CHANGES TO THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

1. Taping of Honor Council Hearings

Recommendation: In the Honor Council Hearing Procedures section, change “The hearing may be recorded, at the request of the accused student.” to “The hearing will be recorded.”

Justification: Following the recommendation of the college attorney, all Honor Council hearings are now being recorded. The recordings provide a full and accurate transcript of the hearings. This procedure, however, is not consistent with current Honor Council procedures, as outlined in the Honor Code.

2. Honor Council Vice-Chairs

Recommendation: Increase from one to two the number of Vice-Chairs on the Honor Council. [See attached for specific changes to the Honor Code.]

Justification: Finding enough student Honor Council members to serve on a panel can be challenging at times, due to the difficulty of coordinating schedules of all parties that need to be involved in an Honor Council hearing. Also, there are certain times of the term when multiple cases need to be screened and scheduled over a short period of time, such as during finals week or the first week of the term. Because either the Chair or Vice-Chair must screen the initial allegation of academic misconduct, participate in Chair-Dean reviews, and preside over Honor Council hearings, having two Vice-Chairs will make it easier for the Honor Council to conduct its work.

3. Honor Council Secretary and Alternate Secretary

Recommendation: Eliminate the formal positions of Secretary and Alternate Secretary. Instead, for every hearing, designate one student member of the Honor Council to be a secretary for that hearing. [See attached for specific changes to the Honor Code.]

Justification: Because either the Secretary or Alternate Secretary must be present at every Honor Council hearing, scheduling hearings has been difficult at times. Permitting any member of the Honor Council to serve as secretary will reduce these scheduling difficulties. If this change is adopted, future Honor Council training will include training in the duties of secretary for all Honor Council members.
Changes to Honor Code: Vice-Chair, Secretary and Alternate Secretary

A.1 Composition of Honor Council (2nd paragraph)

Honor Council positions will include a student Chair and two student Vice-Chairs (one of whom will serve if the Chair is not present). Student representatives to the Honor Council will be nominated through the Committee on Committees. The application will include an essay explaining the relevance of the applicant’s experience and why the applicant seeks a position on the Honor Council. As part of the application process, the President of Student Forum and (except in the first year) the Chair of the Honor Council shall interview all candidates and make recommendations to the Committee on Committees, which shall decide which students to appoint to the Honor Council. Except in the first year, the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair are reserved for students who have had prior experience on an honor council, or on the Committee on Standing of Students. Students will serve one year terms with a possibility of renewal.

A.4 Honor Council Hearing Procedures (1st paragraph)

Honor Council hearings must be held promptly. Each case will be heard by a panel. The hearing panel will consist of 5 members of the Honor Council. A hearing panel will include both faculty and students, at least 3 of which will be students. These 5 members will have a vote in the hearing. If the Vice-Chairs are not needed to serve in place of the Chair, as members of the Honor Council, they may serve on the hearing panel. Three non-voting members will also attend every hearing: the Chair, a secretary and the Dean of Studies. The secretary will be a student member of the Honor Council. The Chair will moderate the hearing and the secretary will take the minutes of the hearing. Members of the Honor Council shall disclose any prior connections or relationships with the accuser or the accused to the Chair and the Dean of Studies. If either believes that these relationships might impair, or appear to impair, the objectivity of a council member in this case, the council member shall be asked to recuse himself or herself.