

Honor Council

H A V E R F O R D C O L L E G E

Public Portion Minutes from October 25, 2009

Members Present: Emily, Silas, Susana, Noah, Ryan, Sam, Dan, Gabe, Inez, Josh, Dana, Hazel, Carolyn, Hope, Anna, Seth (came in during public portion)

Members Absent: Emma (librarian)

Guests: Yost, Jen, Will Harrison, Dan Kent, Matt Stern, Hannah Solomon-Strauss, Cassandra Vega, Victoria Gaffney, Becca Bass, Jacob Horn, Lilas, Ethan Haswell, Atticus Brigham, Harrison Haas, Edin Fako, Mimi Fuchs

I. Moment of Silence

II. Public Portion

1) Committee Reports

a) Student outreach

i) We have design, color, and we have a quote. Emma has this information.

b) Faculty Outreach

i) We had Pizza, Professors, and the Code last week

ii) Professors talked about how they saw Honor Code as a faculty member and as a student, as it was alumni addition. Other topics covered included grade inflation and whether some professors feel that the Honor Code inhibits expression in the classroom.

c) Abstract committee may or may not have met

d) JSAAPP Rep

i) JSAAPP is going to be providing pizza and candy to Customs teams on Halloween, candy for whole student body.

(1) Things have finally calmed down

e) Safety and Security Rep

i) At the Safety and Security meeting, they talked a lot about the Social Honor Code and role in issues such as fire safety: smoke detectors in individuals' rooms and how it is a code violation to tamper with smoke detectors

(1) Do we consider a violation of school policy to necessarily be a violation of the honor code

(2) Not automatically, but in this case it does affect the safety of the students

ii) Registration for Bryn Mawr Halloween Party

iii) FUCS

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- (1) Police were upset that a concert was not cancelled when they had to get in to help a student
 - iv) Also expand rape and sexual assault support group
- f) Update on forming HCO committee
 - i) Emily and Silas have taken on as a project strengthening the relationship between Honor Council and the HCOs
 - ii) Emily and Silas met with Garrett and Lekan, the HCO Committee Co-heads, this weekend
 - (1) A really interesting discussion about what Honor Council can do to help the HCOs. They seemed to think it would be helpful for Honor Council to help compile materials to give out to HCOs. They thought that a good thing to do is to send them emails about Honor Council events to send to the HCO list.
- 2) Westpoint, NY
 - a) Gabe and Inez went to Westpoint Military Academy to a conference on ethics
 - i) Didn't bring too much back that could be practically applied to the Honor Code
 - ii) The conference more re-affirmed that our Honor Code is doing well
- 3) New Faculty Dinner
 - a) Inez and Gabe meeting with new faculty this Wednesday for dinner
 - b) Wednesday from 5-6:30 in the Bryn Mawr room of the DC, Honor Council members may attend
- 4) Record Upkeep
 - a) Gabe organized during break, compiled old documents
 - b) Looking at these past abstracts they found a case called Erin and Peter
 - c) One of the resolutions was the Honor Council create post-confrontation Outline procedures
 - i) How should we start guidelines about how to confront?
 - ii) Case broadly had to do with a student who showed people the copy of a test, it was last SFP we had last fall, there was some conflict between Erin and Peter
 - iii) "post-confrontation procedure"
 - iv) Council to read the abstract for next week so we have a better understanding of case
- 5) Happy Birthday Jacob
 - a) Council sang to Jacob, as it was his 18th Birthday
 - b) "Go buy some cigarettes, porn, and sign a contract or something" ~Gabe
- 6) A College in CT is having problems with their Honor Code

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- a) Representatives want to come to Haverford and meet with students and administrators, it is not clear in exactly what way yet, we will be posted
- 7) And now....
- 8) Honor Council's first BIG NAME PUBLIC PORTION... (drumroll)
- 9) Alcohol and the Honor Code
 - a) Some initial topics that Gabe and Inez present as possibilities for discussion:
 - b) Can we confront an intoxicated individual?
 - c) What kind of behaviors should we confront?
 - d) Relationship between JSAAPP and HC? What is a JSAAPP inquiry?
 - i) Jen and Ryan: JSAAPP inquiries are kind of ambiguous:
 - (1) A community member has multiple options when addressing alcohol related issues
 - (2) Can be brought to Honor Council or JSAAPP
 - (3) JSAAPP could look into itself to see if it is more appropriately taken care of internally
 - (4) Address issues of strictly procedural violations of the alcohol policy
 - (5) Part of alcohol policy says we are expected to uphold the Social Honor Code
 - (a) So if you violate the Social Honor Code while intoxicated, does it go to JSAAPP or Honor Council? This is nebulous.
 - (b) Maybe if someone felt more comfortable coming to JSAAPP
 - (c) Dean Watter and Jason McGraw present at every meeting
 - (i) JSAAPP has more options available because of deans present, substance abuse counselor
 - (6) There is also a process of, when someone has to go to hospital, they have to meet with deans, etc. to address the problem
 - (a) Maybe a JSAAPP inquiry could be used as intervention before it got to the point of an individual being hospitalized
 - e) Can we confront someone under the influence?
 - i) Noah: very interested in the question. An issue a few years ago when people would get drunk and smash the gate → why we have a wooden one
 - ii) People talk about the idea that people are responsible for their behavior, that by drinking, people are taking a risk, it is their responsibility not to drink if he/she is an awful drunk
 - iii) Inez: What if you don't know if you are an awful drunk?
 - iv) Anna: Responsibility of people around you to make sure that you don't go crazy, get destructive

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- f) Daniel Kent: Is violating alcohol policy a violation of the Honor Code?
 - i) Ryan: problem with the word “confront”; sometimes called a “discursive dialogue”
 - (1) Earlier this year, JSAAPP dealt with borderline violations of the Alcohol Policy that they took care of on their own, which was a better option than bringing to Honor Council
 - ii) Jen: You need to address that there is a problem, but they are not going to dictate how you confront someone. That would be impossible.
 - iii) Daniel Kent: impossible?
 - iv) “since we do hold ourselves responsible for...” from the Honor Code
 - v) Ryan: confronting someone is not necessarily bringing them to Honor Council
 - vi) Daniel Kent: failure to report or confront is violation of the Honor Code
 - (1) Ryan: But a confrontation is in the manner in which you see fit
 - vii) Gabe: confront IF the behavior disturbs you
 - (1) If the behavior disturbs you, you have to confront an individual under the honor code
 - viii) Jen: this is a case by case basis
 - ix) If no one confronts, there are a few things that can happen, administration may step in
 - x) Daniel Kent: Lloyd around the World violated the alcohol policy, but he didn’t say anything: is he confrontable?
 - xi) Will Harrison: if a person winds up going to the hospital, it seems like the friends of that person need to look into themselves and question why they let this happen to their friend
 - xii) Inez introduced the Scenerio Game
 - (1) I am 21 and I’m drinking, I meet you, you don’t know me, I’m offended that you’re drinking underage. What happens if I get very belligerent and you are bound by the Honor Code to confront.
 - (a) Clarification: person 1 (overage) is belligerent because person 2 is drinking underage, and that offends person 1.
 - (2) Jacob: It’s not going to be a conversation that is productive
 - (a) The question is, does it happen at all (a conversation/confrontation), and to what degree?
 - (3) Inez: Would you be violating the honor code by not instigating the discussion?
 - (4) Will Harrison: it is true that often not productive when someone is super drunk and belligerent, have to wait until next day

- g) Is drinking underage a violation of the Honor Code?
 - i) Anna: big idea that so many people in this community drink underage, and so drinking underage is not a violation of community standards. Also, given our community standards, the belligerent person is equally violating community standards.
 - ii) What about getting that person's name for contact in the future when no longer drunk?
- h) What if...
 - i) I'm 21 and I'm sober and I confront you for drinking underage because it offends me
 - (1) Edin: Community standards: is it community standards that people under 21 drink and we are okay with it?
 - (2) Will: some people are not, though they may not be comfortable saying so
 - (3) Gabe: So we use community standards as a guide
 - (a) If the community standard itself disturbs you, you probably should confront
 - (4) Carolyn: but confronting one person about underage drinking isn't going to be productive, you'd have to confront the 1/3 of the campus or more that is underage and drinking on a given weekend night
 - ii) Seth: Probably, if you don't like underage drinking, you do not put yourself in situations where you will be around a lot of underage drinking, so if you are confronting an individual who is participating in underage drinking, it is because that individual is also doing something inconsiderate that involves you
 - iii) Susana: Our value of equality plays into this. We don't like the idea of upperclassmen being "superior," getting to do something forbidden to other students.
 - iv) Will: Are you confronting an individual because they are just seeing a person underage drinking?
- i) Is your behavior/ the effects your responsibility if you are drunk?
 - i) Those around you should take some responsibility for letting it happen
- j) Jen: even if the person doesn't know what they are doing, they made themselves drunk
 - i) You choose to imbibe
- k) Susana: What about people who are just belligerent in general?
- l) Whether you are responsible when drunk?
 - i) Stress is pretty much the root issue during any circumstantial portion
 - ii) Stress not an excuse, but hard to ignore it
 - iii) American Judicial System does recognize this as a mitigating factor

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- m) Silas: he or she should be able to accept responsibility for actions
 - i) Still responsible 100%
- n) Seth: If you hit someone with a car, it's bad. If you hit someone with a car and you are drunk, it is that much worse
 - i) Alcohol almost pushes towards making it worse
- o) Jen: one thing she has wanted to do is look at alcohol and its role in rape and sexual assault and violence
 - i) This seems like a really terrible excuse
 - ii) I don't care how drunk you are, what you are doing
 - iii) it shouldn't be tolerated, it's not an excuse
 - iv) This is a good model to consider on an intellectual level
- p) Will: a collegiate culture of going out, getting drunk, and hooking up
- q) Dana: the person who did it
- r) Anna: Gray area in terms of consent
 - i) Much more blurred line for a person who is intoxicated if an individual is wishy-washy
 - ii) Doesn't want to come off as blaming the victim
 - iii) It is hard to define that line
 - iv) Sam:
 - (1) Not all intoxication means that there is a violation
 - (2) Intoxication calls for greater consciousness
- s) Jacob
 - i) Throwing around phrase "community standards"
- t) Will: saying that a person can't give consent when intoxicated at all?
- u) Jen: according to State of PA
- v) Will: So should JSAAPP, etc., if line cannot be found, encourage people not to engage in sexual activity at all having been intoxicated
- w) Ryan: If you are drunk, you do something with a girl who is drunk and says yes on Saturday and on Sunday morning says it is a mistake → you are at risk of being called a rapist
- x) Jen: is that a chance you take?
- y) Ana: feels like it's not fair to the other person
- z) Jen: agree, but that's the way it is
- aa) Newspaper articles surrounding alcohol related sexual assault cases would say, "then we tried to figure out how drunk the girl was at the time" therefore it is taken into account to a certain degree, is that law interpreted more loosely?

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- bb) If both parties are drunk, you have to take that into account, the first person who comes to the police isn't just automatically able to make the other person culpable
- cc) Yost: being drunk is a mitigating circumstance, no one thinks they are going to rape someone while drunk
- dd) Susana: People also don't think that they are going to hit someone with their car when they are drunk
- ee) Almost time to wrap up Big Name Public Portion, anything with relationship between Haverford and the police?
 - i) State: They didn't want to get people in trouble
 - (1) Wanted to come on campus and make people start talking, make them safer
 - ii) Local police are less happy with number of alcohol related incidents for the school
 - (1) It's been mostly freshmen
- ff) How people go about confronting party hosts, larger scale events
 - i) That's where JSAAPP comes in
 - ii) JSAAPP thinks it's great when people can handle things on their own
 - iii) If not, JSAAPP would contact party host, see how event does or does not correspond to alcohol policy
 - iv) If you don't have respect for alcohol policy, you don't need to be allowed to rent room, get approval → there is an approval process
- gg) Mo Si (Moment of Silence)