

HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 23, 2024

I. ROLL CALL (18/27 Present)

- A. Mary Holland Mason -- P
- B. Will Hancock -- P
- C. Seamus Oliver -- P
- D. Margaret Zirwas -- A
- E. Laura Howard -- P
- F. Hang Nguyen -- P
- G. Vivian Mok -- P
- H. Simran Havaladar -- P
- I. Ben Makarechian -- P
- J. Ian Novak -- A
- K. Carson Breus -- P
- L. Thomas Ackleson -- P
- M. Sheryl Loden -- P
- N. Alex Church -- P
- O. Michael Sirh -- P
- P. Suleiman Abdulkadir -- P
- Q. Alicia Phan -- A
- R. McKenzie Jones -- A
- S. Cassidy Dufour -- A
- T. Ayda Mengistie -- P
- U. LP Pham -- P
- V. Nile Liu -- A
- W. Hannah Lipinsky -- P
- X. Penelope Molitz -- P
- Y. Brittany Toth -- A
- Z. Meredith DeLong- Maxey -- A
- AA.Loi Dawkins -- A

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

III. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- A. Laura Howard, Chair
 - 1. Meetings with administrators
 - 2. Beginning work with Zoya Masood and Trey Riley on Selections and Recruitment
 - 3. Working with Nitya Varigala and Kayla Kim on a case study for Data and Research
 - 4. Please RSVP for O Day on August 25 and plan on attending Convocation. The link will be in the Committee follow-up email.
 - 5. Met with Alumni Hall about our 2024-2025 budget
 - 6. Approaching implementation of Safe Grounds
 - 7. Presenting at orientations for first years, new faculty, international students, and teaching assistants
- B. Seamus Oliver, Vice Chair for Investigations
 - 1. Students have the option to put on hold for the summer.
 - 2. 10 investigations. 3 on hold, 7 proceeding.
- C. Alex Church, Vice Chair for Hearings

1. Two appeal review panels.
 2. No cases to plan Hearings for yet.
 3. Working with SSOs to revise training and handbook.
 4. Potential changes to how we treat evidence.
- D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
1. PS for 6 cases so far, 2 more scheduled.
- E. Will Hancock, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
1. Dorm talks will be discussed later.
 2. We have a spreadsheet for Committee/SO dinners and hangouts. Will go up in August.
 3. Educators will be paired with reps – working on a new training for them to handle this job. Will be a focus at O Day.
- F. Ian Novak, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
1. Absent.
- G. Thomas Ackleson, Vice Chair for Operations
1. New budget withdraw is underway.
 2. Significant increases in our community spending and internal operations. More co-sponsorships, more internal events for team building, etc.
 3. School budget system will work differently this year – expenses will be approved as they come up and there's no strict cap on any one school's budget. This is to encourage spending for more events.
 4. O-Day logistics are being sorted out. Stay tuned for more information on a bus service to and from Morven. Private transportation is strongly discouraged unless necessary.

IV. **SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

- A. Policies and Procedures Committee
1. Mary Holland Mason: Met once this Summer to discuss non-compliance procedure.
- B. Faculty Advisory Committee
1. Simran Havaldar had not logged on yet.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee
1. Ben Makarechian had not logged on yet.
- D. Data and Research Committee
1. Hang Nguyen: Two meetings so far this summer. Three projects: case study, Safe Grounds, SWG for research. These are ongoing.
- E. Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Sanctions
1. Will Hancock: Working with D&R to research other school's honor systems. We're overhauling the mentorship sanction. Explains current mentorship sanction. My ask is for you to reach out to professor's you know who might be willing to serve as Community of Trust Mentors. We have an email template if you'd like it, and a spreadsheet to track who we've reached out to. First summer meeting is a week from now to discuss more sanctioning guidelines.
 2. Laura Howard: Check your emails for more information.

V. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. Hang Nguyen: GSAS and Honor did an event at the end of last semester; we collected survey responses. Three categories: things people want to know, criticisms, and events people want Honor to do. A lot of the responses are relevant to the whole Committee, but we can disseminate that information. Also: international students at orientation would prefer

case study-style activities to learn more about how Honor works and what counts as a potential offense.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss and vote on the proposed bylaws regarding noncompliance procedures
 1. Mary Holland Mason: This past term there hasn't been a formal procedure. Currently they are referred to exec, and the only sanction is currently expulsion. We have by-law proposals that deal with inconsistency. Explains the policy (ensuring Counsel, voting standard is beyond a reasonable doubt, formalizes witnesses, and three criteria (act, knowledge, and significance) for guilt). The VCS is the "reporter" in this proceeding and the student is termed "referred." No other exec member can be called as a witness, and the scope of evidence is very broad. Opening and closing statements. Witnesses can be questioned by Counsel. It's very similar in structure to a Hearing for Guilt. Protects the rights of the student and the Community.
 2. Will Hancock: Another significant part is KAS. If someone simply forgets a date, that is clearly not Significant. That's a major shift that wasn't covered.
 3. Michael Sirh: Is the sanction still expulsion?
 4. Mary Holland Mason: Yes, it is a blanket sanction.
 5. Hang Nguyen: during a PG, is it also a simple majority vote for each component?
 6. Mary Holland Mason: The VCS is the primary witness for the Community, so neither they or the Chair are voting members. Only five vote. I believe it is a simple majority for each criteria.
 7. Laura Howard: Yes, it's a simple majority.
 8. Hang Nguyen: Why do we think that a noncompliance vote should be different from a guilty verdict?
 9. Will Hancock: math matches up (3/5ths), and all other parts of the bylaws are for majority vote (precedent).
 10. Seamus Oliver: I checked the by-laws: it's a 3/4th vote for Knowledge, not 2/3rds.
- B. Discuss updates on "AI Dorm Talks"
 1. Laura Howard: Overviews Dorm Talks. We want to adapt this idea to talk about AI, why academic integrity is important, and a little bit of introducing new students to Reps. We met with Dean Scott of HRL to explore how the program can be successful. We can't make it mandatory this year. Met with HRL co-chairs to help encourage dorm talks.
 2. Will Hancock: Two main things: the information we want to disseminate and designing a survey to gather a lot of data from first years. Kayla Kim et al have started putting together questions.
 3. Thomas Ackleson: Are there plans to hand out merch/food, etc.? Orders need to be placed soon.
 4. Laura Howard: Yes, we will work on that.
- C. Share plans for orientation and recruitment
 1. Laura Howard: Are there any plans representatives have to help with recruitment?

2. Hang Nguyen: Yes, we will be attending grad-student events at Orientation. Explains how this will work.
3. Laura Howard: Carson and Simran will be speaking at COMM Orientation and an article is being written about Honor.
4. Will Hancock: Laura, can you share about the people you've met re: recruitment?
5. Laura Howard: We are interested in diversifying the SO Pool in a variety of ways, everything you can think of (demographics, schools, age, etc.) More social media interaction. The second year Counsel would like to work with us to partner with them. Also reaching out to groups across Grounds. We may do an application workshop. We're open to other ideas too.
6. Thomas Ackleson: Engineering Business minor, other specific groups that are interested in law-adjacent stuff. Good to target specific groups like that.
7. Laura Howard: I agree, and Zoya had an idea to interview you and other engineers about why you joined Honor.
8. Hang Nguyen: If we can associate the image of Honor with promoting well-being and the good of the community instead of sanctions, etc., we could expand our recruitment and improve our image.
9. Will Hancock: Make sure that in CLAS and other highly-represented schools, and focus on the differences between pools.
10. Thomas Ackleson: Can send Census results to D&R, S&R to examine and target recruiting. Should consider age, and the large hump of people we have in the 2026 class.

D. By-Law Voting:

1. Hang Nguyen: How does voting on Zoom work?
2. Laura Howard: Raise your hand on Zoom.
3. Seamus Oliver: Now that we're in a position to vote, what are the thoughts on an amendment to 4/5ths for KAS? I am not sure how I feel and I'd like to hear what other people think about it.
4. Will Hancock: 4/5ths is bigger than 3/4ths, and these are Exec members. Also precedent in the by laws. I think we should treat this the same as other Exec votes.
5. Michael Sirh: Agrees with Will.
6. Seamus Oliver: I do want to say we have those protections in place for a Hearing. There are cases that go to Hearing and are found guilty with that process, but then subjected to this policy in the case of noncompliance. That doesn't jive with me.
7. Will Hancock: Does even single sanction have a simple majority threshold at a PS?
8. Seamus Oliver: It's 4/5ths.
9. Hang Nguyen: Having done an appeal for noncompliance, I am concerned about lack of experience for any voting member. It might be in the interest of the student to have more safeguards.
10. Michael Sirh: If you think about all the steps they went through earlier on, I think there are sufficient layers to feel comfortable not raising the bar for exec. I am also concerned that it makes it easier for exec members who don't want to carry through with the sanction to not otherwise follow the by-laws.
11. Laura Howard: Do people feel ready to vote on the by-law as it stands (simple majority)?

12. Alex Church: I suggest take a vote on the whole procedure now, and touch on it at the next meeting if the vote passes.
13. Laura Howard: Agrees.
14. Vote takes place.
15. Vote passes.
16. Laura Howard: We will meet again in August to discuss more by laws.

VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. EST. The 2024-25 Honor Committee will meet over Zoom over the summer on August 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. EST.