

## HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

### I. ROLL CALL (19/29 Present)

Seamus Oliver	P
Alex Church	P
Carson Breus	P
Thomas Ackleson	P
Ian Novak	P
Will Hancock	P
Laura Howard	P
Alicia Phan	A
McKenzie Jones	A
Suleiman Abdulkadir	P
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	A
Cassidy Dufour	P
Ayda Mengistie	P
Mary Holland Mason	P
Margaret Zirwas	A
Hannah Lipinski	P
Penelope Molitz	P
Nile Liu	A
Lam-Phong Pham	A
Ben Makarechian	P
Vivian Mok	A

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

### III. GUEST SPEAKER

A. Representative from Pancakes for Parkinson's

### IV. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

A. Laura Howard, Chair

1. Attended RES with Margaret and Will to observe.

2. This whole week has been S&R Recruitment. New SO dinner is tomorrow in the Trial Room, and classes start this week.
  3. Met with P&P earlier this week.
  4. Working on the newsletter, including how we'll distribute it.
  5. I am attending the Hoos Against Hazing Council meetings.
- B. Seamus Oliver, Vice Chair for Investigations
1. There are four active investigations.
  2. Shout out to the SSOs and S&R Co Chairs for all their hard work, and to everyone for participating.
- C. Alex Church, Vice Chair for Hearings
1. 2<sup>nd</sup> IC pool meeting today.
- D. Carson Breus, Vice Chair for Sanctions
1. PS after this meeting for two cases.
- E. Will Hancock, Vice Chair for the Undergraduate Community
1. Reps are welcome to the new SO dinner tomorrow.
  2. Educators for your school should have reached out at this point. Let me know if that hasn't happened for you yet.
  3. Committee-SO dinners are very popular so far, so Committee reps should sign up for those via the spreadsheet.
  4. First meetings for Honor Week and International Student Days happening. One of our themes is quality over quantity in events.
- F. Ian Novak, Vice Chair for the Graduate Community
1. Will and I met on Friday to go over our presentation.
  2. We will hand out resources to TAs and grad students at upcoming events.
  3. Working on a grad student affairs subcommittee.
- G. Thomas Ackleson, Vice Chair for Operations
1. Handling more co-sponsorships. Reminder to get into contact with your school councils.
  2. Thanks to all SOs and Reps for interviews.

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

- A. Policies and Procedures Committee
1. Mary Holland: we will have a more in-depth update later on. Margaret and I met with Laura to discuss the status of P&P.
- B. Faculty Advisory Committee
1. Working on a form for faculty interested in joining FAC.
  2. Waiting to hear back from Dean Jenkins about the Pavillion Series.
- C. Community Relations and Diversity Advisory Committee
1. Ben: Started our outreach efforts, and our application is open until next Friday (10/04). This week I've been doing follow up with the people I initially contacted about this. I am meeting with Matthew Hunter who is the lead of the student athlete association here. Made contact with the president of the graduate
- D. Data and Research Committee
1. Max: Nothing major this week. We are collaborating with P&P and potentially adding a question to a feedback form. We are meeting next Sunday to discuss.
- E. Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Sanctions

1. Will: We are in the drafting process for the by-laws of the procedure we've been working on since the summer. Will help with PS logistics, CC role, etc. We will send our draft by-laws by next Friday.

**VI. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- A. None.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discuss summer case processing.

1. Laura: We talked about this a lot last term. There are many advantages and disadvantages to this, which Alex and Seamus will discuss.
2. Seamus: For some context, we have just finished the second summer where summer case processing has happened. I think this past summer has been more effective since the student can take the IR pre-Investigation. There are still concerns about how case processing works (i.e. staffing advisors and IC, then running Investigations in a timely and effective way). In my mind the open question is how we proceed with summer case processing without demanding too much of our SOs, and also how we keep the Investigations work.
3. Alex: This past summer, there were three or four cases that went through full Investigation. A lot of delays due to availability, time zone changes, etc. People generally aren't available because they're working, etc. Also the issue of faculty buy in. Since we can't do a Hearing over the summer, we have to delay and extend the process, which faculty aren't always happy with.
4. Carson: I've done it for two summers now, IR PS gets done very easily without staffing issues. We shouldn't process cases that don't take the IR, and I also felt like taking the IR shouldn't be as drawn out. I think we should get those done as soon into the summer as possible. I think that Investigations should wait until the fall.
5. Laura: The division is cases that take the IR vs. ones that don't.
6. Will: This is more of a question. It's my understanding that the debate last time was about evidence or memory going bad if we paused the Investigation. I'm curious, in general, I take the points about the Investigation. Has it been the case that that problem you still run into in the fall?
7. Seamus: There are a few considerations. The Honor Hearing uses live testimony, so regardless the Investigation can establish a written record. No matter what there will be haziness. I think there are solutions like telling students writing down everything you might know as soon as possible.
8. Simran: If the concern revolves around schedules, would it be possible to send the Reporter or Student to record their answers then and conduct a formal investigation in the fall?
9. Seamus: I like that as a middle ground solution. Part of the way we avoided the hardest hassle, was doing written interviews. I'm hesitant to expand this to a written

interview. It might also still have the reporter frustration of answering the same questions multiple times.

10. Andrew: I feel like things should be done over the summer. From the accused student's perspective: I'd like to know my sanction as soon as possible. If at all possible, it should get done in the summer if possible.
11. Will: I think you're right in theory, but we don't do Hearings for guilt over the summer anyway. That's another question about the Hearing. So mostly we're talking about moving the investigation.
12. Genny Freed (observer, SSO): I staffed a lot of cases over the summer and I had a largely positive experience. I think there's a lot of value in having the interviews as close as possible to the report. I like the idea of writing everything down as soon as possible.
13. Cassidy: I do have some concerns with having people do a brain dump on everything related to the situation. It should only be relevant information that's coming into the interview. There should be questions that are tailored by Investigators.
14. Seamus: I have no interest in getting a brain dump as described. It's more useful if we're not collecting it as evidence. I as VCI do not want your brain dump, but the student might be thankful for making it.
15. Cassidy: Would you ask them to collect it?
16. Seamus: No. I don't think it works as evidence or go to I Panel.
17. Ian: Are we worried about them writing everything down, and then looking back on it and possibly changing details for remorse reasons, etc. This way we're at least logging something.
18. Laura: Is your concern someone would do the brain dump, and then change their perspectives?
19. Will: Can we reiterate the harm of summer case processing? What's the original reason we're discussing switching off?
20. Seamus: The initial harm as I see it is that the Investigation is severely less efficient. We're still getting all the information we need collected, and a concern is that it just takes so long.
21. Alex: To clarify on the Hearing end, for one hearing there were two months where Counsel were staffed, but the PHC was a month later, and another month up to the Hearing. Some of the Counsel had trouble meeting with the student/reporter.
22. Ben: Just to clarify: if we just put the case on hold, we think that will be better for the student and reporter? Since they won't have to continue correspondence. Is that the theory?
23. Seamus: I think there's a balance to be struck between a more efficient Investigation vs. Waiting. Is that worth the concern that memory might be hazier? And what about how reporters feel? So we're discussing how that balance tips.
24. Mary Holland: Is the idea that non-IR cases would be put on hold? (Yes).
25. Cassidy: Do students enroll in classes when they are coming back? (Yes). Is there a concern about them accepting student aid, spending money here, etc.? I have concerns about equity here.

26. Seamus: The reality is that we can't hold a Hearing over the summer anyways, so that will always be the case.
  27. Alex: The other question is winter case processing. Cases reported after fall finals. That's harder because SOs and people are travelling, etc. There's the time between New Years and FDOC where people might have time. There could be an argument for opening cases on 01/02, 03, etc.
  28. Carson: I'm really opposed to IR PSs over winter break given the short time frame. It can be a huge logistical challenge.
  29. Will: I do think there's an important time for us and reported students in that break. Reports can loom over students, or anything related to cases. I can remember this being a point of discussion at the RES.
  30. Cassidy: My big concern with winter is that not all schools have the same winter break schedules. With such a short period, it doesn't seem as feasible.
  31. Seamus: The question in my mind is... the way it worked last time was a ton of cases after finals, and then pushing off the cold call until 01/02, despite reports coming in earlier on the grounds of giving the student their holiday. Expecting a similar case load this year, how do we structure notice? Where are people's heads on that?
  32. Ben: I was an advisor last winter and made three cold calls. In all three cases the student had already heard from the reporter. I think providing them with an advisor ASAP is a good thing.
  33. Rachel: I agree with Ben, and I think we should notify them ASAP for consistency's case.
  34. Cassidy: The student is the one who is ultimately responsible for building their defense, so we should give them as much time as possible. Being told as quickly as possible is important.
  35. Alex: I also do remember when I was sitting as a panelist on IR PSs, they came in batches. So Advisors had to be required to staff, which led to notice being delayed. As soon as is reasonably feasible is the right path. But there were still inevitable delays with staffing.
  36. Andrew: I also think that when you're elected to or applied for this position, you should assume that responsibility for all times.
  37. Carson: We have never had case processing over the winter before multi-sanction.
  38. Cassidy: Especially for just the Cold Call, I don't think it's a huge commitment and people can step up for that sort of thing.
  39. Simran: Having been an Advisor, it's more than just the Cold Call. You are the student's point of contact, and it's important for you to be there for the student.
  40. Cassidy: I think there's a difference between being off the clock and just being responsive in a timely fashion. I don't think it's too much to ask for.
  41. Ben: One thing to consider for VCI or SSOs is setting expectation beforehand with the Advisor pool to determine people's availabilities. Everyone does different things over break, but many people have a lot of free time. Setting expectations beforehand might help solve that problem.
  42. Cassidy: You can have Advisors fill out availability in advance.
- B. Discuss separate Investigative Panels for joint cases.
1. Pushed to next week.

- C. Discuss (and potentially vote on) a bylaw regarding our Standards Panel procedure.
  - 1. Pushed to next week.
- D. Guest speaker nomination form (to be sent this evening).
  - 1. Laura: You can send this nomination form, and I will send this out tonight. Feel free to email me.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. None.

The Honor Committee adjourned at 7:58 PM and will meet next Sunday at 7:00 PM.