June 13, 2021

Friends,

I am pleased to accept all five of the resolutions passed by students at Plenary this spring. I accept them all without stipulation for changes while also including a comment on Resolution 3: Social Code Amendments (below).

I am grateful to the student body for engaging with seriousness of purpose and generosity of spirit throughout the plenary process as it was modified for our pandemic-disrupted academic year. In particular I would like to thank the resolutions' presenters, as well as Students' Council leadership, for wise, creative, and community-minded work.

Resolution 1: Election reform

I accept this resolution.

Resolution 2: Definition of the role of Community Outreach Multicultural Liaisons

I accept this resolution. I applaud the clarity and improvement that this resolution provides to the multiple layers of confrontation engagement offered by Community Outreach Multicultural Liaisons (COMLs).

Resolution 3: Social Code amendments

I accept this resolution, with the following comment:

This resolution intends to assist the Haverford student body in becoming a community that more often, more widely, and more fully experiences our shared aspirational values of trust, concern, and respect when matters arise that lead students to engage in confrontation. This intent has guided Honor Code revisions across generations of Haverford students.

As revised, Section 3.06 of the Honor Codes describes confrontation in this way:

Confrontation, in the Haverford sense, refers to initiating a dialogue with a community member about a potential violation of the Honor Code with the goal of

another, and empathy. This is not always easy when conflict centers on strongly held views, whether personal, social, religious, political, or otherwise.

It is a college president's responsibility to ensure that normative expectations do not chill the thoughtful expression of ideas or beliefs. A reasonable person might see language in this amendment that causes them to worry about whether they are free to share their views, whether a political affiliation, a stance on public policy, or a religious value at odds with others'. A learning community cannot function when individuals are fearful about s