October 6, 2016

MUSC Faculty, Students and Staff:

We recognize that there continue to be concerns expressed about the Honor Council and the integrity of the process.

We have been advised that due to the legal and professional requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), MUSC must refrain from a detailed disclosure and discussion of specific Honor Council cases. While the student- and faculty-led Honor Council continuously reviews and updates the MUSC Honor Council documents, we believe a thorough and complete review is not only appropriate, but necessary.

Under the leadership and auspices of the Provost's Office, we will convene an expert panel charged with reviewing and making recommendations for revisions to our Honor Council process and policies. This inclusive blue-ribbon panel will be composed of students and faculty from MUSC as well as external legal and educational experts in higher education with a focus on student disciplinary actions, including Honor Council policies and processes. We will solicit recommendations from MUSC students and faculty at the onset of this process and the MUSC University Honor Council will be highly engaged. In addition, the final recommendations from the blue-ribbon panel will be widely distributed in the interest of full transparency. As an institution committed to lifelong learning, we enthusiastically embrace the concept of process improvement and the adoption of updated best practices.

We urge everyone to think individually and avoid a rush to judgment. We hope everyone has had the opportunity to review what President Cole and I have shared on this topic (link below). Thank you.


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