

HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 8th, 2023

I. ROLL CALL (18/27 present)

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

III. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- A. Hamza Aziz, Chair
 - 1. Hosted Young Alumni Reunion event on Saturday for the football game
 - 2. New SO classes started last week
 - a) Honor handbooks were printed and are in the offices. There are enough copies for interested reps to pick one up, and the electronic version has been shared with everybody.
 - 3. SCPS representative election will occur this upcoming week, and there are 12 candidates who are appearing on the ballot. We will soon have 2 SCPS

representatives join the Committee, and they will be trained on their responsibilities. The last remaining vacant seat will be in the Education School, and currently working on this with Quana Dennis.

4. "Introduction to the Honor System" booklets have been printed and are a great informational resource for students and faculties, and are in the Honor offices.
- B. Laura Howard, Vice Chair for Hearings
 1. Hearings on October 15 and October 21. The October 21 hearing is open, asks representatives for the October 15 hearing to meet her for details.
 - C. Nishita Ghanate, Vice Chair for Investigations
 1. 3 active investigations, asks people to respond within 24 hours for staffing emails.
 - D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
 1. Tentatively will be having another Panel for Sanction on October 22 after Committee.
 - E. Rachel Liesegang, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
 1. Working on Popular Assembly, is starting SO/Committee dinners again
 - F. Tyler Sesker, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
 1. None.
 - G. Lukas Lehman, Vice Chair for the Treasury
 1. None.

IV. **SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

- A. Policies and Procedures Subcommittee
 1. Hamza Aziz: P&P met last Friday and discussed the XYZ Case Study and apology letter guidelines, which will be sent to all representatives after this meeting. P&P began discussing the mentorship sanction and its implementation, which will be the focus of P&P's discussion on Friday, October 20. All representatives are invited to attend this and future P&P meetings.
- B. Faculty Advisory Committee
 1. None.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee
 1. Tyler Sesker: Meeting with a fellow about equity in Honor, will be having a dinner with CRDAC members in the coming week, starting a project of organizing and facilitating focus group with student athletes, international students, and transfer students.

V. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. Adrian Mamaril, GSAS: Planning a coffee and doughnuts events for GSAS for the week of October 23. Receiving help from FAC with this.
- B. Nishita Ghanate, CLAS: College representatives are planning to meet with the chairs of every department, or program directors, about the Honor System reforms and to distribute the Honor informational booklets
- C. Brianna Kamdoum, COMM: Asks people to reach out if they would like help with faculty, presenting and answering questions at a biweekly faculty meeting in the McIntire School of

Commerce.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Popular Assembly Discussion

1. Hamza Aziz: Popular Assembly is now an annual event (instead of biannual) that is open to the entire student body with the aim of facilitating discussion on the state of the Honor system, helping students provide feedback on Honor, and generating initiatives for the future. The finalized dates are evening of Sunday, February 4th, to Friday, February 9. We plan to release a post-report in the weeks after about what the Committee learns at Popular Assembly, and where we can go from there.
2. Rachel Liesegang: Currently, Hamza Aziz, Rachel Liesegang, Tyler Sesker, and Senior Educators Will Hancock and Amelle Chanda are working on Popular Assembly. Their main goals are to expose students and faculty to Honor as an active force at UVA, receive feedback, and host fun, engaging events. We chose to host this in February so we could plan it with intent, instead of rushing it. We plan on starting with a Committee kickoff that Sunday and hosting a Dome Room dinner with faculty, Committee representatives, Community leaders, and students. We're also thinking about townhalls on artificial intelligence and multi-sanction. We also may host a "mock trial" with support officers and representatives so people can see what a real-life Honor hearing looks like.
3. Will Hancock: We will also be working with specific student groups, like student athletes, international students, and graduate students, to make events oriented to them.
4. Rachel Liesegang: We would also like to have a Popular Assembly event for each school, and will work with representatives on that.
5. Adrian Mamaril: Will the mock trial involve both a Panel for Guilt and a Panel for Sanction? Wondering if there is an event that represents our sanctioning process.
6. Rachel Liesegang: Absolutely. We want to simulate the Panel for Sanction in some way. We also definitely want to have a townhall that are specifically around sanctions.
7. Laura Howard: Suggests a session that is the education class, and what it looks like to be a student in that for the day.
8. Adrian Mamaril: We could also gather people together for a community engagement event so we can get outdoors, like if we do some sort of community service.
9. Rachel Liesegang: We want to come up with some sort of "ending event", like a service 5K. We want to get out into the community, and not be as insular to Honor.
10. Jonathan Swap: I've helped do Popular Assembly in the past, and maybe doing "short and sweet" events should be considered. There are a lot of people who want to learn all of these things, but we may be missing some communities, so we need to think about how we are enticing them to show up for Honor. How have you guys

talked about ways to bring people to these events, like having stuff of higher value for a raffle?

11. Rachel Liesegang: Absolutely. We've only touched on our big events, but each day, we plan on having 2-3 smaller events, like tabling with food and merch to reach the average UVA student. We'll definitely keep this in mind to reach different communities.
12. Will Hancock: We're also looking to geographically expand how we table, so people who aren't on Central Grounds can see Honor too.
13. Brianna Kamdoun: There is great value asking people across the UVA community what they want from us in Popular Assembly. In this planning process, we should find meticulously what students and faculty want to see in this week, since it is supposed to be fulfilling for them as well.
14. Hamza Aziz: Every few Committee meetings, we will have a Popular Assembly update. This discussion is definitely not ending.
15. Adrian Mamaril: Do you have any timeline for solidifying these ideas?
16. Hamza Aziz: The schedule will be solidified by the end of the fall semester, then we will make supporting materials over winter recess, then at the beginning of the spring semester, I will send an email about it and we'll intensively promote.

B. Education Course Sanction

1. Jonathan Swap: Has concerns about the confidentiality of the students receiving these sanctions. Should we lean toward adding something that would allow student to enroll in their own education class? We shouldn't have students be forced to enroll in these larger classes if they aren't comfortable with it. Rehabilitation is one of our goals, and it may be counter-intuitive to force them to be in these classes with other students. Just because they have all gone through the process, they still may not be comfortable to be in these classes together. We could add a policy change or something to allow students to enroll in individual education classes if they are more comfortable with it, and they may benefit from the one-on-one time with another education. These students are dealing with difficult circumstances, and being in a group with others may not be safe, comfortable, or conducive to the rehabilitation process.
2. Brianna Kamdoun: Are you speaking toward the confidentiality part? Can you clarify that?
3. Jonathan Swap: My concern is that, in order to receive this sanction, they need to be in a class with other students, are backed in to a corner. For them to get a sanction, they are not given the confidentiality to go through the process themselves.
4. William Whitehurst Jr.: You are raising questions on the operational process of confidentiality and the personal experiences of the students. For the first part, we are having the students sign a pledge not to discuss the class. For the student comfort, it ultimately comes down to student experience versus operational feasibility. If we allow everyone to take it individually, it may strain our ability to deliver this class.
5. Will Hancock: It is UJC Standard 11, like for Honor proceedings, for the first part. The point of the course is restorative ethics, and we think about it as a seminar. The point of the course is the dialogue between the students, so they can evaluate their

personal values and community values, and see the personal values of the other students. With how the course is currently instructed, it would be impossible for the class to be one-on-one. There may not be as much if it is a one-on-one with the educator because there is a power imbalance, and the educator is coming from the Honor system. I'm not sure if there is another solution to what you are talking about, but there is some discomfort with the Community of Trust.

6. Alexander Church: Agrees with Will Hancock that the point of the seminar is to foster dialogue with a group of students, but Jonathan's concern is very real. Would consider supporting an "opt-out" into the mentorship sanction, if they would not be comfortable in the seminar. As a sanction, it is really effective for students who are comfortable doing it.
7. Hamza Aziz: There is a mechanism in the Bylaws for requesting a sanction modification, so a fundamental inability to participate in the group course may apply to this.
8. Alexander Church: We should make it very clear to the student that they can opt out, so maybe putting something in the original email from the Senior Educators about the opt-out would be good.
9. Laura Howard: Recommends including a question about this in the Panel for Sanction, so they can assess if it is appropriate before delivering it as a sanction.
10. Hamza Aziz: What is the cap of the course?
11. Will Hancock: 10 students.
12. Nishita Ghanate: It is important to make the seminar a safe place for students to feel comfortable speaking up, and to avoid it being a toxic place.
13. Kasra Lekan: Is cautious about the Panel for Sanction giving the students this clear "opt in/opt out" question, but at this point, with the information we currently have, this "opt out" information should come from the advisors, rather than Committee at the sanctioning level.
14. Hamza Aziz: This has not been an issue, but if it does become an issue, educators will bring it to Committee.
15. Will Hancock: Maybe educators can make a form for feedback if they feel unsafe, if they are not completely comfortable reporting it to the facilitator.
16. Adrian Mamaril: If it is clear that the student's participation is limited, for example, by anxiety, has this been built into the process? I think dialogue is an essential part to this, and perhaps it makes sense to make it even more tight-knit and make it a smaller community you're sharing to, like 5 students.
17. Will Hancock: We do have measures for anxiety built in, so it is hard to be deemed "noncompliant". We will ask for feedback at the end of the course, for the balance between more voices adding to the dialogue, but making students uncomfortable.

C. Sanctioning Guidelines Appendices

1. Hamza Aziz: Will send out the P&P documents on the XYZ Case Study and Apology Letter Guidelines in the meeting minutes email, as well as a copy of the Handbook.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The Honor Committee will meet in person in Newcomb Hall on Sunday, October 15th, at 7:00 p.m.