Whereas the option for an open trial before the Academic Judicial Board (AJB) and Community Judicial Board (CJB) is permitted under current procedures to a student or group of students;

Whereas the student handbook does not outline exact procedures for an open disciplinary trial;

Whereas a student or group of students can choose an open trial option;

Whereas the two most recent open trials were only open to a limited number of community members who entered and were later picked from a lottery;

Whereas randomly selected community members had to commit to attending the entire disciplinary trial, despite its unpredictable length;

Whereas the two most recent open trials were advertised through a school-wide email that did not disclose the exact charges nor the participants involved;

Whereas students have previously chosen a disposition without a hearing or opted for a closed trial due to severely limited attendance allowed in an open trial;

Whereas previous open trials have been publicized through an email detailing both the charges and who would be charged;

Whereas previous open trials have allowed any community members to enter and leave throughout the trial considering they were both non-disruptive and the capacity of the room was not reached;

Whereas previous open trials have taken place in large capacity venues such as Dana Auditorium and were open to all community members without a lottery process;

Therefore, be it resolved…

The Student Government Association recommends handbook procedures for an open trial be that:

1. As currently allowed, an open trial should be an option for any student or students who elect for an open AJB or CJB hearing except if confidential information is pertinent to the case;
2. A school-wide email should be sent several days prior to the trial detailing the charges, who is involved, and the logistical details of the trial such as location, date, and time;
3. Any community members of the college are allowed to attend an open trial. These members should be able to enter and leave throughout the trial in a non-disruptive manner;
4. If a community member or members are being disruptive, they will be asked to leave. If, after a warning, the community member or members do not leave, they will be subject to disciplinary action;

5. If the trial is expected to have a large crowd, the trial must take place in a high capacity area such as Dana Auditorium or Wilson Hall. Admittance to the trial should come on a first come first serve basis;

6. The student or students should be able to select whether they would also allow non-community members such as the press to attend the trial;

7. If the number of community and possibly non-community members exceeds the capacity of the space and a high capacity location is not in use, the trial must be temporarily suspended until a larger venue can be secured.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alec Fleischer, February Senator