

Haverford Honor Council Standard Social Trial Flow Chart

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Honor Council Involvement

1. If a confronting party feels as if a resolution cannot be reached through confrontation or a conversation mediated by COMLs, they may choose to involve Honor Council. Honor Council should inform the confronting party of their recommendation regarding moving to trial and provide their reasoning, but it is ultimately the confronting party's decision as to whether or not they proceed with a trial.
2. If the confronting party opts for a trial, Honor Council will designate a Council member to explain to the confronted party the concerns of the confronting party, to explicitly inform the confronted party of their rights, to familiarize the party with the trial procedure, and to describe the implications and purpose of each step of the trial process.



Jury Formation

1. A jury is formed by the Honor Council Co-Secretaries (based on the availability of a random sample of the student body), including five Honor Council members (one of whom is the chair of the trial), and five other community members. At least three of the jurors must identify as students of color, and no more than six can identify as the same gender.
2. A jury (as well as alternates) is sent to the trial parties, who may remove up to two jurors for reasons of confidentiality.
3. The jurors are told the names of the confronting and confronted parties (and are asked to remove themselves if they have concerns about potential conflicts of interest).
4. Jurors and trial parties are contacted to schedule trial meetings.



Throughout the process

- All decisions made by Honor Council or the trial jury will be made by consensus.
- All parties will have opportunities to voice their side of the story.
- Every effort will be made to protect the confidentiality of the involved parties.
- A confronting or confronted student may have a student support person who may attend the trial (see [guidelines](#)). New or visiting faculty may have support people as well.
- Bryn Mawr students will have a liaison from BMC's Honor Board present at the trial.
- If at any point all parties request that the trial become a mediation, the jury can consent to proceed with a mediation, with at least one COML serving as a mediator.



Preliminary meeting (jury only)

1. Ahead of the trial, the chair sends a video by email to the jury, outlining expectations for jurors, and the trial's standard procedures and goals – resolutions oriented around:
 - Education (give party and community resources and information to avoid similar situations in the future)
 - Accountability (hold the involved parties accountable for their actions)
 - Restoration (repair the breach of trust between parties + with the community)
2. The trial chair meets with the jury and has them read the Honor Code, as well as statements from all parties.



Fact-Finding & Circumstantial Meeting (confronting and confronted parties present)

1. Introductions, review of trial procedure and goal of meeting: find out what happened.
2. Parties tell their side of the story, and the jury asks questions. Parties may ask each other questions. A party may be asked to leave the room (by the other party or the jury) for certain questions.
3. The parties should engage in whatever dialogue is helpful for them, including but not limited to describing their experiences of the situation and expressing their personal concerns, how they feel this issue has affected themselves and the community, and what circumstances they feel led up to this situation. Throughout this process, confronting parties should not feel obligated to share more than they feel comfortable sharing or more than is necessary to share, nor should they be burdened with reliving their trauma or educating others.
4. If the confronting party has opted for separate meetings, the jury may request an additional meeting with both parties present, while also considering the confronting party's circumstances. It is ultimately the confronting party's decision whether or not to attend this joint meeting. The confronting party's decision should not be considered by the jury when deliberating statements of violation or resolutions.
5. The jury (and the parties present) discuss potential resolutions or recommendations to address the goals of the trial. The confronting party also has the opportunity to propose resolutions.
6. The parties are asked to leave.



Jury Deliberations (jury only)

1. The jury discusses the facts of the case and whether or not a violation occurred. The jury should consider the circumstances at hand, how this issue has affected the community, and how this issue has caused a breach of trust between the parties.

2. If during deliberations, the jury feels that either party has violated the Honor Code, either in addition to or independently from the original suspected violation, they will convene a second meeting with both parties present to discuss their initial thoughts on the situation before coming to statement(s) of violation regarding the original suspected violation.
3. The jury consents on either a statement of violation, or a statement of non-violation. If the latter occurs, the case is over. If the former occurs, then the trial proceeds as follows.
4. If the jury consents on a statement of violation, the jury will then deliberate on a set of resolutions to address the trial goals.
5. Examples of resolutions could include: recommendation for a grade change, separation from the community, letter to the community, meetings at the OAR, etc.
6. The jury also crafts a tentative statement briefly summarizing their views on whether the trial constitutes a disciplinary hearing.
7. Tentative resolutions and this statement are sent to the parties.



Discussion of Tentative Resolutions (confronted party present, confronting party optional)

1. The jury invites both parties back to discuss the tentative resolutions the jury has come to, and to hear feedback from the parties following their reflection on the resolutions.
2. The confronting party may opt for individual meetings, in which case this request is fulfilled. The jury and present party/parties then have a discussion on their thoughts on the structure of the trial process as a whole and potential changes or additions to the resolutions. These discussions ideally continue until all parties and the jury are both satisfied with the proceeding and the resolutions, although this may not occur in all cases.
3. The parties leave, and the jury consents to any necessary changes to the resolutions and statement.
4. The trial chair delegates writers for the abstract to be released to the community, and a juror to serve as a representative to the President of the college if a trial party appeals any resolutions, which they must do within five business days of the trial's completion.



Post-Trial

- Trial resolutions will be sent to the Deans of the College, as well as the Honor Council Staff Support person, who will monitor their completion.

- Abstract is written under pseudonyms, and sent to the parties for consent to release. Parties may request a delay for reasons of confidentiality (typically no more than a year), and then Council will consent on when to release the abstract to the community.