

Honor Council

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

Honor Council Sunday Meeting, 5:00pm Public Minutes from October 16, 2005.

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Jacob Rabinowitz, Jonathon Williams, Stephanie Rudolph (Co-Sec), Travis Green (Co-Chair), Andrew Yeats (Co-Chair), Brandon West (Co-Sec), Micah Sieber, Daniel Studenmund, Lindsey Merikas, Abby Krumholz, T. Dan Logan, Emma Eisenberg, Ben Pyenson, Justin Dainer-Best, Adem Bunkeddeko

ABSENT MEMBERS: Leah Gold **Librarian:** Dan Sacks '08 not in attendance

MOMENT OF SILENCE

1. **Punctuality:** Jacob and Stephanie reminded Honor Council members to show up on time otherwise meetings run entirely too long.
2. **Committee reports:** The chairs asked each committee to report on their progress:
 - a. **Community Outreach:** yet to speak with John Francone about issues of the Honor Code in the dining center.
 - b. **STUMP:** will be meeting later tonight; nothing to report
 - c. **Admissions:** nothing to report
 - d. **Faculty:** nothing to report
3. **Committee Goals:** Travis asked each committee to present their "goals for the semester" next week. He also asked that council keep in mind that certain committee activities are mandated by the Constitution.
4. **Confidentiality within Council:** In the past, only the executive officers (Co-Chairs/Co-Secretaries) know the details of issues brought in front of Council. All statements from confronted and confronting parties are edited by the co-chairs; names and identifying details are removed. Individual Council members only find out the names of the parties if they are chosen for the trial. Some details (i.e. if Honor Council has discussed a possible violation involving this person before) are never shared with non-executive Council members. Travis and Andrew (Co-Chairs) asked Council to discuss whether or not they feel the executive council members should, in the interest of accountability and openness, share more information with Council as a whole. The co-chairs explained that when they alter statements, they wield a lot of power—power that perhaps should be shared with the rest of council.
 - a. **Jacob:** Although everyone may be curious, it's not proper for non-executive Council members to know the names of confronted/confronting parties unless they need to.
 - b. **Justin:** Even if executive council told the rest of Honor Council more information, the co-chairs would still be filtering the information. So, if the co-chairs wanted to skew information, they still could. Telling Council more wouldn't necessarily increase accountability or decentralize power.
 - c. **Steph:** On any given trial between 8 and 12 out of 16 people on Council end up finding out the names of the parties. On an academic trial, for example, 6 council members are on the jury (and thus learn the names), all four executive officers know the names, and one "contact person" also learns the names. If a potential Honor Council member knows the parties, yet another replacement juror is told the names. Because so many people learn the names anyway, it seems silly to keep them from a few people. It's awkward to go around whispering the real names to only a select group of Council members.
 - d. **Andrew and Travis:** Pointed out, in response to Stephanie, that the names are not the only pieces of information kept secret from the rest of Council. They also pointed out that Council members knowing more names than necessary increases the frequency of awkward encounters with students on campus (i.e. if you know someone has been brought to Council and you're friendly with them, interactions with them can be uncomfortable). While increasing awkward encounters is an issue, representatives on Council ran for the position with the understanding that confidential knowledge can make social situations uncomfortable at times. They might just have to suck it up.
5. **Confidential Portion**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

These minutes reflect the opinions of Stephanie (srudolph@hc) and Brandon (bwest@hc) and are not reviewed or approved by Council.