

HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - MAY 14th, 2023

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. ROLL CALL (16/23 present)

- A. Tyler Sesker - Absent
- B. Hamza Aziz - **Present**
- C. Jonathan Swap - **Present**
- D. Laura Howard- **Present**
- E. Nishita Ghanate - Absent
- F. Rachel Liesegang - **Present**
- G. David Armstrong - Absent
- H. William Whitehurst Jr. - Absent
- I. Adrian Mamaril - **Present**
- J. Stephanie McKee - **Present**
- K. Brianna Kamdoum - **Present**
- L. Carson Breus - **Present**
- M. Tim Dodson - Absent
- N. Maille Bowerman - **Present**
- O. Kasra Lekan - **Present**
- P. Lukas Lehman - **Present**
- Q. Daniel Elliot - **Present**
- R. MK O'Boyle - **Present**
- S. Brian Florenzo - **Present**
- T. Lam-Phong Pham - **Present**
- U. Emily Brobbey - Absent
- V. Sophie Campbell - Absent
- W. Skylar Tessler - **Present**

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

III. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- A. Hamza Aziz, Chair
 - 1. Two vacant seats have been filled.
 - a) Stephanie McKee in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Skylar Tessler in the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
 - 2. End-of-Semester: Letter shared by the Chair with case processing updates and summaries, and the survey on sanctions, will be shared early this week.
 - a) Also mentions how community members can join virtual Committee meetings this summer.
 - 3. Convocation Update
 - a) Meeting with Dean Enoch to streamline and shorten Honor induction – there will be no Honor keynote speaker and University leadership will stay on the stage.
 - 4. Orientation Update
 - a) Meeting with Dean Enoch about giving a brief, five-minute speech and funding an ice truck at each session for first-year orientation sessions
 - 5. Physical Letter

- a) Met with Virginia Carter about bringing back the initiative of the Chair sending every incoming first year a physical letter in early June.
 - 6. Provost Update
 - a) Hosting a Syllabus workshop with the goal of helping professors to acknowledge AI in their syllabi, will meet with the Center for Teaching Excellence and working with FAC on this.
- B. Laura Howard, Vice Chair for Hearings
 - 1. CHI language for Bylaws
 - a) Working on language with Hamza Aziz and Lukas Lehman for providing monetary support to students who have demonstrated need in the CHI process
- C. Nishita Ghanate, Vice Chair for Investigations
 - 1. None.
- D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
 - 1. Carson Breus: Sanctioning Guidelines Working Group met on May 9 and is reflecting on the UJC Guideline document, asks Committee for ideas and feedback on nuances and descriptions of sanctions
 - a) Hamza Aziz: Having a basic template will be helpful in making the sanctioning letter that will be shared with the student.
- E. Rachel Liesegang, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
 - 1. Several finals pushes, successful Honor semi-formal,
- F. Tyler Sesker, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
 - 1. None.
- G. Lukas Lehman, Vice Chair of the Treasury
 - 1. None.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- A. Faculty Advisory Committee
 - 1. Brianna Kamdoun: FAC will be structured to reflect differences in how long faculty have been at UVA and how they use Honor, it will have roughly 9 support officers and 5 faculty members from recent hires to long-standing professors. Support Officers will work directly with the schools and their respective Honor Committee Representatives as well. This will establish more direct points of contact and engagement between the Committee and Support Officers. Many faculty members are in a hectic time with exams and have a limited summer availability, so they would prefer a town hall in the next academic term to inform them of the changes that have been made and solicit feedback.
- B. Policies & Procedures Committee
 - 1. Hamza Aziz: P&P will meet once a week or biweekly until the end of May, their first meeting is tomorrow and everyone is welcome to join.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee
 - 1. None.
- D. Sanctioning Guidelines Working Group
 - 1. Mentioned in Carson Breus's Executive Report.

V. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- A. Undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences
 - 1. Jonathan Swap: The community event on May 9 with the MSC was successful.

- B. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
 - 1. Hamza Aziz: Stephanie McKee is filling the second seat.
- C. School of Law
 - 1. MK O'Boyle: The law school will send out the survey this week or next week, since the original time was during finals.
- D. School of Nursing
 - 1. None.
- E. School of Architecture
 - 1. None.
- F. Darden School of Business
 - 1. None.
- G. School of Medicine
 - 1. None.
- H. Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy
 - 1. Hamza Aziz: Skylar Tessler is filling the second seat.
- I. McIntire School of Commerce
 - 1. None.
- J. School of Engineering & Applied Science
 - 1. Kasra Lekan: Received two reports and am meeting with one of the professors. Successfully asked a professor to clarify what AI would mean for their exam, would like consistency across syllabi.
 - a) Hamza Aziz: Spoke to Brianna Kamdoun about updating Honor's provided language and encouraging faculty to add to Honor's statement.
 - b) Brianna Kamdoun: Applications of AI vary across schools, so FAC will work with Committee to develop them for each school, to then be proposed to Deans.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Living Honor Update
 - 1. Hamza Aziz: Currently an initiative by Alumni Hall, would like Honor to be more involved. An example is a letter that first-year students write to themselves on the night of Convocation that will be delivered in 3-4 years, about the Community of Trust and how they would like to grow. Living Honor merchandise will also be made over the summer and distributed to the first years. Other ideas include umbrellas for students to use in academic buildings, and encourages representatives to think of new initiatives.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Timing of new IR– Offer IR decision after a more substantive report
 - 1. Hamza Aziz: Provides a summary of the Honor process for reports, the Informed Retraction, and how an IR Meeting takes place after the initial investigation. The initiative is to move up the IR decision: immediately after a report, no investigators will be staffed yet, instead, the student will be presented with the basic facts of the case and they can decide if they want to take accountability for the offense or not. Currently, there is no standardization of reports (vary from vague to detailed), Carson Breus and Nishita Ghanate started to work on a list of comprehensive standardized questions for reports.

2. Lam-Phong Pham: Biggest complaint about the Honor process is that it is drawn out, so it is appreciated that it helps with efficiency.
3. Rachel Liesgang: A more detailed report would be very beneficial regardless of whether this change is made.
4. MK O'Boyle: Asks if students do not know all of the details when they are first reported
 - a) Hamza Aziz: A student will receive a brief summary in their Notice of Report letter, and will see the Reporter Interview in their IR Letter. The missing information from the report would usually be filled in by the reporter interview.
 - b) MK O'Boyle: It makes sense to make this change.
5. Hamza Aziz: P&P will write bylaw language for this change.

B. Representative Accountability

1. Impeachment– Standard Panel role? Or Committee proceeding?
 - a) Hamza Aziz: Now that there is impeachment power, it is a question of where it should go. Once the Standards Panel makes its recommendation, should it go to the entire Committee for a vote?
 - (1) Jonathan Swap: Asks if the Standards Panel changes with every matter.
 - (2) Hamza Aziz: The Standards Panel consists of the Chair, 2 support officers, and 2 Committee members. It is not a standing committee.
 - (3) MK O'Boyle: Asks how the members of the Standards Panel are selected.
 - (4) Hamza Aziz: The Chair will fill the seats according to the bylaws.
 - b) Jonathan Swap: Encourages random selection of members.
 - c) MK O'Boyle: Having random selection is a good idea.
 - d) Hamza Aziz: To clarify, should the Standards Panel make the impeachment happen?
 - e) Daniel Elliot: The Standards Panel should have a variety of things they can do, and impeachment power ought to be left to the Committee as a whole, and the Committee should retain that power.
 - (1) Rachel Liesegang: Impeachment should be made by the whole Committee
 - (2) MK O'Boyle: Agree with Rachel Liesegang and Daniel Elliot, asks if this is regular.
 - (3) Daniel Elliot: Impeachment is new.
 - (4) Hamza Aziz: The Standards Panel has never been convened, as far as he knows.
 - f) Jonathan Swap: Is impeachment unanimous?
 - (1) Daniel Elliot: It will be nearly impossible to get unanimity, but a simple majority is not appropriate. It should be a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.
 - g) Hamza Aziz: Reads the UJC impeachment process as a potential model.
 - (1) Daniel Elliot: As an alternative to petitions, they could have to convene a Standards Panel, then it would go to the whole Committee. Or, we do not have to have this process, any member could call for the impeachment of another member.

- (2) Laura Howard: It makes sense to have the Standards Panel review these claims.
 - (3) Hamza Aziz: According to the bylaws, the Chair decides if something is a Standards Panel matter, and will look into expanding this power to all of Exec.
2. Case workload distribution
- C. Vacancy of seat discussion– Another rep fills from a similar school. Work with the school’s council to receive temporary dispensation of a student from that council/school.
1. Hamza Aziz: The Constitution requires a Committee member from the same school as the Accused Student to be on the Panel for Sanction, how to proceed if there are vacant seats? The ideas are to randomly select an Honor Committee representative, the VCH picks someone from a “close” school, or ask the school’s council to temporarily fill that seat for the purposes of acting as that school’s representative for the Honor Hearing.
 2. Laura Howard: The first two options are not entirely sufficient on their own, so maybe the accused student should be able to pick which of the options they are more comfortable with.
 - a) Daniel Elliot: We must follow our Constitution, so our first priority must be to fill those seats.
 - b) Jonathan Swap: Asks what outreach we do when the semester starts.
 - (1) Hamza Aziz: Emails the school presidents and asks them to appoint someone. Asks for recommendations on the School of Education, and the School of Data Science. Option C seems to be the most legally defensible, so it is most sensible to have that kind of dispensation of temporarily filling a seat. Will work with Laura Howard on a waiver if a student wants a more efficient Hearing to waive this temporary dispensation process.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. The next virtual Honor Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m.