

HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – August 27th, 2023

I. ROLL CALL (22/25 present)

- A. Tyler Sesker - **Present**
- 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**
- J. Stephanie McKee - Absent
- K. Brianna Kamdoun - **Present**
- L. Carson Breus - **Present**
- M. Tim Dodson - **Present**
- N. Maille Bowerman - **Present**
- O. Alexander Church - **Present**
- P. Kasra Lekan - **Present**
- Q. Lukas Lehman - **Present**
- R. Daniel Elliott - **Present**
- S. MK O'Boyle - **Present**
- T. Brian Florenzo - **Present (via Zoom)**
- 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)**

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. James, a first-year law student, expressed interest in Honor and is attending this meeting.

III. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

- A. Hamza Aziz, Chair
 - 1. Overview of meeting schedule for the Fall 2023 semester: The Committee will meet every Sunday at 7 pm except for 10/1 (Fall break), 11/19 (virtual, if necessary), and 11/26 (Thanksgiving break). Please put in your calendar now and plan to attend every meeting.
 - a) A hybrid option will be available; email Hamza prior to meeting for Zoom link. Preference is for representatives to attend in person.
 - 2. O-Day Recap: Our first post-Covid O-Day was a huge success! Big shoutout to Rachel Liesegang for her hard work in helping put it together. The first make-up SO training occurred, and the second is this Saturday. There will be a third make-up training, on a date to be finalized.

3. Hamza Aziz's Board of Visitors presentation time has been finalized: the morning of 9/15. Meeting with Lillian Rojas (Student Member of the Board of Visitors) this upcoming week.
 4. SO Selections & Recruitment cycle is ongoing. Simran Havaladar, Co-Chair of the S&R Sub-Committee, will provide an overview. Please grab flyers and put them up.
 5. Working on Cavalier Daily Op-Ed with P&P Co-Chairs; Tim Dodson will provide an overview and status.
 6. The new Honor website will launch during the week of September 4.
- B. Laura Howard, Vice Chair for Hearings
1. Edited the I-Panel Accusation Letters for the student and the reporter to reflect our language changes about not requesting a hearing. Resumed Hearing-related activities on the first day of classes.
- C. Nishita Ghanate, Vice Chair for Investigations
1. Transition of case processing activities to Box is complete. Reminds representatives to forward reports to her instead of uploading them to OCP. There are 9 active investigations.
 - a) OCP will still be used for physical evidence collection.
- D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
1. Conducting IR Panel for Sanction on September 3. Given panelists access to OCP and Box for the cases. Will propose a Bylaw change later this meeting.
- E. Rachel Liesegang, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
1. Thanks representatives for their attendance at O Day. Has started updating headshots on the Honor website, and asks representatives to send them to her.
- F. Tyler Sesker, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
1. Working on translations of the Constitution.
 2. Fall semester planning meeting this Wednesday.
- G. Lukas Lehman, Vice Chair of the Treasury
1. Finalized the budget with adjustments made following summer expenditures; will send a Google Sheet to all representatives with their individualized budgets, and a sheet to keep track of representatives' spending. Representatives can contact him for the purchasing card to pay for events. Representatives can ask to see the entire budget.
 - a) Hamza Aziz: If there are leftover school funds at the end of the fall semester, they will probably be reappropriated, perhaps to the Popular Assembly fund.
 - b) Lukas Lehman: There is no rollover semester-to-semester or term-to-term, so representatives should use all of their money.
 - c) Daniel Elliot: Asks if we are at risk of being underfunded for Popular Assembly.
 - d) Lukas Lehman: No
 - e) William Whitehurst Jr.: Asks if Lukas Lehman would like for them to keep track of other sources of funding they receive, such as how the Darden representatives have received external funding for their event.
 - f) Lukas Lehman: I do not need that information. I just keep track of what's on the Honor budget.

- g) Daniel Elliot: Suggests keeping track of that information, in case they do not receive that external funding in the future, and will need that funding from Honor. Since we are using budgetary information to earmark future funds, it makes sense to keep track of all the money that the school spends.
- h) Hamza Aziz: It makes sense to record that. We can start keeping some sort of record of that.
- i) Adrian Mamaril: Asks if there is something in the Bylaws that designates what each school receives.
- j) Lukas Lehman: No. He is just giving each school an amount that is proportional to school size, with a minimum amount each school can receive. For example, since the College of Arts and Sciences is the largest, they get another \$1,500.
- k) Hamza Aziz: If anyone needs additional school funding, let us know and we can move things around.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE & WORKING GROUP REPORTS

A. Faculty Advisory Committee

1. Brianna Kamdoun:

- a) The AI Task Force has been officially released and is available on the Provost's website. Recommends that everyone, students and faculty read it. Is working with the Provost and the Vice Provost on Honor AI Guidance for students and faculty. Need to discuss how we will be admitting evidence for any case that is reported for use of AI. Will be continuing to work with the Provost and Vice Provost and the Academic Deans about this.
- b) New resources for faculty and TAs, there is a new Honor flowchart, new resources for international students, a document about the purpose of Honor at UVA, and created presentations for all representatives to use.
- c) The Provost's New Faculty Luncheon was a success, thanks Committee members for attending.

2. Adrian Mamaril: Asks where the TA guide is on the Provost's website.

3. Brianna Kamdoun: Will make additional guidelines and translations. Offers to show him where later.

B. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee

1. Tyler Sesker: Planning a meeting with Hamza Aziz about this semester.

C. Policies and Procedures Committee

1. Tim Dodson: Will meet with Hamza Aziz and Kellen Narke on an agenda for P&P for the fall. Worked with Hamza Aziz and Kellen Narke on an Op-Ed for the Cavalier Daily about the new Bylaws.

D. Selections & Recruitment Committee Update

- 1. Simran Havaladar: Successful tabling at the Activities Fair, the application is now up on the website, 4 information sessions coming up. Applications are due Sunday, September 10, and we will start scheduling interviews for the week of September 18.
 - a) Hamza Aziz: Will send S&R graphics and posters for representatives to use.

V. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

A. None.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sanctioning Guidelines

1. Hamza Aziz: Sanctions in abeyance (temporary and permanent removal) have been added to the sanctions table, and a brief guidance section has been added to these types of sanctions.
2. Hamza Aziz: The Sanctioning Guidelines will be released on the website if no remaining edits are to be made; can be iterated throughout the term. MK O'Boyle will be sending edits this week. Will ask P&P how the Sanctioning Guidelines can be adapted to be helpful for faculty and students.
 - a) Will be finalized by Friday, 9/1

B. Goal-setting discussion

1. Hamza Aziz: Will record potential initiatives/ideas and slot them in for further Committee discussion and exploration.
2. Kasra Lekan: Need to do more information gathering, updating data. Need to do more longitudinal data about the perception of Honor and what Honor means to the student body.
3. Hamza Aziz: We could do a consistent benchmark every year and see how Committee changes.
4. Daniel Elliot: Asks if Honor ever hired a PR firm.
5. Hamza Aziz: Asks if there are perception questions beyond marketing.
6. Daniel Elliot: It makes sense to have professionals help us gather data and improve our perception.
7. Laura Howard: Suggests working with a student-run organization in the spirit of student self-governance and supporting other student groups.
8. Hamza Aziz: Working with a third party non-UVA affiliated group may be more inclined to work with us. The McIntire School also has an intense Promotional pathway that might be interested in doing this.
9. Carson Breus: we could also reach out to consulting clubs.
10. Daniel Elliot: The student organization will not have institutional memory, so we want to make sure we are connected with the faculty member.
11. Will Hancock: Suggests that Educators could do it. We could re envision the educator role, and there are plenty of educators who are looking for work. Educators are interested in rebuilding our Community, so this is right up their alley. Suggests turning to educators first before outsourcing.
12. David Armstrong: There are a couple community consulting groups at Darden who may be a good fit. If we are looking for a deeper expertise, it is a point of strength that we have the ability to go out and get expertise, whether it is outside the school or inside the school. It is not a knock to the school to use outside sources, if we'd like.

13. Alex Church: There was a lack of professor buy-in during single sanction and professors not reporting people and just failing them. So, it is worth making sure how we're communicating things, and emphasizing the value in rehabilitative community-building.
14. Rachel Liesegang: Wants to revamp the Honor module. With the mandatory materials to reach out to students, it would be a better idea for people to get a better understanding of Honor.
15. William Whitehurst Jr.: The way we talk about Honor violations can feel undergraduate-oriented. It is hard to communicate that in Darden, when so much of our work is collaborative. We're currently trying to create vignettes of what an Honor offense is in the Darden context, and that may be productive in other graduate schools.
16. Carson Breus: McIntire also has a lot of collaborative classes, so we can compare notes.
17. Lukas Lehman: It may be helpful for professors who teach both graduate and undergraduate programs.
18. Brianna Kamdoun: Wants to focus on the spotlighting and reporting of international students. Many in the Community say that they don't invest in the system because of this. Our job is far from done, and there is a lot of distrust and transparency.
19. Adrian Mamaril: Wants to continue the conversation about the proposed ability of guilty students to request panelists to be from certain demographic groups.
20. Laura Howard: Suggests a conversation on due process in the Honor system, since we had a productive conversation about it at the Honor retreat. For example, we talked about the ability of accused students to see the randomly-selected student panelists on their Panel for Guilt, and I would like to revisit it, among any other due process conversations we can have.
21. David Armstrong: Wants to talk about a potential increased caseload, and if there are any projects to be done in creating a one-pager or interacting with faculty to see if we're getting traction from faculty who used to not buy-in. Or, if we should communicate in different ways that they can report a case without the only sanction of expulsion.
 - a) Adrian Mamaril: seconds this point, and says that this conversation should be held with Teaching Assistants. Suggests a presentation or a town hall.
22. Daniel Elliot: Offers to have a conversation with anyone about due process in the Honor system.
23. MK O'Boyle: Perhaps there are some initiatives to give tips to students during midterms and finals, since a lot of offenses may occur during these high-pressure times.
24. Daniel Elliot: We can revamp our study breaks during exam season.
25. Rachel Liesegang: That is incorporated in our finals pushes, and we can definitely give them more information on acting ethically and de-stressing.
26. Hamza Aziz: Wants to work on the mentorship sanction with MK O'Boyle.

C. Potential Bylaw Change

1. Carson Breus: Motions to change to the section 7b(2) on IR Sanctioning Procedures and Considerations. Proposes changing the “seven days” to “as soon as reasonably possible” because it can be hard to coordinate the timing and may feel rushed for the student.
2. Alex Church: Asks if there is a binding timeline for Panels for Sanction after Panels for Guilt.
3. Carson Breus: Yes, it is 72 hours.
4. Daniel Elliot: Would like some sort of backstop, and there may be circumstances where it could be a month after, or even longer. We wanted to speed the process along. Motions to change it to “as soon as reasonably possible, no later than 14 days”
 - a) Tyler Sesker: asks how much time Carson Breus needs.
 - b) Carson Breus: Says she would like at least 21 days. For example, if another IR comes up on the 15th day, then we would have to redo the entire selection process.
 - c) David Armstrong: Seconds the amendment for 21 days.
5. Daniel Elliot motions to change the amendment to be “as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 21 days.” Rachel Liesegang seconds the motion. The amendment passes. This change to the Bylaws passes.

D. Code of Ethics

1. Hamza Aziz: Encourages representatives to review the Code of Ethics this week and think about how we can update them.
 - a) Specifically, if specific language regarding staffing expectations and accountability is needed, beyond what has been included in the Bylaws.

E. Bylaw Fix

1. Hamza Aziz: Motions to adjust the Bylaws to match the Constitution, to require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to acquit or convict on Act and Knowledge at a Hearing and to replace all instances of $\frac{4}{5}$ with $\frac{3}{4}$ in the Bylaws. The motion passes and the Bylaw is amended.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Will Hancock: Says that, from his perspective on P&P, further attention is needed on implementing the full spectrum of sanctions. For example, recruiting faculty for mentorship sanction and working on community service logistics.

The Honor Committee went into closed session at 7:56 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The Honor Committee will meet in person in Newcomb Hall on Sunday, September 3, at 7:00 p.m.