

Proposed Amendments to the Standards and Procedures of Academic Honesty and Honor Code Hearings

The Gargoyle Society
April 11, 2007

Preamble:

These amendments strengthen the integrity of the Honor Code by promoting fairness, impartiality, and consistency in Honor Committee hearings. Students accused of violating the Honor Code have a right to a just hearing. In order to better ensure this right, these amendments clarify the standards and procedures for enforcing the Code.

Proposed Amendments:

1. Before evaluating any evidence, the Honor Committee shall presume innocence. The Committee shall find the accused guilty only if it determines that guilt is highly probable, based on clear and convincing evidence.

2. To the extent possible, the Honor Committee shall maintain consistency when applying sanctions to particular types of infractions. If the Committee applies a sanction for a given infraction that is different from the one it has applied in the past, it shall articulate its reasons for doing so. The Committee shall include those reasons in its report to the student body.

3. The members of the Honor Committee shall determine guilt and apply a sanction based only upon evidence presented at the hearing in the presence of the accused.

4. The following text shall replace the section "Procedures for alleged violation":

Students or faculty who wish to report what they suspect to be violations of the Honor Code should contact the Faculty Chair of the Committee. The Chair shall refer the accuser to a junior or senior student member of the Committee who will decide that the case merits a hearing only if the evidence presented indicates a probability that the

alleged violation occurred. Before the hearing, this student member will meet with the accused student to explain procedures, review all evidence to be presented at the hearing, provide a list of witnesses, and advise the accused student how to adequately prepare for the case.

The student Committee member who performs these pre-hearing functions will not participate at any subsequent hearings involving the accused. Pre-hearing responsibilities will rotate among members who have been on the Committee for at least one year or, if every member is new to the Committee, among the two senior members.

The Committee will convene to hear the case as soon as possible after receiving a report of an alleged violation. The accused student shall have sufficient time and opportunity to prepare a defense.

During the hearing, the person bringing the charge will present the evidence to the committee in the presence of the accused student, who may then speak in his or her own defense, both with and without the accuser present. After the accused student has left the proceedings, if the committee determines guilt, it will recommend an appropriate sanction to the Dean of the College.

Depending on the circumstances of the violation, sanctions then imposed by the Dean may include such possibilities as a letter of warning, failure in the assignment, disciplinary probation, a directed grade of E in the course, or temporary or permanent separation from the College.

After a decision has been made by the Committee, the accused student may request a reconsideration of the Committee's decision on the basis of substantial new evidence or improper procedures. If a majority of the Committee members feel that this is appropriate, the Committee will reconvene to reconsider the case. The Committee reconsiders the case in its entirety, referring to its minutes when appropriate, recalling witnesses.

Respectfully Submitted by the 112th Delegation of the Gargoyle Society

Godfrey Bakuli '07
William Bruce '08
Kim Dacres '08
Nirmal Deshpande '07
Blake Emerson '07
Morgan Goodwin '08
Charles Howard '07

Katie Josephson '07
Julia Kropp '08
Alexis Machabanski '07
Jose Pacas '08
Robert Streicker '07
Peter Tosirisuk '07

