages the study and analysis of culture (such as American Studies or Sociology); or any field upon which the discipline of Archaeology or Anthropology draws strongly (such as Art History, Geology, Classics, History, Women's and Gender Studies, etc)
- Attend events. Help plan events if they feel so inclined, though this is not an expectation.
- Be present at house meetings.
- Respect other members' personal belongings, study habits, and ideas.

Suggestions for House and Community Events:

- Hold two Movie Nights per semester featuring films or documentaries listed on course syllabi, or co-host Movie Nights with the Archaeology Club. Said Movie Nights may also include a preceding activity during which house members collaborate to create a meal from a recipe representing common food from a specific culture, either ancient or modern.
- Host a barbeque at least once a year to take advantage of the backyard grill and bring together members of the house with members of the Archaeology and Anthropology departments (both faculty and students) in an informal, non-academic setting.
- Organize academically-focused events, such as: lectures from current and past faculty regarding their research; informal discussions with Archaeology majors regarding fieldwork in which they have participated; collaborative events with the Departments of Archaeology and Anthropology

- Provide a resource for potential Archaeologists and Anthropologists to seek advice on going abroad, field schools, internships, and careers from fellow students who have experience in these areas.
- Host one “Meet the Majors” event per semester in collaboration with the Archaeology and Anthropology Departments that fosters informal discussions and interactions between current Archaeology/Anthropology majors and prospective majors. This event can be staged as a portion of any of the above events (like the barbeque).