Fellow Students,

Sexual assault is an appalling crime and a fundamental violation of the community of trust that our Honor System seeks to uphold. Last week’s *Rolling Stone* article has tragically reminded us that this community is not always the safe, trusting, and caring place we envision. Our trust has been shaken, and we, your classmates, are angry. We are angry that we attend a school where members of our community assault others. We are angry that many perpetrators continue to walk among us. And we are angry with ourselves—angry that we, as the Honor Committee, have failed to address the crimes that most egregiously violate our community. Impassioned for our friends and peers, we all seek opportunities to channel our anger toward facilitating justice for survivors.

The complicated intersection of Title IX and due process legally prevents the Honor Committee from taking part in the adjudication of sexual assault. As a student-run system with the highest possible standard of proof, the Honor System cannot fulfill all federal requirements for hearing cases of sexual misconduct. While we are prohibited from adjudicating these cases, that is no excuse for inaction. The Honor Committee is wholly dedicated to encouraging advocacy, supporting survivors, and fostering a community that we can be proud to call our own.

To that end, the Honor Committee and its support officers will train in comprehensive violence prevention strategies through the University’s new Green Dot program, a program that can produce necessary cultural change at our University. We urge other student organizations to join us and do the same. Starting now, the Honor Committee will also strive to support student advocacy across Grounds and further promote discussion about the ideal of honor as it relates to sexual assault. The Honor Committee seeks your guidance as we continue to explore our role in this cause. Please visit this form and let us know what we can do better, and how we can more adequately address this tragic issue. We acknowledge that the Honor Committee cannot directly adjudicate the cases at hand, but we will—and must—continue to work with the community toward a safer University.

No matter the constraints of federal legislation or personal feelings about Honor Committee policies, we must remain united in our pursuit of the highest standards of trust, integrity, and accountability in our University. The community of trust belongs to all of us, and change within a community begins with the individual. Institutional or administrative change cannot occur overnight—but personal change can. In each moment, honor is not about adjudication or trials; it is about always doing what is right. It is about always looking after one another. Sexual assault is a repugnant affront to our community, and we know that each of our individual actions is key in eliminating it and creating the University we desire. We must do more.

The Honor Committee