

## HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING

April 5, 2020

### I. ROLL CALL

### II. COMMUNITY INPUT

- A. None

### III. OFFICER REPORTS

#### A. Vice Chair for Community Relations (Lucy Krasker)

- 1. Back after recovering from COVID-19 (get better soon!). \$12,859 in cosponsorships distributed to 23 different organizations, included education requirement to each cosponsorship for organizations. Remainder of \$15,000 annual cosponsorship budget donated to Student Council for mutual aid initiative in response to COVID-19 pandemic and student financial needs. Continued Lawn Chair insurance program and introduced \$500 graduate student research grant as well as Honor Stock Pitch contest in COMM.

#### B. Vice Chair for Education (Mary Beth Barksdale)

- 1. Very successful year for education – over 120+ different education events despite semester being cut short by COVID-19 situation, and high turnout at education events notwithstanding issues with voter turnout for amendments.

#### C. Vice Chair for Investigations (Sally Greenberg)

- 1. Reflected on successes of past year in case processing and thanks to Committee members.

#### D. Vice Chair for Hearings (Alex Spratley)

- 1. Offered thanks to Committee members for assistance over the year.

#### E. Chair (Lillie Lyon)

- 1. Newly elected Executive Committee for the coming year. Chair: Ryan Keane (BATT), VCI: Andy Chambers (CLAS), VCH: Zainab Aziz (SEAS), VCE: Madhav Nair (CLAS), VCCR: Isabelle Edwards (EDUC). Will be transitioning this week. Reminder to send out school email from representatives regarding Honor and COVID-19.
- 2. Chair LL made closing remarks for the term and thanked Committee members for their time and effort.

### IV. SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS

#### A. Policies & Procedures Subcommittee (Committee Co-Chair: Stephen Paul)

- 1. Appeals process report will be finalized for next year's Committee this week.

#### B. Faculty & TA Advisory Committee (Committee Co-Chair: Lucian Mirra)

- 1. None.

#### C. Investigative Procedures Working Group (Chair: Sally Greenberg)

- 1. None.

#### D. Joint Cases Working Group (Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Thompson and Todd Truesdale)

1. None.

**V. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. ARCH: None.
- B. BATT: Letter to faculty finalized.
- C. CLAS: None.
- D. COMM: Stock Pitch Competition complete. First and second place winners donated winnings to UVA Health for COVID-19 response and third place winner donated to Student Council mutual aid program.
- E. EDUC: None.
- F. GBUS: None.
- G. GSAS: New representative and winner chosen for Honor research grant. Currently discussing credit/no credit for GSAS.
- H. NURS: None.
- I. LAW: None.
- J. MED: None.
- K. SEAS: None.
- L. SCPS: None.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Motion to Amend I-Panel Accusation
  1. From last November – providing a way for Prehearing to clarify and modify I-Panel accusation if accusation is too ambiguous or vague by sending accusation back to I-Panel. BATT HN explains context and implementation of this motion. Passed by vote of 19-0-2 and will take effect on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Motion to Sever Joint Cases
  1. Discussed last week for Hearing Chair and Hearing Observer to hear joint cases in separate hearings for individual students. Passed by vote of 22-0-0 and will take effect on April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Community Response Interview
  1. Discussed in prior weeks and clarifies VCI's discretion to provide evidence or testimony for community response interviews. Passed by vote of 22-0-0 and will take effect on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Definition of Stealing
  1. Chair LL summarized a situation where a local landlord threatened to report students to Honor for failure to pay rent due to coronavirus-related financial difficulties. Discussion has ensued in the student community about whether it is appropriate for Honor to adjudicate these kinds of cases and whether failure to pay rent should be considered

“stealing” under Honor. This could potentially have a disproportionate impact on low-income students.

2. CLAS DW offered historical context on stealing as an Honor offense and the history of the Bad Check Committee as a past example of how Honor has dealt with financial Honor-related issues in the past. Bad Check Committee existed as a sub-committee of Honor which only adjudicated students passing bad checks to local merchants. Eventually phased out by the 21<sup>st</sup> century because Committee members felt that Honor was becoming too much of a “debt collector” for students. LAW TT notes that since leases are so variable, very difficult to fairly adjudicate between different students. CLAS LL brought up a proposal from years prior about dismissing certain kinds of cases outside of Honor’s jurisdiction. GBUS BI believes that even though this is listed under “stealing,” it really falls under “lying,” and as long as the student entered into the lease under good faith, it’s difficult to say that this would actually be “lying”. He also expressed that he was upset about that landlords would act in this way. BATT HN states that she has received many inquiries about this issue and thinks we need to respond but she is uncomfortable about making any long-term changes on the last day of our term. Chair LL states that we likely cannot make any decision tonight, but we can work with new Committee to address the issue expediently. GSAS CM proposes that Committee could suspend processing of COVID-19 related financial cases. The Committee generally agreed that we should respond expediently and felt strongly that taking these kinds of cases would not be inappropriate in light of the pandemic. They agreed that we should communicate this view to the next Committee as they begin tomorrow morning to take quick action.

## **VIII. COMMUNITY INPUT**

- A. TCA Achintya asks if the situation regarding student possessions being moved out of residence halls near the Medical Center for healthcare workers could potentially fall under Honor’s jurisdiction if students refused to pay the fee for accessing their possessions in storage. Chair LL states that it would be unlikely to fall under Honor.
- B. Mackenzie Williams asked how the next Committee felt about the rent situation. She also asked if the memo regarding this situation being passed onto the next Committee would be made public. Chair LL states that it would be an internal memo but the next Committee would be free to make an announcement.
- C. Patrick Roney thanked the Committee for their service to the University.
- D. Hibah Berhanu discusses that many felt that Honor’s policies regarding rent and financial issues potentially has a disproportionate impact on low-income students. She stressed the urgency of the situation and advocated that Honor should take action quickly to reassure students and let them know that they were not in danger from Honor.

**IX. CLOSED SESSION**