August 20, 2015

Dear Resident:

Welcome! We are excited to have you here at UNH and in our residence halls. I ask that you contribute to making the hall you live in a fun, safe, and reasonably quiet place which will help meet the needs of all residents. My hall staff will make every effort to get to know you. Hopefully, most of those encounters will be positive and aimed at helping you succeed at UNH. I ask that you take seriously your commitment toward the safety and well being of others. A very tangible way to demonstrate that commitment is to avoid prop-ping doors or letting strangers enter your building. Our security only works if you participate in the process. Here at UNH, we believe in the concept of “Bystander Responsibility”, which means that if you witness an unsafe, dangerous or illegal act we expect you to inform a staff member or the police immediately.

Living in our residence halls is a privilege, not a right. Last year, more than 100 students were evicted from UNH housing for inappropriate behavior. We have high, but reasonable expectations for your behavior and involvement in the residence hall community. You are bound by the conditions of the Housing Agreement and the rules of the University, many of which are contained in this document and all of which are in the Students Rights and Rules, an on-line booklet at www.unh.edu/student/rights. I urge you to make time to read it so there are no misunderstandings. This document you are reading now contains a summary of the Community Standards section of the UNH Housing Agreement which you agreed to follow by accepting housing at UNH.

Do not assume you will automatically be given a second chance should you violate our policies. The back of this document contains a partial list of offenses which have often led to eviction or suspension on a first offense.

Finally, I wish to take time to clarify a point that has caused some confusion in the past. Understand that you are renting your room and you do not own it. If a staff member is drawn to your room suspecting policy violations or illegal activity, they will confront you. When suspected drug activity is occurring they will call the police immediately. I ask that you cooperate with my staff. If your door is closed they will knock and identify themselves, telling you to open your door immediately. You are expected to comply with that request. Failure to do so will result in a “failure to comply” charge in addition to whatever other charges might stem from the incident. Such a charge might well heighten the possibility of an eviction sanction. On it’s own, a failure to comply charge will likely lead to a significant probation and may well jeopardize any future plans you may have for a study abroad opportunity. Hopefully, you will open the door and let the staff member come in. Minimally, you will need to open the door, leave it open, and come out into the hallway along with everyone else in the room at that time. Staff will take note of any evidence that you have violated a university policy. Staff may enter the room to confiscate any evidence they see. Your failure to open your door or respond verbally may result in the staff member keying into your room, as we will assume that you are unable to respond and may be at risk. University staff may also key into your room without notice for periodic inspections for health and safety reasons or to turn off loud noise like an alarm clock going off when it is apparent nobody is in the room to perform the task. My staff does not wish to have negative relationships. Again, I ask your help in cooperating and taking responsibility for the choices you make.

We want you to succeed and be a vital member of our community. I wish you the very best in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Scott Chesney
Director of Residential Life

Why Risk It?

We want you to know it is possible to lose your housing for a first time policy violation at UNH. While most students follow the rules, there are many each year who lose housing because they violated a policy.

Below is a list of first time violations that could lead to eviction from the residence halls or on-campus apartments, and/or suspension from UNH.

- Having an illegal alcohol gathering in your room
- Engaging in a physical fight
- Harassment
- Sexual Assault
- Stealing or damaging property
- Use or sale of illegal drugs
- Jeopardizing the safety of others
- Using or possessing weapons including airsoft guns

Your Choices Matter!
Here are some highlights from the 2015-2016 UNH Housing Contract. While we have highlighted certain behaviors, please be aware that you are responsible for everything in the Housing Contract.

- **Alcohol**: All students are subject to the University Rights & Rules governing the use of alcohol, as well as federal, state, and local laws of alcohol use, including the Open Container Ordinance of Durham, NH.
  - Only students of legal drinking age (21 years or older) may consume alcohol in their own room or in the room of another student who is at least 21 years old.
  - A legal age drinker may have just one open alcohol container at a time for personal consumption.
  - Alcohol is not permitted in any of the common or public areas of the undergraduate residence halls or apartment buildings.
  - Possession or consumption of alcohol is permitted only in rooms where at least one of the assigned residents is at least 21 years old.
  - All common sources of alcohol, including but not limited to kegs, punch bowls, beer bars, or excessive amounts of alcohol in bottles or cases, are strictly prohibited.
  - Providing underage people with alcohol is illegal and strictly prohibited.
  - Any person who is under the influence of alcohol and whose behavior leads to personal injury or illness may be considered in violation of the alcohol policy.
  - Having a gathering in a residence room that involves illegal consumption of alcohol will likely lead to eviction upon a first offense. A gathering is defined as more people in the room than just the people who are assigned to that room.

- **Weapons**: The University of New Hampshire is a weapon-free campus. This applies to all residence halls and apartments. Weapons include but are not limited to firearms, simulated firearms such as air soft guns, dangerous chemicals, any explosive device, rubber bullets, brass knuckles, butterfly knives, paintball guns/equipment and other materials that can be used to intimidate, threaten or endanger others are prohibited on campus.

- **Lewd or Indecent Behavior**: Behavior which is lewd or indecent, including but not limited to, public or unwanted nudity, urination or defecation in areas other than toilets or urinals, sexual activity in public areas, or voice or written messages to others which are considered lewd or indecent by the receiver.

- **Guest, Visitation, and Escort Policies**: Residents are responsible for the behavior of their guests and for informing guests of policies. All guests need to be escorted by their host at all times while visiting in the building. Students within University housing are collectively responsible for their own conduct as well as the conduct of their guests whether invited or not. Overnight guests are not permitted in University housing without advance permission of all students of the room/apartment in which they are staying. Overnight guests may not stay longer than two nights in any given week. No more than ten people may be in a residence hall room or between 13 and 24 people in an apartment, depending on the apartment, per order of the Durham Fire Department. University apartment residents must register with and receive approval from the Property Manager for hosting a gathering of more of 13 people (including hosts). Residents of the apartment must adhere to the Special Event’s Parties guidelines as they appear in the policies for apartment residents’ document.

- **Damage**: Damage, theft, and vandalism to University property are strictly prohibited. Each student is financially responsible for the replacement cost or repair of any breakage or damage (except for normal wear & tear) to the accommodations and its furnishings as well as for his/her share of the costs of any damages in the common areas of University housing.

- **Hall Sports**: Behavior that may result in personal injury or damage to property is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to hall sports, water fights, some forms of practical jokes, roughhousing, dropping items out of windows, improper behavior on balconies, tampering with or other misuse of elevators, and failure to observe fire safety rules and procedures. All athletic activities are to be confined to areas outside University housing which are specifically designated for such purposes.

- **Noise**: Each student shall respect and observe the rights of other students occupying University housing. Noise that is disruptive to others, is prohibited. Courtesy hours are always in effect and residents are to respect requests of others for quiet. Quiet time hours are “Quiet hours”, when residents are to be aware of the volume and impact of their noise. At no time should amplified sound or yelling be directed out or at residents’ windows and residents also need to maintain reasonable quiet in common areas at all times. The placement of stereo speakers in such a manner that sound carries out from the apartment or room is strictly prohibited. Compliance with the Durham noise ordinance is required. All established quiet hours must be observed.

- **Failure to Comply**: Refusing to cooperate with hall or apartment staff or university police who are attempting to investigate or deal with a situation in a university residence hall or apartment is prohibited. You are required to provide proper identification and truthfully answer legitimate inquiries.

- **Civility**: Students are expected to be civil and respectful in all their relationships and respect the dignity, value and worth of all persons. It is not acceptable to physically, mentally, or emotionally abuse any member of this community, or participate in or condone any form of bullying, intimidation, intimidation or threat, whether verbal, written, physical or psychological, direct or implied.

- **Common Area Use**: Students are expected to use good judgment when displaying materials in the common areas of university housing. These include any areas outside of a student room, including lounges, hallways, and hallway doors. Students are prohibited from displaying any materials in common areas that interfere with the educational mission of the university, including, but not limited to, materials that are pornographic or depict sexual conduct and have not been approved by the residence hall staff, information that advertises or promotes drugs or alcohol, postings that use profane or vulgar language, and information that is harassing or threatening to others. The display of materials in the common areas includes but is not limited to, photographs, posters, written materials, videos, and live performance. Videos shown in the common areas must have a rating of G, PG, PG-13 or R, and individuals who show videos are expected to comply with all applicable copyright laws.

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Over 100 Students were Evicted from University Housing last year

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Pictures and Written Comments Posted on Facebook, AIM and other locations can be used as evidence in judicial and criminal proceedings.

If you have any questions about any of these policies please contact your Hall Director or Apartment Manager.

For a complete copy of the Housing Contract & the Student Rights and Rules please go to www.unh.edu/housing/housinginfo/roomboardagreement.html