

## HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 23, 2025

### I. ROLL CALL (21/30 Present)

Seamus Oliver	P
Alex Church	P
Carson Breus	P
Thomas Ackleson	P
Ian Novak	A
Will Hancock	P
Laura Howard	P
Alicia Phan	A
McKenzie Jones	A
Suleiman Abdulkadir	A
Michael Sirh	A
Sheryl Loden	P
Simran Havaladar	P
Andrew Cornfeld	P
Rachel Fellman	P
Loi Dawkins	A
Brittany Toth	P
Meredith DeLong-Maxey	A
Clare Striegel	P
Cassidy Dufour	P
Ayda Mengistie	P
Mary Holland Mason	P
Margaret Zirwas	P
Hannah Lipinski	P
Penelope Molitz	P
Nile Liu	A
Lam-Phong Pham	P
Ben Makarechian	P
Vivian Mok	P
Bijoy Ghosh	A

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

### III. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A. Laura Howard, Chair

- i. Run with Jim on Monday. Run with Jim meetings.
- ii. Meeting at Darden. Meeting with HAHC.

- iii. P&P meeting. Marsh meeting. Bertie meeting.
  - iv. Jeff/Wash debate.
  - v. SO/Committee dinner.
  - vi. Sky Alland. SMBOV interviews.
- B. Seamus Oliver, VCI
  - i. There are nine cases under active investigation.
  - ii. Helping Carson with a PS right after this meeting.
  - iii. I've been organizing some stuff with Darden; see later.
  - iv. Kicking around ideas on express admission of guilt.
- C. Alex Church, VCH
  - i. Hearing today, thank you to all the reps.
  - ii. One case in the Hearing selection window.
- D. Carson Breus, VCS
  - i. One PS tonight.
- E. Will Hancock, VCUC
  - i. As we continue Honor Month, we have the student org roundtable dinner to Thursday at 6:30 in Newcomb Ballroom. Please resign up if you're still coming.
- F. Ian Novak, VCGC
  - i. No updates.
- G. Thomas Ackleson, VCO
  - i. Co-sponsorships.
  - ii. Reimbursements for Honor Week and other purchases.

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

- A. Policies and Procedures Committee
  - i. Mary Holland: Margaret and I met with Laura and P&P on Friday to discuss ideas about investigations with Seamus and Carson.
- B. Faculty Advisory Committee
  - i. Simran: We reached out to COMM admin and asked about a school-specific newsletter. It's a good school to pilot that with since it's small. Also making case processing videos at our next meeting.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee
  - i. Ben: Meeting next week, will have an update then.
- D. Data and Research Committee
  - i. Rachel: Study will have to be moved to after spring break.
- E. Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Sanctions
  - i. Will: Admissions meeting discussions, will have updates on that soon.

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

- A. Generate ideas for final school-specific events

- i. Laura: Any ideas for any finals pushes? What about big events in each school like new admissions, finals, etc.?
- ii. Will: One idea I had was a bouncy castle. There's so much positive energy and community on the first day of spring. We should capture that first warmer weekend, capture that energy. It would be cool if Honor could support that with frisbees, etc.
- iii. Laura: We also have picnic blankets we can use.
- iv. Mary Holland: Are we doing UJC-Honor field day?
- v. Laura: Yes, probably a little later in April than last year.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Revisit discussion of adopting a preponderance standard for the Investigative Panel

- i. Laura: Was brought up a few weeks ago, Ayda and Cassidy have a presentation for us and feel passionately about this.
- ii. Cassidy and Ayda give presentation on standards of proof.
- iii. Cassidy: Shows proposed by-law changes.
- iv. Laura: Could you talk a little about “far more likely than not” as a standard? What’s the best way to explain that to people?
- v. Cassidy: The actual language is “highly probable”, which is that you don’t have to be beyond a reasonable doubt, but have a high certainty. This is more clear than “very likely” which is very confusing.
- vi. Seamus: Is there a way that we can make it clear to all involved who the party is educating the panelist, and are they also impartial?
- vii. Cassidy: There will be a whole training and culture thing where Investigators are especially impartial and simply gather evidence for each case.
- viii. Laura: Last week we had I/C Pool. The theme was about Investigations, preparing for the I Panel, etc.; we can continue that.
- ix. Seamus: Yes, that was all from a conversation with Cassidy.
- x. Cassidy: This is all about the best way to effectively identify the truth while safeguarding student rights.
- xi. Laura: How do people feel about “clear and convincing” for the appeals standard?
- xii. Seamus: I personally like it. It has more of a backing to it. Alex do you have more specific thoughts?
- xiii. Alex: I think it would be worth a brief refresh. It’s worth informing students and I/C too.
- xiv. Seamus: Do we still use the substantial framework on Appeals?
- xv. Alex: I think that those were done away with in the August by-laws.
- xvi. Laura: That’s where the “very likely” thing came in as a standard for everything else.

- xvii. Cassidy: We may need a housekeeping amendment for some smaller places where this comes up.
- xviii. Laura: That sounds good, we should be able to add that on.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discuss adoption of a clear and convincing standard for Appeal Review Panels
- B. Consider items to add to the “Reporting Guidebook”
  - i. Laura: Discusses Darden cases, need for a quick facts sheet, etc. It sounds like professors want data, typical sanctions, etc. What else do people think they want?
  - ii. Thomas: Is the idea to send these proactively, virtually, etc.? Available to anyone?
  - iii. Laura: I think it could be on the website, or we could email it to everyone. I think it should be public.
  - iv. Ben: It might make sense to include a summary of the time commitment a potential reporter might expect.
  - v. Laura: Agreed, we can have what would be expected of them.
  - vi. Will: I like the idea of it being virtual. FAC in 2023 worked hard on a small handbook (we have booklets too). A virtual thing on statistics and time commitment. I would be careful in knowing a lot of people have received something like this in the past.
  - vii. Cassidy: Apparently faculty at the Law School didn’t find a similar thing to be helpful.
  - viii. Laura: I view this as totally different than what we’ve focused on in the past. I think this should be a few key points, something of a briefing document. It can be on the website too.
  - ix. Thomas: It should definitely not be a flyer, but very objective, to the point, etc. Something like a study, we might consider hiring an artist, etc.
- C. Voting on Cassidy’s by-law.
  - i. Cassidy: Shows by-laws and one new change “it is clearly and convincingly shown that:”
  - ii. Voting occurs. The by-law passes.
- D. Begin planning transitions to next term’s representatives.
  - i. Laura: What did people do last year? These are very important. What ideas do people have?
  - ii. Cassidy: One thing that we didn’t have at the Law School was a document about what our Reps had accomplished previously or did each year. Maybe a document about things each school does, what they haven’t done, etc. Easier than learning on the go.
  - iii. Laura: Yes, emailing the new Reps, introducing people, etc.

- iv. Carson: As exec, it would be nice if we made a document/template/worksheet sort of thing for each school.
- v. Will: One thing we should think about, and this should be left up to the new Committee, but thinking if we need SWG for another year. Also, D&R hasn't had a traditional transition.
- vi. Laura: Everybody wants more data, so we should think about keeping it as a forever thing.

#### VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. None.

The Committee adjourned at 7:50 PM and will reconvene next Sunday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Trial Room in Newcomb Hall.