

# Honor Council

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

Public Minutes from March 1, 2008

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**Members Present:** Daniel, Carolyn, Katie, Lily, Cody, Jamey, Nick, John, Anastasia, Sydney, Sarina, Luke, Jackie, Benji, Katia, Jake

**Members Absent:** Susanna

**Guests:** Helene Pollack, Evan Rodriguez, Aimee Lanning

I. Moment of Silence

II. Public Portion

A. Committee Reports:

(1) Abstract committee continues to work on abstracts

(2) Student Outreach working on bulletin board in campus center and planning a mock private portion

B. In accordance with trial resolutions, the co-chairs will be meeting with Bryn Mawr's international dean of students and all parties in charge of Haverford's freshmen writing program.

C. Discussion of the fact that the last two abstracts released did not indicate whether Honor Council's timeline for releasing abstracts had been met.

D. Continued discussion from last Sunday regarding whether or not Council (specifically the Librarian) should search for and examine trends in people brought to trials, and what purpose that information should serve:

(1) Co-chairs brought up the fact that Greg Kannerstein and Marilou Allen are both of the opinion that examining trends in the profile of students who violate the Honor Code is a poor idea as it could lead to unfair and unproductive targeting of specific groups of students in an unconstructive way; however, the two believed that examining trends in the nature of the violations themselves would be productive.

(2) It was suggested that Council should examine certain specific aspects of students' profiles such as class year, major, and type of course in the case of academic trials. The point was made that if Council did not get as much information from trends as possible then it could be doing a disservice to groups of students whom the Honor Code is failing.

(3) Discussion of the validity and reliability of statistics in interpretation. Data may show, for example, that there are a great deal more violations in X class than in any other. This could mean that students cheat more often in X class than in other classes or it could mean that professors in X class are better at catching violations than professors in other classes. Also, there is some legal concern that examining trends from statistical data and then

These minutes reflect the opinions of Sydney Keough and Lily Steiner, the Council co-secretaries (skeough@hc or lsteiner@hc) and are neither approved nor reviewed by the rest of Council. Questions/comments? Email **Code@hc!**

implementing programs in response may be considered an experiment and require permission from the ISRB.

(4) On a case by case basis, juries of trials already create resolutions that are designed to deal with the issues that Honor Council would hope to address through the examination of trends.

(5) Discussion of whether Honor Council or specifically the Librarian should be deciding how to interpret the word 'trends,' as, constitutionally, it does seem to fall under the purview of the Librarian.

Discussion to be continued at Council's next meeting

III. Private Portion and Moment of Silence