

Romance Languages House Charter

Revised 2019-2020

Philosophy:

The mission of the Romance Languages House is to promote a community that is committed to using, practicing, speaking and/or learning a Romance language. In this built environment, residents are encouraged to speak and interact in their respective target Romance languages. Target residents range from native speakers to foreign language learners. Members of the House connect to the college community through planning, organization, and promotion of House and/or club events and through attendance of the weekly language tables. Our goal is to educate others on diverse languages and cultures through living in a shared environment as well as opening up that environment to the college community as a whole.

Community Standards:

Members of the House are expected to live by Dickinson's community standards. Residents of the Romance Language House will strive to foster a supportive intellectual community that is safe and pleasant for all. Members are responsible for maintaining the House so that it is livable and clean, especially after House events. All members will be required to contribute to the maintenance of the kitchen, dining room, common room, and laundry areas. A meeting will occur at the beginning of each academic semester in which House members will develop and/or review specific community standards for the House, but additional House meetings can occur as needed throughout the year to reinforce or revise community standards. This initial House meeting should discuss standard Dickinson community standards, House specific mutual expectations, House cleaning schedules, bathroom expectations (gender inclusive or gender specific), which will be enforced by the House Manager or referred to the appropriate party on an as needed basis.

Membership Expectations:

Members of the House commit to and will be expected to speak their respective Romance languages while inside the House. Exceptions will be made when visitors who do not speak the target Romance language are in the House or when the common language of the residents is not a Romance language (generally English, potentially another). Members of the House will also be

expected to be involved in their respective language club as well as attend the weekly language tables. Members of the House will also be expected to help with the execution of House events.

Application Process:

The House Manager should meet with the faculty language liaisons in February to discuss the coming year's application process and how to best engage with potential applicants. The applications will be submitted to the advisor of the specific languages.

On the application, students may mark if they are interested in the House Manager position. If multiple students request the position, they will participate in a selection process with either the current House Manager or incoming residents, who will then recommend the best candidate to the House advisors. This may occur as a digital election by incoming residents with statements of intent given by the candidates for House Manager or this may be an appointed role.

The current House Manager, along with the incoming House Manager, should then meet with the Faculty Language Liaisons to complete the roster with room assignments for the coming year. If there are more applicants than available rooms, then they will be placed on a waitlist and notified if a room becomes available.

Leadership Positions:

House Manager:

The House Manager is a resource individual residents of the Romance Language House may turn to in order to discuss an issue related to another resident or issues concerning the Romance Language House. A communication medium for all House residents will be established through email for formal communication as well as through Facebook and/or a group chat for more informal communication. Event and meeting planning can be accomplished through these media and in person.

Resident Language Liaisons:

Each language represented in the House should have one Language Liaison who communicates with their respective language club and the House residents in planning joint events or events that will be hosted in Reed Hall.

Faculty Language Liaisons:

Language departments will appoint a Faculty Language Liaison to work with their respective Resident Language Liaison for the coordination of events, advertising, and counsel. The Faculty Language Liaisons serve as resources for the House, upon request and when and how reasonably available.

Events:

Event planning should be conducted between resident language liaisons, faculty language liaisons, and other interested parties, often times Overseas Student Assistants (OSAs). The House Manager should coordinate scheduling so that events do not overlap.

Below is a list of suggested event ideas. This list is not exhaustive and creativity is encouraged.

1. Student run Cooking Classes: Students will learn how to cook typical dishes from different parts of the world, focusing on countries that speak Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and French. Much of this inspiration comes from student interest and/or residents' personal experiences.
2. Cultural Movies Nights: Residents of the House watch a movie together in a target language (subtitles determined based upon need) with a focus on current events, history, or popular culture. Discussion may conclude such an event.
3. Events for specific holidays from other cultures, such as Dia de Los Muertos, Bastille Day, Carnaval, and Ferragosto.
4. Viewing parties for cultural events, both US American and from the cultures of countries where the target languages are spoken, such as the Super Bowl and El Clasico.

Semester Calendar of Events:

A dry erase calendar on the bulletin board facilitates the reservation of spaces in the House. Anyone is welcome to write on the board, with intervention as needed. At the beginning of each semester, the Resident Language Liaisons in conjunction with language clubs and Faculty Language Liaisons will schedule the events they wish to hold in the Romance Languages House and will make those dates known to the House. These events should be publicized to the House,

through the social media page and or groupchat(s). This information should include the target audience and purpose: for speakers of the target language or open events as a cultural learning opportunity (without the barrier of language).

Semester and year goals:

- Develop a greater understanding of different cultures and languages existing in the House for all its members and learn not only to embrace it, but to implement certain positive habits into our own lives.
- Make sure that events held in the House raise a bigger awareness in the campus, making this living space a more popular one within the Dickinson community, by marketing its benefits and features.