

## HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### I. **ROLL CALL (18/29 present)**

- A. Tyler Sesker - **Present**
- B. Hamza Aziz - **Present**
- C. Jonathan Swap - **Present**
- D. Laura Howard - **Present**
- E. Nishita Ghanate - **Present**
- F. Rachel Liesegang - **Present**
- G. David Armstrong - Absent
- H. William Whitehurst Jr. - Absent
- I. Adrian Mamaril - **Present (via Zoom)**
- J. Stephanie McKee - Absent
- K. Brianna Kamdoum - **Present (via Zoom)**
- L. Carson Breus - **Present (via Zoom)**
- M. Tim Dodson - **Present**
- N. Maille Bowerman - **Present (via Zoom)**
- O. Alexander Church - **Present**
- P. Kasra Lekan - **Present (via Zoom)**
- Q. Lukas Lehman - **Present**
- R. Daniel Elliott - Absent
- S. MK O'Boyle - **Present**
- T. Brian Florenzo - Absent
- U. Lam-Phong Pham - Absent
- V. Emily Brobbey - Absent
- W. Sophie Campbell - Absent
- X. Skylar Tessler - Absent
- Y. Quana Dennis - **Present**
- Z. Matthew Bonner - Absent
- AA. Brendan Puglisi - Absent
- BB. Jennifer Bowyer - **Present (via Zoom)**
- CC. Karl Frisch - **Present (via Zoom)**

### II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. None.

### III. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

- A. Hamza Aziz, Chair
  1. SCPS representatives have been elected: Jennifer Bowyer and Karl Frisch. Thanks UBE for their assistance in conducting the election.
  2. OCP/Data Portal Updates: Worked with partners in ITS to update Honor's online case processing system (OCP) to reflect new sanctioning process. We will eventually transition to SafeGrounds, the University-wide record-keeping system for conduct.

The UJC switched over a few months ago, and we are soon to follow.

3. Faculty Senate Executive Council
  - a) Meeting with Faculty Senate Executive Council this Friday, in preparation for full senate presentation in late-October.
4. Meeting with the Provost and Deans with Brianna Kamdoum: Update to follow next meeting.
- B. Laura Howard, Vice Chair for Hearings
  1. First Honor Hearing under the multi-sanction system was today, thanks panelists for participation. Next Hearing is on October 21, and is an open hearing. Asks representatives serving on the Panel for Guilt to keep an eye out for their panelist training schedules.
- C. Nishita Ghanate, Vice Chair for Investigations
  1. 3 active investigations.
- D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
  1. A Guilty Panel for Sanction is happening this Tuesday. Next IR Panel for Sanction on October 22 after Committee.
- E. Rachel Liesegang, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
  1. Having another SO/Committee dinner next week.
- F. Tyler Sesker, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
  1. 2 new co-sponsorship requests, will have updates in the next couple weeks.
- G. Lukas Lehman, Vice Chair for the Treasury
  1. Updating the budget with new expenses.

#### IV. **SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

- A. Policies and Procedures Subcommittee
  1. Tim Dodson: Have been working on community engagement, the XYZ Case Summary, and apology letter guidelines. Will be meeting this Friday at 3pm in the Trial Room (Newcomb 480)
- B. Faculty Advisory Committee
  1. Brianna Kamdoum: Meeting with the Provosts this week about AI and Honor's relationships with each school, and their understandings of the Honor system.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee
  1. Tyler Sesker: 1:1 meeting with CRDAC members to plan for goals for this year and working on the focus groups goals and logistics.

#### V. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. SCPS Representative Introductions
  1. Karl Frisch, SCPS: Looking forward to onboarding and being involved.
  2. Jennifer Bowyer, SCPS: Fourth year graduating in May, excited to learn and contribute.
- B. Quana Dennis, EDU: The Education School is hosting a Paint a Pumpkin with Honor event on Friday, October 27, from 12:30-2 p.m. in the courtyard outside of Bavaro Hall.
- C. Hamza Aziz, CLAS: Goal of meeting with all directors/chairs—reached out to all 45

program directors/department chairs, and are meeting with everyone one-on-one to share the Honor booklet with them and receive their feedback. Meetings will occur throughout the remainder of the semester. Offers to share resources in terms of email template, tracking spreadsheet, etc. if other school representatives want to pursue similar initiative.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Community Engagement Sanction

1. Hamza Aziz: As we have not met quorum, we can vote on modifying Bylaws next week, if representative motions.
2. Alexander Church: Hopes we can come to consensus and take a vote soon. It really is for such a limited number of cases and can mean so many different things, when we're thinking about the language we're putting in our Bylaws, so our sanctioning guidelines should be succinct and agreed upon by all of Committee. Almost all of the community engagements ideas proposed by P&P fall under "Amends", so they can consider under that. I hesitate for the Panel for Sanction to impose community engagement on students who have not proposed it already, so it should not be in the Bylaws.
3. Nishita Ghanate: We should leave it in the Bylaws, since the Constitution says Panel for Sanction members can sanction however they deem appropriate and most restorative, so removing it from the Bylaws will not remove it from consideration/possible implementation. We should put it in the Bylaws so we can ensure that it can only be used in ways that are entirely effective. Even if it only works in one case, we should leave it in the Bylaws. Also, as Committee members, we are the ones on the Panel for Sanction, so if we think it is inappropriate, we can tailor our actions to that.
4. Jonathan Swap: It is not the best use of our resources time and energy-wise, if we are working on resources for really specific cases. We should work on sanctions that are widely effective, since we only have an hour a week together, and sanctions that only work when in one sanction should not be in the bylaws, since it can get really murky when people try to apply it to other situations.
5. Lukas Lehman: I don't see a need to remove it, we can just never use it. We make the decisions for sanctioning, so we can not use it. We can just leave it and not touch it.
6. Tim Dodson: From the P&P perspective, we're talking about this tonight because Committee asked for further information. The constitution and the Bylaws leave a lot of discretion to the Panel for Sanction, and describing the narrow use of these sanctions helps guide them in thinking about and coming to a decision.
7. Hamza Aziz: Agrees that we only have an hour a week, but representatives have been requesting it, but we do not have to keep talking about it if people do not want to.

B. Proactive Academic Integrity Initiatives

1. Hamza Aziz: Has heard from community partners that it seems like the Honor Committee is talking about sanctioning a lot, which is fair because we have been implementing a multi-sanction system. But we should talk about proactive things Committee can be doing to prevent Honor offenses.

**What initiatives can we implement to actively foster a culture of academic integrity within the UVA community? What root causes of academic dishonesty can be identified/addressed? Can we establish partnerships or collaborations with other organization (e.g., the Writing Center) to share knowledge and resources?**

- a) Hamza Aziz: The Writing Center offers one-on-one consultations where students can help each other with the writing process, so maybe Honor can work with the Writing Center for one-on-one citation help.
- b) Jonathan Swap: Wants to work with the Student Disability Alliance to support people during final exams. People with accommodations can get different testing layouts, during final exams, these rooms fill up, and students who need these accommodations are not able to access them. This is a big challenge for students, so Honor should figure out a way to help, like offering a temporary space or lobbying for more space for extra testing centers. We can't have a Community of Trust if people aren't having their accommodations honored and respected. People already have to jump through a lot of hoops for getting accommodations, so this is something I am interested.
- c) Nishita Ghanate: Wants to reach out to the Accommodations Access Fund, which helps low-income students get accommodations for testing. This is a great way to help people get what they need. We can also do a better job of using our advisors to help students get extensions on papers and things.
- d) Hamza Aziz: We should dedicate a class in advisor training to make sure advisors feel equipped to do this kind of advocacy.
- e) MK O'Boyle: It would be neat to find a way to help students who have had "close calls", where it is a gray area. We can help support professors who wish to mentor students who are struggling.
- f) Alexander Church: We can promote a lot of the tutoring resources in the E-School. People may be driven to commit Honor offenses if they don't know where to go when they don't understand content will help Committee build relationships with other groups and point people toward resources that are under-utilized.
- g) Rachel Liesegang: Honor could also increase marketing for resources that are already there. Helping students who need accommodations discover the Accommodations Access Fund would be great to lift up other organizations.
- h) MK O'Boyle: To your point, the law school every week shares resources about mental health resources.
- i) Brianna Kamdoum: Loves the support officer dinners, but we need to do

more engagement with the university community, so we should open it up to the general public. We can send some weekly invite so community members can partake in these conversations and use their feedback at Committee as part of their community input.

- j) Hamza Aziz: In the College, I admire the “take your professor out to lunch” program run by the College Council. We could do an inverse, where Honor Committee sets aside a coffee fund, and we can invite students from our schools to share perspectives. I’ve learned the most about Honor from conversations with random students.
  - k) Laura Howard: We should also just reach out to students about what they want Honor to be doing, and what they need from Honor. We can also ask them if they have any organizations they would like to promote. We should have a feedback form where we can hear from them at any point.
- C. Hamza Aziz: Had a conversation at our last Exec meeting on Friday about events occurring globally and locally, to reach out to us if they want support from Honor. We are working with Carson Breus who is meeting with the Provost on Tuesday. This week, we are hoping to get these ideas off the ground and release a statement.

#### VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Bryan: I am a new support officer. Thanks Honor for all the work they are doing, learned a lot from this meeting. Had an idea about proactive initiatives, maybe we do “finals pushes” more often, because we have the resources and the educators because there are more times that are stressful during the school year than finals.
- B. Evan Pivonka: As a professor, we do not approve SDAC accommodations, it is a federal law to accommodate them. I’ve always thought that the real policy that aligns with Honor bets is to allow people to take exams wherever they want, and that these special proctoring rules are burdensome and not necessarily in the spirit of Honor. We should dig even deeper to see why we are proctoring this group of students, whereas other students can take exams wherever they want, as long as the professor’s okay with it.
- C. Jonathan Swap: That is a good point. Professors are not always on that same level of understanding, and students sometimes need a quiet space or the ability to step out, and those conditions make it hard. For example, if you have a class at 9, and there is another one at 10, you don’t get your full time. I have had really positive experiences at the test taking centers, and I know a lot of other students value them a lot.
- D. Evan Pivonka: I’m sure the SDAC people would love to come to Committee to talk about changing policies and opening up spaces, they’re great people.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The Honor Committee will meet in person in Newcomb Hall on Sunday, October 22nd, at 7:00 p.m.