

**Abstract of the Honor Council
Case 18, Spring 2013
January 31, 2013**

Members Present:

Trey Burns (presiding), Seth Lauer (clerk), Adriana Bracho, Brooke Evans, Abby Endler, Likeleli Seitlheko, Mitch Massey, Ibrahim Akbar, Mick Pryor

Ombuds: Aubrey Sirtautas

Letter of Accusation:

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarism on a final paper for a graduate level Social Science course.

Evidence Submitted:

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Course Syllabus
- Student A's Paper with Professor Comments
- Correspondences between Student A and Professor
- Professor Deposition
- Source Documents (when available)

Plea:

Student A did not attend the hearing.

Deliberations:

Council members discussed whether or not to invoke Article XVI of the Constitution of the Honor System, which states "If the accused student fails to attend his or her hearing, the Honor Council may recommend that he or she be suspended from Rice University."

The Ombuds told the Council that Student A contacted her several hours before the hearing and at that time stated she would not be attending her hearing. Both the Chair and the Ombuds informed the Council of their repeated attempts to contact Student A to see if there was a reason she had chosen to not attend and if she would like to reschedule the hearing. They also told the Council that in these attempts to contact Student A, they had informed her of the consequences of not attending a hearing.

Council members agreed that because Student A had chosen not to attend her hearing without giving a reason, it was appropriate to invoke Article XVI.

Vote: Should the Council invoke Article XVI of the Constitution in light of Student A's failure to attend her hearing.

Yes: 9

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

Council members then discussed whether or not to recommend suspension for Student A. Given that Student A had been made aware of the consequences of not attending her hearing, Council members agreed that it was appropriate to recommend suspension in this case.

Vote: Should we recommend suspension for Student A, pursuant to Article XVI of the Constitution of the Honor System?

Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

Council members discussed what the appropriate term of suspension is for Student A. Given that Student A failed to show up for the hearing, Council members believed that the appropriate penalty to express the severity would be 2 semesters.

Vote: What is the appropriate term of suspension for Student A?

3 Semester Suspension: 1
2 Semester Suspension: 8
1 Semester Suspension: 0

Council members decided that the case should be dismissed without prejudice such that it could be heard at a later date.

Decision:

The Honor Council thus invokes Article XVI of the Constitution of the Honor System due to Student A's failure to attend her hearing and recommends that she be suspended for 2 semesters.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Lauer
Clerk