Meeting notes: March 3, 2017

This is more complex than we had originally anticipated.

Main points to focus on:

Not enough flexibility in sanctions and honor board wants more flexibility in those sanctions.

Appendix on Student Code of Conduct with details on sanctions for Class 1, 2, and 3 violations. Focus current conversation on what needs to be added to current arrangement (if anything) or we scrap it all and look at wholesale revision.

Strengths of policy:

- Allison – The XF has enough teeth to be a deterrent. She goes over the X XF in class, though many faculty members may not.
- X XF can be removed after 2 years, so it is not a penalty for life.
- It is a pretty straightforward process: The policy is clear, transparent, and not too complex.

Weaknesses/dislikes:

- It seems it’s pretty difficult to get a Class 1 from the honor board, even when faculty members feel that it should be a Class 1.
- It may be that honor board prefers not to go with Class 1 because of the serious nature of the sanctions. There’s a really high bar to finding someone with a Class 1 violation, so faculty members may not feel the punishment (for Class 2 and 3) is extreme enough.
- A little too rigid in that we’ve got three categories and two of the three have X XF as sanctions, without any real clarity about the weight of the assignment.
- No stipulation about admission of guilt
- No descriptions of Classes (in titles)
- No clarity on whether student can be past or present to petition to have X XF removed.

Considerations:

- Adding the possibility of an XB or XC in addition to the XF – but that XBs and XCs could only be assigned for Class 2 or 3 violations – not Class 1 violations. Does it matter that it’s a repeat offense? Do we pull in weight of assignment to add an additional class? In this new class, is that where the professor is given the flexibility of suggesting a sanction? Perhaps we consider having a category of Xs:
  - Class 1: Must get an XF because it is the “most serious breach of academic honesty”
  - Class 2: Additional X options (e.g. XB, XC, XD, and XF) – Anything less than an XF drops off transcript automatically without petition after 2 years. Potentially adding academic integrity workshop.
  - Class 3: No change

- Give honor board option of making 2nd offenses a Class 2 or Class 1 – not automatically Class 1. Perhaps, all 2nd violations involve an automatic bump up by at least one class (i.e., 2 class 3 violations get bumped to Class 2 or Class 1). 2nd violation automatically bumps up at least one class.
• From other policies: Liked the idea of having a table of possible sanctions for faculty members and/or the honor board; Consider adding a table with Class number, examples, and possible sanctions that faculty members could put on syllabi (simple and clear)

• Remorse and admission of guilt – how does that impact the process and is it something that should be incorporated into policy?

• **Relabeling “Class 1, 2, or 3” using more qualitative descriptors of which is most-least severe.**
  - Class 1: Severe or Deliberate Violations
  - Class 2: Moderate to Severe Violations
  - Class 3: Minor or Unintentional Violations

  **Simpler naming convention (preferred):**
  - Class 1: Severe Violations
  - Class 2: Moderate to Severe Violations
  - Class 3: Minor Violations

**Additional Suggestions:**

• Clarify in the appendix that students can petition to have the XXF removed after they are no longer a student. Parenthetical addition on Section F, Page 100: After two years, a student (past or present) may petition the honor board to exchange the XXF for an F.
Meeting Notes (11/16/16)

Honor Code Review

Also Present: Jeri Cabot (Dean of Students) and Emily Beck (honor board member | beckem@g.cofc.edu)

It has been 10 years since the last review of the honor code policy. In addition, over the last ten years faculty at CofC are using more and more “small” assignments. One of the concerns that prompted this review is the feeling that the “XF” for a smaller assignment is excessively harsh. Another concern is that there is little flexibility in the current honor code policy for students who are remorseful for their behavior. On both points, honor board members feel unnecessarily constrained by the current policy.

Possible Changes to the Honor Code Policy

- Have an alternative to the “XF” for smaller assignments (i.e. not an exam or term paper)
  - One possibility is a temporary “XF” that goes away with the completion of an academic integrity review or workshop (see for example www.academicintegrityseminar.com).
- Have an alternative to the “XF” when a student acknowledges their mistake (vs. the student who refuses to admit their lapse in judgment). Current policy does not adjust for that or permit the honor board to exercise judgment.
- Some institutions have an “XA,” “XB,” etc. for small assignments. A student will take a “0” on a small assignment, and receive the “X” designation, but not fail the entire course if it is an assignment that is not weighted heavily.

Any change will need to be approved by academic standards and the faculty Senate.

Research

Possible schools to examine. XF came from the University of Maryland. UCSD has a person who has written a lot on academic integrity. Clemson and USC because of state flagships. JMU, William and Mary, Hofstra, UNCW, UNCG, Coastal Carolina because they are peers or peer-aspirants.

- Each member of the committee will study two institutions and report by early January 2017 how their institutions handle honor code violations. Attention should be paid to policies/policy language that would address the issues noted above.
  - Wes: Coastal Carolina and UNCG
  - Allison: UNCW and Hofstra
  - Sarah: Maryland and William and Mary
  - Felix: UCSD and JMU
  - Jordan: USC and Clemson
- Each member of the committee will go to department chairs in early February and solicit their feedback on our review. Attention should be paid to obtaining a representative slice of departments and schools and the unique challenges in each.
• Draft a report and with the Academic Standards Committee in early March 2017.
• Possible faculty Senate presentation in April.
Agenda
College of Charleston Faculty Committee on Student Affairs and Athletics

Wednesday, October 4th, 2016, 3:00pm - 4:00pm
*Meeting postponed to Wednesday, October 19th from 3-4pm because of Hurricane Matthew

School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean’s Office, 2 Green Way Conference Room

I. Welcome to Committee
   Jordan, Allison, Wes, and Sarah were present (Felix had a conflicting obligation).

II. Selecting Student Members
   We need 2 resident student members and one non-resident member and we need to select these students within about two weeks. Think about people you think might be a good fit.

III. Who’s Who Award
   Around Thanksgiving time, we’ll be responsible for reviewing applications for the Who’s Who award. Applications are due soon, so please send a personal email to students you think might be deserving to encourage them to apply. You might also consider announcing this to your departments. The award is to recognize outstanding campus leadership. Applicants must be full-time, junior- or senior-level students with a 3.0 or higher GPA. We will select 10-15 recipients.

IV. Alexander Chambliss Connelly Award
   This award is given every March to one student who has made an outstanding and unselfish contribution to the student body. Again, we’ll review applications and make the selection in the spring.

V. Student Grievances
   If needed, we may be called on to serve on an ad hoc student grievance panel, as outlined in the student handbook.

VI. Honor Code Review
   We also typically work on a project with the Dean of the Students. Last year, the committee reviewed and made recommendations on the absence policy. This year, Dean Cabot would like for us to review the honor code, especially the different classes and sanctions, possibly the petition process. We’ll try to schedule a meeting with Dean Cabot in the near future to discuss this. Let’s plan for for 11/2/14 from 3-4pm if Dean Cabot is available.

VII. Other Items for Discussion
   n/a

VIII. Adjournment