

## HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

### I. **ROLL CALL (23/29 present)**

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

### II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. None.

### III. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

- A. Hamza Aziz, Chair
  - 1. Provost and Deans Meeting Update
    - a) With Brianna Kamdoun, met with the Provost and most of the Deans about gaps that exist in Honor faculty outreach and what the Committee can do to fill them. The Deans said there is not explicit opposition to Honor, but the lack of understanding around the system as a whole is a

barrier. Brianna Kamdoun and he will speak at the faculty-wide meeting of the College of Arts and Sciences tomorrow.

- b) Brianna Kamdoun: If you haven't already, please reach out to your respective deans so you can introduce yourselves, they want to meet all of their Honor representatives. Encourages representative to establish relationships with their deans.
  - c) Daniel Elliot: Asks what deans were not there.
  - d) Hamza Aziz: The Law dean and SCPS dean was not there.
  - e) Brianna Kamdoun: The Education dean also was not there. A good amount of them were there or had an associate dean there.
- 2. LOTL Co-Sponsorship and Tabling
    - a) Planning to give Lighting on the Lawn the standard amount of co-sponsorship funding, which exceeds the \$500 maximum; about \$4,000. Honor will also host and fund a table with "gratitude grams" or cards.
- B. Laura Howard, Vice Chair for Hearings
    - 1. Had our second hearing of the semester, thanks Committee panelists and randomly-selected students for serving as panelists.
  - C. Nishita Ghanate, Vice Chair for Investigations
    - 1. 4 active investigations.
  - D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
    - 1. Had our first Guilty Panel for Sanction last week, went well, but still learning of potential improvements, so may be proposing Bylaw changes in the coming week. Have an IR Panel for Sanction tonight.
  - E. Rachel Liesegang, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
    - 1. Popular Assembly Planning Updates
      - a) Met with the Alumni Association again last week about planning and using them as a resource. Had our monthly Support Officer Pool today. Worked with educators in focus groups to create events for different communities across grounds. Is working on a citation-focused event and is meeting with the President's office to start building a relationship with them.
    - 2. Asks for volunteers for this week's SO/Committee dinner.
  - F. Tyler Sesker, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
    - 1. None.
  - G. Lukas Lehman, Vice Chair for the Treasury
    - 1. Based on last week's idea of hosting Representative/student dinners, like the SO/Committee dinner, it seems that representatives planning this idea in their respective schools, rather than exec planning this as an Honor-wide initiative is a better logistical plan and use of the budget.

#### IV. **SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

- A. Policies and Procedures Subcommittee
  - 1. Hamza Aziz: Discussed takeaways from the first Hearing and Guilty Panel for Sanction to discuss parts in the Bylaws, especially surrounding the Panel for Sanction, that can be improved. P&P is aiming to share an interim report by

Thanksgiving with quantitative and qualitative feedback on how multi-sanction is doing. P&P will start meeting weekly on Fridays at 3pm.

- B. Faculty Advisory Committee
  - 1. Brianna Kamdoum: Have a meeting tomorrow, and are setting up another meeting in the coming weeks.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee
  - 1. Hamza Aziz: Asking for more participation from ISCL Fellows. Tyler Sesker has met with all CRDAC members one-on-one.

#### V. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. Alexander Church, SEAS: Will propose a Bylaw change for moving the community engagement sanction from mentorship to amends later this meeting.
- B. Daniel Elliot, LAW: Met with their Vice Dean about the Memorandum of Understanding between the Honor Committee and the Law School. If someone reports an occurrence that could relate to Honor, Honor has an affirmative obligation to disclose it to Vice Dean Gilbert. Professor Gilbert is also willing to serve as a mentor for the mentorship sanction.
- C. Jonathan Swap, CLAS: Reached out to the president of the Student Disability Alliance. Wants to meet with others to discuss expanding testing centers during finals week, such as building managers.
- D. Hamza Aziz, CLAS: Continuing Chair and Program Director meetings, have them scheduled throughout the rest of the semester. A lot of Chairs are also offering us time in their monthly department meetings.
- E. Daniel Elliot: Asks Laura Howard and Carson Breus about the appeal process.
- F. Daniel Elliot: Suggests we develop and distribute a notice of appeal rights document.
  - 1. Laura Howard: I handle the appeals, explains the appeals process.
  - 2. Carson Breus: We can put that in our Outcome Letters.

#### VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. None.

#### VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Amendment by Alexander Church
  - 1. Alexander Church: Proposes to amend IV.H.2c to move community Engagement from Education to Amends. Says that the way we are envisioning community engagement to look like amends. Leaving it in the Bylaws will help us be able to craft guidelines for it and allow Committee to decide what it will look like. It is better to leave it in the Bylaws so we can shape it.
  - 2. Daniel Elliot: It makes sense to strike it from the section on Education, but we do not need to add it to Amends. Neither list is exhaustive, and we have not addressed the concerns of the people who raised them. Our university's relationship to forced labor and requiring community service as a punishment for a crime is not great, and people of marginalized communities raised their concerns, and we have not heard

from those voices again. A student is able to propose community engagement even if it is not in our Bylaws. If removing this language helps the people who are the most affected by it, we should do that. Motions to amend the amendment to strike community engagement entirely.

3. Hamza Aziz: Motions to strike the language we have been talking about, amending the amendment to striking community engagement from the Bylaws. It passes.
4. Hamza Aziz: Motions to make the amendment. It passes.
  - a) Will send out an updated version of the Bylaws.

#### B. Mentorship Sanction

1. MK O'Boyle: We looked at multi-sanction systems around the country of mentoring as a way to restore students to Honor. At this point, we have a number of professors who are willing to be mentors. Asks representatives to ask professors in their meetings to ask them to be mentors, or to reach out to professors who are passionate about multi-sanction and have a rehabilitative attitude.
  - a) William Whitehurst Jr.: Asks for high-level information on the work that would be asked of mentors.
  - b) MK O'Boyle: They will be added to a pool of mentors who can be options to mentor a student, and if they are chosen, they can agree to mentor the student.
  - c) Jonathan Swap: Asks what details are provided.
  - d) MK O'Boyle: No personal details are provided before they become a mentor.
  - e) David Armstrong: Asks if the mentors can choose to work within a certain school.
  - f) MK O'Boyle: Yes.
  - g) Alexander Church: Asks for greater information on details that are provided, such as if they are a graduate student.
  - h) MK O'Boyle: I am not sure.
  - i) Daniel Elliot: We should, because Vice Dean Gilbert could not participate for Law students. We should say what school they are in.
  - j) Alexander Church: Asks if students can indicate preferences.
  - k) MK O'Boyle: Yes, they will be able to choose from a few mentors.
  - l) Jennifer Bowyer: Asks how long they will serve as a mentor.
  - m) MK O'Boyle: It will be 3 or 4 meetings a semester. We are inviting them to be in the pool for the foreseeable future, but they can elect to leave it.
  - n) Jennifer Bowyer: Asks who should be the person of contact for potential mentors.
  - o) MK O'Boyle: You can send them my information.
  - p) William Whitehurst Jr.: Are we developing materials for the mentors?
  - q) MK O'Boyle: We are developing a letter to help them with this role.
  - r) Daniel Elliot: If you have a professor who has questions or concerns, you can tell them there is not a big likelihood that they will be called upon, and if they are really concerned, they may not be the best fit for the pool. You can definitely tell them that we do not expect that this will be something that will be happening every week.

- s) David Armstrong: It makes sense to think about the information we are sharing—the more information we can give about a student, the more buy-in we can get from really great professors.
- t) Jonathan Swap: Asks if we can have the professors sign a confidentiality agreement, since they may not feel comfortable being a mentor if they do not know the situation. Is there any way we can help facilitate that?
- u) MK O'Boyle: We're balancing buy-in and the student's privacy. We could even share a summary, but ideally we give available names to students, and the students would have more agency in picking their mentor.
- v) Nishita Ghanate: Asks if we can share the public summaries we post online.
- w) MK O'Boyle: Yes.
- x) Daniel Elliot: We would have to de-anonymize that official summary afterwards, we may have to check that constitutionally. It's only a problem if we use the official summary, since it has to be anonymized in the Bylaws. If we give an anonymized document in the beginning, then when they agree to it, we deanonymize it, we may have a Bylaws concern.
- y) Will Hancock: The student may find it powerful to share this with the mentor for the first time, but for the way we are doing the seminar, the facilitator is supposed to know as little as possible. It may be worth thinking if the student will feel like they are really sharing things and the mentor already knows a lot about their case.
- z) David Armstrong: I was talking about gender, international status, that could get really high-level professors who are busy to buy in to mentor certain students.
- aa) MK O'Boyle: I was thinking we could provide the gender, if the student chose, then what they were found guilty for. We've also discussed the reporter potentially serving as a mentor, if they were willing.
- bb) Jonathan Swap: Is there a space for a student to share additional details about what they are looking for out of a mentorship.
- cc) MK O'Boyle: It will be highly individualized, so a student can share whatever they like, as long as they understand what they are doing.
- dd) Daniel Elliot: We only have problems if we share information about the student, not if the student does.
- ee) MK O'Boyle: Perhaps the student could be a part of drafting the email to the potential mentors.
- ff) Hamza Aziz: Thanks MK O'Boyle and Will Hancock for their work in creating this sanction. Will share MK O'Boyle's email with representatives after.

C. International Student Spotighting - [report.honor.virginia.edu/international-students](https://report.honor.virginia.edu/international-students)

1. Hamza Aziz: We got to this point later than I intended for this meeting, so we will start now and continue this conversation later. We listed this a goal earlier on, and some faculty have reached out to see what proactive steps the Honor Committee has taken to address this issue of overreporting. Linked the report from 2019 about international students in the Honor process. The report identifies 4 potential causes,

including suboptimal teaching, different cultural backgrounds, different education in other countries, and spotlighting.

- a) David Armstrong: Had conversations with faculty and had more engagement and presentations for international students at Darden. We should take the time to tailor the information we are disseminating to international students. We should make sure that these materials are catered to who we are talking to.
- b) William Whitehurst Jr.: There was also some dissemination between international students of different years of what is permitted and what is not. Want to identify those leaders so we can have similar voices amplifying this information.
- c) David Armstrong: A lot of the conversations I have had that there are some practices international student bring from their home countries that do not align with practices here, so it is sometimes a re-education.
- d) Daniel Elliot: Asks to what extent the Honor Committee has reached out to Deans about international students. Talks about a conversation he had with a Dean who interacted with international students in a meaningful way, that a lot of them have had a significantly bad experience with Honor.
- e) Lukas Lehman: Presented at the international student welcome week, spoke about students speaking about their professors about their specific Honor policies.
- f) Adrian Mamaril: Agrees with Lukas Lehman's point. This presentation has been done every year at the undergraduate level. Wants to emphasize that it is one of the only iterations where international students interact with Honor, unless they are reported. Our buy-in starts with the schools, a lot of this comes down to the professor-student relationship. It may be a waste of time to reach out to deans across the board, because there isn't really a strong international studies office or deans that work with them.
- g) Jonathan Swap: Shunkai Ding has done a lot of work with the ISO over the past four years. He did a lot of programming, events, and education for them. There has been outreach, and part of the process for becoming an educator is explaining how to tailor their education to different communities.
- h) Laura Howard: Suggests translating the case processing flowchart into other languages to enhance presentations.
- i) Alexander Church: The education process for international students should be thorough and ongoing, and a lot of our education events are fairly-general because we want to increase turnout, but encourages senior educators and CRDAC to propose events that continue education for international students.
- j) David Armstrong: Darden has 43% international students, and we missed exchange students when we first looked. We should see who is managing that process and how to get them that education, because they may not be in the same spaces as domestic students.

- k) Nishita Ghanate: The Honor module is also required for graduate students, so we should look at translating it. ODOS also said that international students have a terrible time with Honor, and we are working on accessibility, such as how students can have interpreters for their process. Asks representatives for other ideas for increasing accommodations and accessibility.
- l) Kasra Lekan: While intermittent educational events are valuable, there are many students who would not go to these events. The relationship in the classroom with the professor is where the vast majority of students have their primary interactions with Honor, outside of information. That is the place where we would have the most impact. We should help with students have full awareness of the Honor policy, in case they are not going to the education events.
- m) Brianna Kamdoun: Think this warrants another conversation. It has been about ten years now since the last Honor Committee had an international students fair. It is typically at the beginning of the semester, we could maybe do that. It has also been alluded to that we should have an actual systematic change, such as how Honor can be a resource. Agrees that we should keep translating documents and doing more. We need to define what our ultimate goal is with the international community and more narrowly address this matter.
- n) Hamza Aziz: This will appear on next week's agenda, and as well as in a potential Bylaw change from Nishita Ghanate.

## VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The Honor Committee will meet in person in Newcomb Hall on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.