

Honor Code

(April 25, 2001)

Constitution of the Honor System of Baylor School

(adopted by the Student Body, May 1916, and amended in 1929, 1951, 1968, 1972, 1979, 1983, 1989, 2001).

In as much as we, the students of the Baylor School, believe that a great school, like any great institution, must of necessity rest on the foundations of truth and honor; that a lie is the most detestable thing of which a person may be guilty, and truth the greatest virtue which one may possess; and that this school should send out men and women who despise falsehood and prize honor more than all else;

Be it resolved that we the students of the year 1916, in the month of May, unanimously adopt the Honor System in our school; that we instruct the members of the Student Council to sign their names to this and the following resolutions as a token of the pledge of each class to uphold this Honor System; and that each succeeding student of this school on one's entrance must swear to keep and maintain one's standard of honor and automatically agrees to abide by the Honor Code both in letter and in spirit realizing that a plea of ignorance shall not be accepted;

Be it further resolved that the Honor System shall be a solemn and voluntary obligation on the part of the Baylor student body to live by the highest standards of truth and honor; and be it further obligation that each student observing a dishonorable act shall counsel with the offender in an effort to show the party the severity of dishonesty or report the offense to the Honor Council, for be it known that we do not want any person who will cheat, lie, steal, plagiarize, or falsify information in our midst;

Be it further resolved that a Student Honor Council be established for the purpose of encouraging honesty on the part of the students.

Article I

Name

The name of the council shall be the Honor Council of the Baylor School.

Article II

Purpose

The Honor Council has two purposes: the first being to preserve the integrity of the Honor System at Baylor by giving justice to any student under suspicion of dishonesty, by vindicating one's name if one is innocent, and by protecting the honor and standing of other students through appropriate punishment if one is found guilty; the second being to assist a guilty student in understanding the seriousness of dishonesty in an effort to help one build a more honorable character.

Article III

Student Rights

An assumption of guilt is not necessarily equated with a request⁵ to meet the Honor Council. A student is innocent until proven guilty by the facts and convicted by a quorum of the Honor Council. A student's word is sacred and shall be taken until the student is proven guilty and therefore, dishonorable. Furthermore, a student has several rights upon being called before the Honor Council. Students have the following rights:

1. To have a hearing as expeditiously as possible after being accused.
2. To request the presence of their adviser or a faculty member of their choice at the hearing.
3. To appeal their case to the Headmaster for reconsideration by the Honor Council.
4. To have the facts of their case kept in strictest confidence by members of the Honor Council unless the student requests that the minutes of the case be open to a specific concerned or involved person.

Article IV

Membership of the Upper School Honor Council

The Upper School Honor Council shall consist of fourteen (14) members:

Four representatives from the senior class, including at least one dorm student.

Three representatives from the junior class, including at least one dorm student.

Three representatives from the sophomore class, one being a dorm student and one being a day student.

Two representatives from the freshman class, with no distinctions made between day student or dorm student.

Two at-large representatives, one being a dormitory student and one being a day student.

The Associate Headmaster or a faculty member appointed by the Associate Headmaster shall be the adviser to the Upper School Honor Council.

Article V

Election of Members for Upper School Honor Council

The four (4) seniors – including at least one dorm student, three (3) juniors – including at least one dorm student, and three (3) sophomores – including at least one dorm student, will be elected in May of each year by all the respective members of their rising classes. The two (2) rising freshmen – no distinctions – will be elected in the fall of the following school year.

The election of senior, junior, and sophomore representatives to the Honor Council for the following year will be held in early May and will take place in the following manner: A student who wishes to run for a position on the Honor Council must submit to the faculty adviser of the Honor Council a petition signed by 25 eligible voters (from the candidate's own class). Students must meet all school established criteria for election to student office. Both a due date for the return of all petitions and an

election date will be set. The dorm student receiving the most votes from each class will automatically be elected. Runoffs will be held where necessary for the remaining positions.

Elections for freshman representatives to the Honor Council will take place in the early fall of the following year in the same manner.

One (1) day and one (1) dorm representative will be appointed by the newly elected Honor Council from the rising junior and/or senior classes for the following year.

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Any representatives having two or more unexcused absences in consecutive meetings of the Honor Council may be removed from their position by a majority vote of the Council.

Article VI

Officers

The Upper School Honor Council shall elect from their number the following officers:

- A chair who must be a senior, and if possible, have served one year previously on the Honor Council.
- A vice-chair
- A secretary
- A clerk

Article VII

Duties of Officers

It shall be the duty of the chair to preside at all meetings of the Council; to investigate all accusations of violations of the Honor System; to report the results of investigations to the Honor Council; to arrange for the trial of any student accused, and to perform all duties pertaining to the office.

The vice-chair will assume the chair's duties in the chair's absence.

The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings and proceedings of all trials. These must be kept up-to-date in a permanent file.

The clerk shall summon the accused and witnesses in all trials.

It shall be the duty of each member of the Council to attend all meetings, to investigate all rumors which are heard, and to report results of investigations to the chair.

Article VIII

Meetings

No regular meetings of the Honor Council are required.

Special meetings may be called independently by the chair or at any time requested of the chair by the Associate Headmaster.

All meetings shall be conducted according to parliamentary procedure.

Article IX

Quorum

Ten members shall constitute a quorum of the Council. In case of trial, the verdict shall be “guilty” or “not guilty”; and ten (10) votes out of fourteen (14) will be necessary to convict the accused.

Article X

Publicity

Each year the Baylor **B Book** will contain a copy of the constitution. There will be an orientation program held at the beginning of each year for all students by the Upper School Honor Council.

Article XI

Amendments to this constitution shall require for their adoption the approval of a quorum of the Honor Council and ratification by a majority vote of the student body.

Article XII

Penalties dealt to those declared guilty shall be strongly recommended to the Associate Headmaster for discussion and approval.