

X House Charter: 2019-2020

We, as students of color on this campus, drawing inspiration from the Black and Brown students before us, find it necessary to establish a space to promote awareness and acceptance of Black Culture and Heritage. To be Black, and to be at Dickinson, is to live and work in a space that requires a high level of intercultural competence, code switching, and emotional resilience, in addition to a full course load as well as extracurricular activities.

Therefore, in the fall of 2017, we petitioned, with the support of the Black Student Union Exec Board, club members, and advisor, and received The X House.

Purpose and Value

- I. With the founding of this house we intend to create a space in which black students on campus can gather for social, academic, and emotional support. Within its walls we hope to foster a space in which we grieve, mourn, and discuss racist acts, large and small, that take place at Dickinson on a daily basis, as a community. But also, just as important, we hope to create space of healing and celebration. We hope the house can be a loci of impassioned cultural celebration, a center for the celebration of black culture. A house where black students can gather to learn about and cultivate a healthy pride in themselves and their history.
- II. With the founding of this house we intend to create space open to people of all races, religions, and creeds who wish to learn, grow, and celebrate with us. However, X House is an initially Black space and therefore privileges Black thought, ideology, and experience above all others.
- III. With the founding of this house we intend to have a physical space always open for the use and devoted to the needs of Black students of Dickinson College.
- IV. With the founding of this house we honor our friend, Legacy Watkins '18, and her memory.

Expectations of House Members and Community Standards

- I. Protect and uphold the physical and social structure of this house.
 - Parties are initially not thrown to insure the physical integrity of this space.
 - Maintain a clean space.
- II. Maintain conduct that is exemplary and reflective of the space that is being cultivated.
 - Call out fellow members, reflect on self
- III. Lead in community building within these walls and elsewhere
 - This is a space for all Black Dickinson students
 - This is a space for all Black Dickinson alumni
 - This is a space for all Black Dickinson faculty and staff
- IV. Attend meetings once a month
 - Meeting shall be called as need when planning events or other house discussions

- V. Complete listed chore weekly.
- VI. Respect fellow house members
- VII. Create semester goals and standards for self and for X House as a group
- VIII. Respect and uphold regulations of the house charter

Application Process

When choosing house members X House prioritizes diversity of class year, major, gender identity, sexuality, religion, ability, and thought.

Perspective members shall complete a written application and an in person interview, with a majority of current house members present.

Membership is award on a one (1) year on, one (1) year off basis. Therefore, unless there is a year of low applicants, a person cannot live in X House two (2) or more years in a row, to insure Black Dickinson students are all give a fair chance at receiving membership.

When considering membership, X House looks for applicants who:

- Will respect and protect the space
- Prioritize inclusivity
- Are actively involved in the Dickinson and/or Carlisle communities
- Act and plan with the future in mind

Current house members shall select future members together.

Removal Process

Before disputes, grievances, or disagreements are brought to the X House faculty advisor there should be an attempt to handle them internally.

Between the parties ⑦ With another house member as a mediator ⑦ House advisor as a mediator ⑦ Res. Life

Should the problem remain unresolved house members will be removed from only if majority of the house and the X House faculty advisor agree to do so.

Programming

- I. At least two (2) teach ins a semester
 - Open to all members of the Dickinson and Carlisle communities
 - Topics decided and planned as a house
- II. Groups discussions as desired
 - Prioritizing the Black needs and experiences at Dickinson

At least two house members must be present at all events.

House members must attend a predetermined number of events, agreed upon by all house members, each semester. Failure to do so, without prior discussion with house members, may result in removal from house.

Year and Semester Goals

2019-2020

- I. Establishing house traditions, understandings, and community.