

Students to get choice in Honor hearings

Next year students accused of an Honor Code offense may have the opportunity of choosing whether they wish to be tried by the Honor Court or the Dean of Students, according to Associate Justice James R. Hughes.

Hughes is the author of the Uniform Code for Disciplinary Action, which is the alternative to the Procedures for Student Discipline which President James L. Bugg Jr. had submitted to the Board of Visitors for consideration.

Hughes, like some other students, was not satisfied with the Procedures, which eliminated the Honor Court. He drew up the Uniform Code, which incorporates the Honor Court into the concept of Bugg's Procedures, and also added clauses which allow for a defendant to have a defense counsel from the time he is accused.

Hughes presented the Uniform Code to Bugg, who accepted

form Code to Bugg, who accepted it and sent it to the Board for their consideration about a month ago.

This week Hughes announced that he had drawn up an addition to the Uniform Code which would "make the Court personnel more responsible to their duties."

The addition allows for "the right to be heard by either the Honor Council or the Dean of Student Affairs, and the right to have either the Honor Council or the Dean of Student Affairs to make the final disposition of the case pending an appeal to the Discipline Appeals Committee by the student."

"The whole thing is meant to be a fabric framework with controls instituted only to insure responsibility," said Hughes. In other words, if the members of the Honor Court know that the student has the choice of either going to them or to the Dean of Students they will be more likely to conduct themselves in such a way that they would not fall into disfavor with the students.

"If you have a Dean of Students that is out for blood you can go to the Honor Court, and if you have an Honor Court that is out for blood then you can go to the Dean of Students," said Hughes.

Hughes said that some members of the Honor Court were opposed to this move "because their vested interests ("power") in the Court would be decreased in absolute terms," adding that the majority were in favor of it.

Bugg has accepted this addition to the Uniform Code and is forwarding it to the Board of Visitors.

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