



**University Senate
CHARGE**

Date:	May 3, 2016
To:	Madlen Simon Chair, Educational Affairs Committee
From:	Willie Brown Chair, University Senate 
Subject:	Clarification and Codification on Declining Honor Pledge
Senate Document #:	15-16-31
Deadline:	February 15, 2017

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) requests that the Educational Affairs Committee review the attached proposal that requests that the University of Maryland Policy on the Conduct of Undergraduate Courses and Student Grievance Procedure (V-1.00[A]) be amended to clarify that when evaluating student performances faculty may not take into account whether a student has signed the Student Honor Pledge or has declined to do so.

Specifically, we ask that you:

1. Review the [University of Maryland College Park Code of Academic Integrity \(III-1.00\[A\]\)](#).
2. Consult with the proposer.
3. Consult with the Director of Student Conduct.
4. Consult with the Undergraduate Ombudsperson.
5. Consult with a representative of the Office of Undergraduate Studies.
6. Consult with the Student Conduct Committee.
7. Consult with the University's Office of General Counsel on any proposed recommendations.
8. If appropriate, recommend changes to current policy.

We ask that you submit your report and recommendations to the Senate Office no later than February 15, 2017. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Reka Montfort in the Senate Office, extension 5-5804.

Attachment

WB/rm



University Senate PROPOSAL FORM

Name:	Chuck Englehart
Date:	3/24/2016
Title of Proposal:	Clarification and Codification on Declining Honor Pledge
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	chuck@umd.edu
Campus Address:	n/a
Unit/Department/College:	M.S. Telecommunications
Constituency (faculty, staff, undergraduate, graduate):	Part Time Graduate Students
Description of issue/concern/policy in question:	The Honor Pledge is intended to be a requested but optional pledge that students write on different assignments. The Honor Council states: "If a handwritten Honor Pledge and Pledge signature do not appear on a paper or examination, faculty members should ask the student for an explanation. Doing so has the added value of encouraging teachers and students to discuss the importance of academic integrity and the best ways to promote it. Students remain free to decline to write or sign the Pledge and should not be penalized for exercising that right." However, if a student is penalized for not writing the pledge there is currently no recourse.
Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why:	I would like to see the "UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE" amended to add a section allowing students to seek recourse in the event they are punished for not writing or signing the pledge. This would show the campus community that the Honor Pledge is not compulsory and that it is a student's decision. This gives more weight to the pledge as it is not simply something that must be signed for course credit.
Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice:	This is a very simple change. A statement can be added under section B.I. of the "UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE" to reflect a student's right to recourse if they are punished for not signing the pledge.

Additional Information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Who would be affected (both positively and negatively) if your proposal was put into action?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Students would be positively affected. They would have codified assurances of the implied rights spoken to by the Student Honor Council○● Are there any financial consequences that would result from this proposal?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No.
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Please send your completed form and any supporting documents to senate-admin@umd.edu or University of Maryland Senate Office, 1100 Marie Mount Hall, College Park, MD 20742-7541. Thank you!