

Honor Council

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

Public Minutes from February 7, 2009

Members Present: Anastasia, Sarina, Joe, Sam, Ben, Jen, Mary, Ryan, John, Hazel, Emily, Seth, Inez, Gabe, Silas, Jill

Guests: Raven Harris '10

- I. Moment of Silence
- II. Public Portion
 - A. Minutes Posting: All good! Leaving piles all over the place – very straightforward.
 - B. Bi-Co? That seems to be a no-go. Contacted Andrew, who was excited about it, but the rest of them seemed to not be that happy. Oh nose.
 - C. Plenary
 1. Clickers! Council members will be keeping track of people at Plenary, getting votes from paper ballots, and counting
 2. Afterwards, ratify the Honor Code!
 - a. Honor Council members will be tabling at the DC and Campus Center (Thursday and Friday after Plenary)
 3. Honor Code: The Musical. Will be holding auditions.
 - D. Board of Managers Meeting: Student Affairs Committee
 1. Multi-cultural Jurors; up to the students, but if it doesn't work, President Emerson might step in
 - a. Middle States – comprehensive report, Standard 8 + 9 (academic standards – not a lot of professional help, tutors, etc., little involvement of general student public); most other campuses have a person on staff to help with scholarship/fellowship applications, etc. We are edumacated, damn it.
 2. Dining Services – discussion about a more flexible plan. Still in the works.
 - E. Idea brought to us by a community member (Raven): Honor Code inhibiting discussion by making everyone too politically correct?
 1. Fine line between maintaining respect and censoring oneself
 2. Political correctness in the classroom (people worried about being confronted after class because they don't want to offend anyone)
 - a. PPC professor from last year who came from another university: frustrating that Haverford students won't speak up and jump at the chance to say what they really mean, especially in possibly offensive situations; type of student attracted to Haverford? Honor Code?
 3. Is it the fault of the Honor Code?

These minutes reflect the opinions of Gabriel "Honeybuns" Schwartz and Inez "Nezzypoo" Suhardjo, the Council co-secretaries (gschwart@hc or isuhardj@hc) and are neither approved nor reviewed by the rest of Council. Questions/comments? Email Code@hc!

- a. Maybe over time the Honor Code has created this kind of culture; people don't read the Honor Code word-for-word...
 - b. Climate because of the Honor Code vs. climate of being afraid of being wrong? Are the two linked?
 - c. There are definitely some classes in which those barriers are completely gone; and it's also a reflection of the professor.
4. It's ironic that the Honor Code creates that PC attitude even though its purpose is to create a safe enough environment to be able to get past being afraid of offending.
5. We shouldn't shirk our responsibility as Council to deal with Honor Code as it relates to the community; another opportunity for Council to work with HCO program: Code isn't just a sensor, but a helpful guide.
6. Raven: When she brought in the issue, she wasn't even thinking about the academic aspect of it.
 - a. Never really thought about the Honor Code after Customs Week, etc.;
 - b. Too much weight on one part of the Honor Code vs. another?
 - c. Not necessarily about changing the Honor Code but more about the attitude toward it.
7. What can be done to people who already have their opinions in place?
 - a. A forum would be something out of the way; students don't like to take the time to do things when they're already committed.
 - b. Though seeing posters during finals, etc. help people to realize what kind of community they're in, etc.; it could be as simple as posters
 1. "What the Honor Code doesn't say: censoring yourself", etc.
 2. Fliers that highlight small parts of the Honor Code
 3. With posters – phrasing: "Honor Code means you can express yourself" (better than "negative" messages like "Honor Code means you shouldn't censor yourself")
 4. Walls, doors, bathroom stalls!
 5. Student Outreach make quote posters!
 6. Go through the Honor Code and pick out passages that aren't as well-known; "what does this mean to you?"
8. Homework assignment: Honor Council members to read the Honor Code, send your favorite Honor Code quotes to Hazel by Wednesday; Student Outreach will take care of posters; Co-Chairs will get burn-your-eyes-out bright-paper copies made; Co-Secs will put together a campus-wide papering plan for Council members to sign up for spots; YAY!

III. Private Portion and Moment of Silence

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