HONOR COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 20, 2016

I. ROLL CALL
Absences: Brynn Cook, Martese Johnson, Alison Mehlsak, and Laura Ochs.

II. COMMUNITY INPUT
None.

III. OFFICER REPORTS
   A. VJ Jenkins—Vice Chair for Community Relations, CLAS
      Deferred until arrival.
   
   B. Caroline Herre—Vice Chair for Education, ARCH
      There is one FOA scheduled for later this week.
   
   C. Avery Rasmussen—Vice Chair for Investigations, COMM
      There was one I-Panel this past weekend which resulted in an accusation. Please fill out the survey regarding multiple nexus of events and IR in past case processing incidents.
   
   D. Russell Bogue—Vice Chair for Hearings, CLAS
      There is one scheduled Hearing for April 2nd, which will finish out our term.
   
   E. Faith Lyons—Chair, COMM
      This past weekend the new Committee had their retreat at Graves Mountain Lodge. New members and returning members introduced themselves. New executive committee members include: Matt West, Chair; Austin Sim, Vice Chair for Hearings; Sarah Wyckoff, Vice Chair Investigations; Ariana Zetlin, Vice Chair for Education; and Katherine Graham, Vice Chair for Community Relations.

IV. REPRESENATIVE REPORTS
   A. LAW: Austin would like to restart conversation with new LAW Dean regarding the Student Conduct Committee. Michelle seconded this.

V. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Independent Review Commission Update: Last meeting (3/14/2016) we discussed the Committee’s response to developing a review commission. This commission was discussed in relation to the 2000 Review Commision. The composition of this group was discussed specifically with regards to how people would be appointed/elected to the committee. Having faculty members was also discussed in addition to having an alumni relations/ BOV member. The goal of the composition will be to have as many voices in the community heard as possible. The hope will be to have people within the commission will also reach out to various stakeholders. The timeline for the commission was also discussed, as well as how involved Honor should be in determining this. It was felt that this committee should not just be a response to the election but also a review of Honor as a whole. Cabell Rosanelli (GBUS) voiced a concern that representation should be proportional to overall student body composition. Adam Buckholz (MED) said the feasibility of various program length would need to be
considered but the exact lengths of terms have not been set quite yet. Olivia Sabik (GSAS) asked how voting and oversight of this committee would work. This has not been decided yet.

VI. **New Business**

A. **International Center for Academic Integrity Conference Take-Aways:** Caroline Herre (ARCH), Faith Lyons (COMM), & Landon Wilkins (SCPS) attended the annual Conference in New Mexico February 19-21. All attendees presented sessions at the conference in addition to attending sessions.

   a. Caroline Herre (ARCH) & Faith Lyons (COMM) presented on how the UVA Honor Committee orients new students and why we orient new students. Our pronged approach of orientation speeches, lawn chats, and using dorm representatives as well as other mechanisms to gain feedback made us a very unique system when compared to other school systems. Other schools felt that we put a lot of effort into how we orient students.

   b. Landon Wilkins (SCPS) did a presentation about the conscientious retraction from a historical perspective.

   c. Alex Hall (Special Assistant to the Committee) did a presentation on case processing and the online reporting system.

   d. General Learning and Take-Aways: Faith added that the benefits of our Honor system are much greater than we typically realize. Focusing on how we can make these benefits more real for students would be an important item moving forward. Also of interest, in one of the sessions on student reporting the notion of competition playing into reporting was discussed at length. Caroline said that another interesting point was one of the schools looked at sanctioning from the perspective of due process, which would allow students to appeal sanctions that were felt to be unjust. Landon added that faculty members from other schools expressed concern about Honor at UVA because we don’t use tracking mechanisms to seek out cheating, which gave him greater appreciation of Honor in our Community of Trust. He also noted a study on international students that cited the reason for plagiarizing in this community as secondary to fear of appearing inferior to American students.

B. **Introductory By-Law Presentation:**

   a. The first proposed change is a reversal of term changes from *advocate* to *counsel* as you do not truly represent the student’s voice and your duty is the pursuit of the truth. This change is in line with what Policy and Procedures have been talking about in relation to what is the job of the support officer. Matt Comey (BATT) brought up a concern regarding whether this would make students less comfortable. Katie Deal (2016-2017 CLAS Rep) responded that the similar wording of “Advocate” and “Advisor” sometimes lead to confusion for accused students, which can lead to concerns about understanding who has a confidential relationship with the student during the hearing and hearing preparation period. Adam Buckholz and Monica Melmer (MED) voiced concerns that even if students felt more comfortable this is misleading, as it does not accurately describe the responsibility of the Support Officer. Caroline Herre (ARCH) suggested that counsel is a more neutral word.

   b. The second proposed change regards *Notice*, which comes up 41 times in our by-laws yet it does not have its own section. This proposal is to add a separate *Notice* section, which would explain this process. This by-law would also move existing
notification clauses to the Notice section. Several questions were asked regarding this timeline. Avery Rasmussen responded that the timeline and practices of the Committee stay the same, and that this change would simply clarify our process (students would be notified in as timely a manner as possible, but Committee proceedings will still generally be suspended during University breaks, barring outstanding circumstances). Sarah Rogers (SEAS) thinks this is an important and necessary change, especially in more effectively communicating with reporting faculty about notice and investigation timelines when reports are made during finals. Michelle Butler (LAW) wanted to make sure that the use of the term “Notice” is carefully described throughout the by-laws, as “Notice” is sometimes confused with or substituted for discussion of general due process requirements and we want to ensure that we are clear.

c. The third and final proposed change regards the implications of the Informed Retraction timeline for degree recipients. Currently students are put on Honor Probation for the duration of the semester in which the IR is filed, however this is less procedurally fair to students who have received their degree. This proposal would aim to change the two-semester Leave of Absence period to a 365 calendar day Honor Leave of Absence.

d. Handling stealing with regards to bad debt and contract law situations will be tabled until next week when Policy and Procedures co-chair Michael Treves can further elaborate on this matter. Faith said that this proposal would likely involve an addition to the existing by-laws and expanding on a more concise definition.

VII. Closed Session