



## Honor Council: Faculty Senate Presentation

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this (exam, quiz, paper).”

# The Honor Council

- Elected group of students who review cases of Honor Code violations and vote on decisions
- Entirely student-run
- Works to maintain trust and respect between student and faculty
- Holds open meetings every year to discuss possible changes to the consensus penalty structure (CPS) and new initiatives

# What is the current Honor Council process?

- Process begins with an accusation (usually from a professor or TA)
- Investigative Meeting
  - Accused is presented with evidence
  - Council decides if there is enough evidence to proceed with the case
  - Possible results: drop the case or move on to a hearing
- Hearing
  - Council meets with the accused student and reviews the evidence
  - Possible results: not in violation or in violation (and appropriate penalty)
- Investigative Meeting → Hearing → In Violation / Not In Violation

# Alternative Resolution (AR)

- Offers an abbreviated procedure and reduced penalty to students who plead “In Violation” and take responsibility for their mistakes
- Investigative Meeting → Hearing → In Violation / Not In Violation



(Alternative Resolution Offered)

In Violation (Reduced Alternative Resolution Penalty)

# Alternative Resolution (AR)

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Student has no prior Honor Code violations
  - The Investigative Meeting panel does not find any aggravating factors
- Student waives rights to a hearing and appeals
- If offered the Alternative Resolution, students have 48 hours after the Investigative Meeting to decline or accept
- If the student declines the AR or does not respond within 48 hours, the case will proceed to a Hearing

# Consensus Penalty Structure (CPS)

- Documentation the Honor Council uses to decide what the starting penalty is if the student is found “In Violation”
- The Honor Council can mitigate or aggravate from the starting penalty if mitigating/aggravating factors are found
- CPS meeting held every year to decide if any changes need to be made (anyone is invited to come)
- Changes need to be approved by a 3/4 vote of the council

# Old Consensus Penalty Structure (CPS)

Penalty	Starting Condition
F in the course and 3 semester suspension	--
F in the course and 2 semester suspension	45%+ of the course grade
F in the course and 1 semester suspension	33-45% of the course grade
F in the course	20-33% of the course grade
3 letter grade reduction	12-20% of the course grade
2 letter grade reduction	6-12% of the course grade
1 letter grade reduction	Under 6% of the course grade
Letter of Reprimand	--

# Alternative Resolution & Corresponding CPS

- In effect for all cases received AFTER March 3rd, 2019

In the event that the accused student accepts an Alternative Resolution penalty and the assignment weight falls on the border between two penalty categories, the Council must recommend the lower of the two Alternative Resolution penalties.

<b>Assignment Weight</b>	<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Alternative Resolution Penalty</b>
40%+ of the course grade	F in the course and 2 semester suspension	F in the course
30-40% of the course grade	F in the course and 1 semester suspension	F in the course
20-30% of the course grade	F in the course	3 letter grade reduction
10-20% of the course grade	3 letter grade reduction	2 letter grade reduction
5-10% of the course grade	2 letter grade reduction	1 letter grade reduction
under 5% of the course grade	1 letter grade reduction	Letter of Reprimand



# Annual CPS Meeting

- **Saturday October 26th from 12PM - 2PM** in the **Duncan PDR**
- All students and faculty are invited and welcome to participate in the discussion regarding potential changes to the CPS
- Food will be provided

# New Time Limitation Statute on Accusations

- The Council (in consultation with SJP) will reserve the right to declare that cases cannot be heard due to significant delay if:
  - 90 or more days passed between date of suspected violation and date of accusation (submission to the Council)
  - 60 or more days passed between date of accusation and submission of evidence by anyone who is not the accused student
- Significant delay in reporting suspected misconduct may reduce the availability of evidence crucial for the Honor Council to reach a fair decision

# New Faculty Advisor

- Dr. James DeNicco
  - Director of Principles of Economics Program and Lecturer
  - Available to answer questions about the Honor System and provide input from a faculty's perspective
  - Email: [james.denicco@rice.edu](mailto:james.denicco@rice.edu)



# Questions?

- More detailed information about all procedures can be found online at [honor.rice.edu](http://honor.rice.edu)
- Email [honor@rice.edu](mailto:honor@rice.edu) at any time if you have any questions