

November 20, 2023

Dear Faculty Members,

We, the Gettysburg College Honor Commission, are writing to emphasize the importance of rewriting the Honor Code. Within our ever-changing academic world, the current Honor Code fails to incorporate various aspects of the current state of higher education. The Honor Code has not been revised since 2014, nor has it been seriously overhauled since 2006. While aspects of the Code are outdated, the message remains a keystone of the academic experience at Gettysburg College.

On November 7th, 2023, three of our members, Caroline Gill, Michael Klatt, and Andrew Lemon, along with our Administrative Advisors, Dean Keira Kant and Dean Hannah Sollenberger, met with the Faculty Council to discuss our concerns with the current Honor Code. In this meeting, we discussed Artificial Intelligence, which can constitute an Honor Code Violation, and the possibility of adding a warning for minor violations, among other topics.

1. **AI Policy:** Given the advancement in technology since the last revision of the Honor Code, we need to address and create a universal artificial intelligence (AI) policy to ensure it aligns with our commitment to academic integrity. Professor Brandauer and Professor Forbes have already paved the way toward this initiative; however, the Honor Commission would like to see a portion of this work added to the honor code.
2. **Instating a Warning Policy:** Some violations are minuscule when compared to others. However, the same statement must be disclosed for those with minor violations (small assignments), as opposed to those with major violations (final exams, major papers, etc.) Violations often occur out of misunderstandings, and a warning would allow students the opportunity to clarify these misunderstandings and use this as an educational opportunity on academic integrity.
3. **Resources for Post-Violation:** We seek to help students rectify their Honor Code Violations by providing them with resources to encourage integrity including time management classes, supporting peer-learning groups and resources, and helping students

improve their standings in the class in certain circumstance. Many violations are not done maliciously, meaning a lack of prioritization, organization, or mental clarity. Resources can help students who may be seeking help without knowing where to look for it.

4. Proctoring Exams: With new technology, such as smartphones and smartwatches, the Commission is open to the discussion of having proctored exams, so faculty may better serve as a reminder of academic integrity and be more readily available for support during assessments.
5. Hearing Board Policies: The current Hearing Board process is often a penalty within itself. The process is extensively labor intensive to obtain a full board and the entire process can be comparable to a court trial. The hearing board process can be stressful and intimidating to students. We propose the idea of lowering the number of Honor Commission members to serve on the board as well as looking over the Hearing Board process as a whole.
6. Increasing Outreach: The Honor Commission is committed to enhancing our outreach efforts with faculty and students about the Honor Code. The Honor Commission would be willing to make appearances that are more frequent at Faculty Meetings and meet with Faculty Members to increase communication between the two bodies.
7. Create a committee comprised of faculty and students to review, update/create a new, current day Honor Code.
8. Relocate the administrative management of the Honor Code out of Center for Student Success.

We firmly believe that the Honor Code is not a set of rules, but a fundamental element of academics here at Gettysburg College. Faculty play a crucial role in upholding and promoting our values; thus, we wish to work with the Faculty to improve the effectiveness and equity of our Honor Code, in and out of the classroom. Your active participation and engagement throughout this process is imperative, and we welcome your thoughts and ideas on how we can collectively strengthen and update our commitment to the Code. Together, we can ensure that the Honor Code remains a guiding principle to our academic endeavors.

Sincerely,

Caroline Gill and Michael Klatt, *on behalf of the Gettysburg College Honor Commission*

