

HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES– OCTOBER 29th, 2023

I. ROLL CALL (18/29 present)

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. William Hancock: As requested, will share a brief update on the restorative ethics seminar sanction. We have had three sessions so far of the restorative ethics seminar. Students have engaged so far and are comfortable sharing critiques of the Honor System with us, too. The response papers are also reaching a level of depth that we had not expected and touch on their personal experience and what Honor means to our community. We invited Hamza Aziz, Nishita Ghanate, and MK O'Boyle to attend our most recent meeting about cases, XYZ case studies, and the big-picture vision of Honor.

III. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- A. Hamza Aziz, Chair
 - 1. Meeting tomorrow with President's Chief of Staff and Chief Creative Officer regarding potential Popular Assembly partnerships with Rachel Liesegang, such as a Carr's Hill dinner or a Run with Jim. We are also asking for their advice on how we can reach more of the community.
 - 2. Will be reaching out to all representatives this week to set up individual/school meetings, particularly with those who have staffed Panel for Sanctions, and with others for checking in.
 - 3. Meeting with Marsh Pattie tomorrow.
 - 4. Invitation to Honor Trick or Treating on the Lawn table this Tuesday, 5-7pm outside of Room 37 West; senior support officers will be helping table.
- B. Laura Howard, Vice Chair for Hearings
 - 1. Third Honor Hearing of the semester is on November 10. Asks representatives who were randomly selected to serve as panelists. Explains expectations for the role of the Official Observer and asks for volunteers.
- C. Nishita Ghanate, Vice Chair for Investigations
 - 1. 3 active investigations.
- D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
 - 1. IR Panel for Sanction reviewed two cases after last Sunday's meeting.
- E. Rachel Liesegang, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
 - 1. Finals pushes are in the works. Another SO/Committee dinner this week.
- F. Tyler Sesker, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
 - 1. Hamza Aziz: The Honor Committee co-sponsored a griddle at Pancakes for Parkinson's this Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., is looking for people to staff the griddle.
- G. Lukas Lehman, Vice Chair for the Treasury
 - 1. None.

IV. **SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

- A. Policies and Procedures Subcommittee
 - 1. Tim Dodson: Goal is to have an interim report for Committee by Thanksgiving break about the implementation of the multi-sanction system and the key takeaways of how the Panel for Sanction has been playing out. We covered a range of topics, but the group has not reached a clear consensus on specific recommendations yet. The interim report will address the pre-hearing conference, how arguments are presented to the Panel for Sanction, and the role of the reporter in the Panel for Sanction. Hamza Aziz will be gathering qualitative feedback from representatives on the Panel for Sanction.
- B. Faculty Advisory Subcommittee
 - 1. Brianna Kamdoun: This coming week, have a meeting with the Provost's Office and meeting with Dean Unsworth about how we can provide support for international students through the library system. Will schedule another faculty Advisory meeting.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Subcommittee
 - 1. None.

V. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. Jennifer Bowyer, SCPS: Used the samples to craft an introduction letter on behalf of Karl Frish and herself to send to the SCPS school. Will send the email to the professors about mentorship tomorrow.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. None.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. November 13th Anniversary Discussion

- 1. Brianna Kamdoun: This coming November 13 will be the anniversary of the lives lost and injured last year. Some of the Honor Committee's efforts last fall included providing academic support for students, communicating for students who were facing difficulties, and providing emotional support for students. There will be a lot of emotions this year, so the question is what role can Honor play? We can provide an open space for people who need it or help people communicate what they need.
- 2. Hamza Aziz: Student leaders on L2K are working with student athletes to organize a remembrance initiative on south Lawn during the day, including notes for students to write.
- 3. Brianna Kamdoun: My meeting with the Provost's Office will see what they are doing, and I am working with Carson Breus for related projects in the McIntire School of Commerce. We will work together and rotate to support and address whatever matters students are facing.

B. International Student Discussion, Continued.

- 1. Recap of last week's points
 - a) Hamza Aziz: Started talking about international student outreach and the fact of overrepresentation in the Honor system. Kasra Lekan talked about leaning in on resources and pre-existing student groups, Brianna Kamdoun talked about the international students fair that Honor used to conduct years ago. Our guiding question was: what proactive measures can we take to support understanding of academic integrity, such as specific education and outreach initiative, and mitigate spotlighting?
- 2. Identify next steps for progress:
 - a) Hamza Aziz: We are taking the international student fair idea and are planning two international student days for direct, intensive outreach for international students, on Monday, November 27th, and Tuesday, November 28th. We have reached to MSS, the International Residence College, Global P2P, CAELC, and other groups. We see this as a mini-Poplar Assembly, but with more focused outreach and leaning on programs that already exist. We are working to have marketing materials by Thanksgiving break. I also reached out to Student Council, who is planning a community event for the students who stay here over Thanksgiving break.

If these days are successful, we can do this every year. Our goal is to have these focused days and learn how to remain engaged throughout our term and the coming years. This will be an intensive, organized period, where a lot of international students learn about it.

- b) Brianna Kamdoun: Suggests reaching out to the IRC about their weekly lunches.
- c) Hamza Aziz: I reached out to the IRC Prime Minister, hopefully we can tap into some of their existing events.
- d) Adrian Mamaril: You're getting conversations started in a lot of places, are you guys fact-finding? When you do this event, it'll just be Honor at the helm, and it is not co-sponsored with other groups?
- e) Hamza Aziz: We have been asking groups if they would like to co-host an event with us. We have been saying that we would like to host an event, and asking them what they think the best event will be. We hope to lean into community circles that already exist.
- f) Adiran Mamaril: Is the Outreach Day different?
- g) Hamza Aziz: That would be those. The Outreach Days are the days we are co-hosting the events.
- h) Brianna Kamdoun: Is the fair distinct from the Outreach Days?
- i) Will Hancock: On each day, the events are all for international students.
- j) Adrian Mamaril: So, you are getting different centers and groups to pile up on those days?
- k) Will Hancock: Yes. We are asking for feedback on Honor, but also informing people on topics that are important and the Honor system.
- l) Hamza Aziz: Is there a better name we can come up with than "Outreach Days"?
- m) Adrian Mamaril: It's very much you-guys led. P2P is very new and addresses a community that barely exists. When it comes to undergrads, the best thing is to work with P2P and grab CIOs that are filled with international students as well. Mostly grad students come to groups for international students, recommends looking at groups that more undergrads are involved in. It would be good to get a reply from P2P, since they have a really good database, and you could maybe get them to bring their first years to these events.
- n) Hamza Aziz: We are also planning focus groups with CRDAC. Tyler Sesker is leading this, and we will wait on drafting questions until she is here. This is CRDAC's main project, and they want to tease out themes that they are getting from within certain groups.

C. Investigation Holds Over School Recesses

1. Nishita Ghanate: Proposes a Bylaw amendment to vote on when we have quorum. Proposes that we put all case-related proceedings on hold during non-school days. Last term, Committee started continuing investigations over non-school days, and based on what happened this summer, based on case efficiency and quality of investigations, it is better to put them back on hold. Many SOs are unavailable over the summer, so it is hard to staff cases. Professors were also less inclined to be

involved over the summer, some students had to wait quite a while to deal with the IR proceedings, which added more stress to the students. Scheduling interviews was incredibly hard, since people had part-time jobs and internships. The goal of increasing case efficiency by continuing processing over the summer did not happen. Thomas Ackleson says he believed the quality of investigations declined over the summer.

- a) Currently, Bylaws Article IV: “In general, however, the Honor Committee suspends all hearing- and sanctioning-related proceedings during non-school days.” Proposed change: “In general, however, the Honor Committee suspends all **case**-related proceedings during non-school days.”
- b) Thomas Ackleson: Is not a representative sample of all of the SOs who worked over the summer, but cases were not more efficient because scheduling tended to be a problem. One case would have had its hearing at the same time if the investigation had started at the start of the semester, but it started in May. But, there is also a big issue with telling someone they are reported in May, then waiting a few months. People could forget details. It would be easier to schedule and more efficient to do it over the school year, but the actual result of the investigation may be improved by continuing through the summer. We could do a hybrid with some interviews during the summer, then put it on hold, but the rest is just gathering documents, which isn't time-sensitive.
- c) Hamza Aziz: A related question if that according to our current Bylaws, we would not host an IR Panel for Sanction on a non-school day.
- d) Nishita Ghanate: The Bylaws do not mandate a pause, so if there is a unique circumstance, we can continue processing, but I think we should have a general standard to put them on pause. Before, we would start the IR period when the student wanted, so that option would be left up to the student, even under the new bylaw change.
- e) Hamza Aziz: This also applies to winter break and Thanksgiving break.
- f) Thomas Ackleson: Is it better to receive a report and delay it for a few months, or work on it over the course of a few months? We should think about what's best for the student, and perhaps their access to their advisor.
- g) Rachel; Liesegang: Is there a possibility for a choice? They can choose if they know they will be busy or if they want to wrap it up as soon as possible.
- h) Nishita Ghanate: Yes. If they want to continue their case, they could make that happen.
- i) Adrian Mamaril: Asks how often this has happened in previous year. I'm trying to think why there is a build-up of cases in May.
- j) Hamza Aziz: We usually have more reports at the end of the semester versus other points. This past summer was the first time we continued doing investigations over the summer. In the past, it would always go on hold, unless the student asked for it to happen as soon as possible. The report is always shared immediately, and before this summer, they could choose after that to wait or keep going.

- k) Laura Howard: Asks which option students tend choose, to delay or continue.
- l) Hamza Aziz: It's hard to tell with this summer, because people were also deciding to continue under single sanction or do multi-sanction.
- m) Nishita Ghanate: We had around 15 cases starting on July 1, and about a third delayed their start until after July 7. From the student perspective, almost every student requested to put their case on hold until July 1 for multi-sanction. Most students said that they felt less stressed about the case during that wait, because they knew it was on hold, but they felt a lot of stress when they were waiting for meetings and interviews to get scheduled after that.
- n) Carson Breus: Held a Panel for Sanction over the summer. None of the students liked that it was still happening, and most of them wanted to wait until the school year started. We could also do asynchronous interviews over the summer.
- o) Alexander Church: I'm not sure how I feel about telling the student that their case will go on hold, I am more comfortable about giving them that option. If it comes to case where we do not have enough advisors and the student may not be able to contact their advisor through the whole case process, then we should not do it. We also must ensure that reporter interviews can happen in a reasonable amount of time. If neither of those are the case, we cannot do our investigations properly, and we should not do case processing. It depends on if reporters and advisors are available and if investigators can do Zoom interviews given the availability of students and reporters.
- p) Nishita Ghanate: Staffing was incredibly difficult, and the quality of advising definitely went down. SOs needed a lot more reminders than the rest of the semester. Reporters were way less likely to complete a reporter response interview during the summer than during the school year.
- q) Adrian Mamaril: Is it feasible to poll the SOs and see if they have any interest? This decision requires their buy-in to begin with. The hardest part for me is that if they have to wait, they can't make solid plans about their academic future when there is a lot of uncertainty about the case process, but there is a lot of problem when there is nobody there to process the case. I wonder who will be giving attention to reporter, what does it look like if we pause over the summer, and inform them at a more reasonable time?
- r) Hamza Aziz: I would say we have strong requirements to provide notice efficiently, and delaying notice for three months might not meet that requirement.
- s) Jonathan Swap: I'm split because we need capable support officers who can support students and do their jobs effectively, and am thinking about if that's feasible. As students are making plans for their academic future or their IR, they should have that option available. Asks for a review of standard procedure.

- t) Hamza Aziz: Standard procedure is to continue the investigation over the summer. There is a question of if we are holding an IR Panel for Sanction for them?
- u) Alexander Church: The more that I think about it, if we inform a student about the report, their advisor needs to be available for them, regardless of if the case continues. I am very hesitant to delay notice, it doesn't feel right to withhold information for three months. We should have intentional conversations about which is the least bad option that allows student to have the most say possible in their case process and that allows our investigation to go well.
- v) Thomas Ackleson: I was on a case that was investigated in the summer, and I believe that the quality of the interview, such as recollection of details, may be called into question. I really stress it is valuable for the quality of the investigation and evidence at the Hearing, if there is a big gap between the events. In the real legal system, there would not be such a big gap, not that we are the legal system, but there is a reason for it.
- w) Adrian Mamaril: This shows that we need to gather the capacity of the SOs to work over the summer. The situation requires flexibility, so is hesitant about having a blanket idea. I wonder if it should be made by discretion, but we can still have a standard. SOs might have fast-changing plans over the summer.
- x) Hamza Aziz: Already agreed with Nishita Ghanate on a survey to send to SOs. Will review results next meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Will Hancock: In the big picture, this is an example of a reason why we should recombine the pools at some point.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The Honor Committee will meet in person in Newcomb Hall on Sunday, November 5th, at 7:00 p.m.