

Proposed Change to Article X, Honor System Constitution

Background

The Kansas State University Honor System Constitution and Bylaws were adopted in Spring 1998. Both the Constitution and the Bylaws can be found at the Honor System website (<http://www.ksu.edu/honor>), but only the Bylaws are included in the University Handbook (Appendix F). Article X of the Constitution allows revisions of the Bylaws to be made by approval of the Honor Council. As a result, changes have been made to the Honor System Bylaws that were not integrated into the University Handbook.

In an Honor Code violation investigated last summer, it was discovered that two different versions of the Bylaws exist: (1) a regularly updated version maintained at the Honors System website, and (2) the Bylaws passed by Faculty Senate in 1998. In an effort to provide a temporary solution to this problem, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee approved the inclusion of an Interim Policy in October 2004 for inclusion in the University Handbook, with the understanding that more formal changes would be brought forward through Faculty Senate in the ensuing months. These formal changes were placed on the Faculty Senate Agenda in January 2005, but withdrawn because of concerns regarding their substance. President Spears subsequently convened an ad hoc committee to examine the problem. Two issues were identified: (1) a procedural concern regarding what should be placed in the University Handbook and to what extent Faculty Senate should be involved in the revision of the Honor System Bylaws, and (2) substantive concerns with regard to changes that have been made to the Bylaws without Faculty Senate input.

Two approaches for dealing with these problems were discussed. The first was to remove the Bylaws from the University Handbook and replace it with the Honor System Constitution. This would allow Faculty Senate to review any changes made to the Constitution but would not involve it in the more frequent changes made to the Bylaws. The second option was to keep the Bylaws in the University Handbook, but change the Honors System Constitution to require that all changes made to the Bylaws be subject to approval by Faculty Senate. Changes adopted by Faculty Senate are automatically updated in the University Handbook, thus ensuring that the Bylaws published at the Honor System website and in the University Handbook are identical.

Given the level of concern raised with regard to the substance of the current Bylaws, which were amended without Faculty Senate approval but in accordance with the current Honor System Constitution, the proposed change to alter the Constitution to require that all changes to the Bylaws be subject to Faculty Senate approval might seem preferable. On the other hand, it can be argued that such a change would invite more direct Faculty Senate involvement in the Honors System than is desirable.

Proposed Solution

The Ad-Hoc Committee recommends a compromise between these two positions. We propose that the Honors System Constitution be the document that is included in the University Handbook. We further propose that Article X of the Honors System Constitution be revised to: (1) replace the word "Bylaws" with "Investigation and Adjudication Procedures" and (2) allow revisions to the "Investigation and Adjudication Procedures" be made according to the procedures originally outlined for the By-Laws, but that the "Investigation and Adjudication Procedures" document be formally reviewed by Faculty Senate (as well as by the other relevant policy groups) every five years.

A complete copy of the Honor System Constitution can be found at:

<http://www.ksu.edu/honor/honorsystem/index.htm>

ARTICLE X: ~~BYLAW REVISIONS~~ INVESTIGATION AND ADJUDICATION PROCEDURES

~~Bylaw revisions must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the total Honor Council selected and qualified.~~ Upon adoption by the Faculty Senate, the Investigation and Adjudication Procedures shall be subject to periodic review by Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, Graduate Student Council, and Student Senate, at 5 year intervals beginning in 2005. Interim revisions to the Investigation and Adjudication Procedures may be made upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the ~~total~~ Honor Council ~~selected and qualified~~. The Investigation and Adjudication Procedures must be posted at the Honor System website (<http://www.ksu.edu/honor>) and updated regularly.